

Home Economics

Textiles, Clothing and Fashion



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Topic: The Textile Industry

Group Level: Form Four

This activity works great as an introduction to the Textile Industry as it exists today. Key points are highlighted, followed by review questions and an answer key.

Instructions:

1. Read the information on the textile industry.
2. Review what you have learned by answering the questions.
3. Use the answer key to assess your performance.

The textile industry is the industry responsible for converting raw material into a finished product, and it includes textile developing, producing, manufacturing, and distributing.

History of the Textile Industry

The development of the textiles industry	
Before 5000 BC	Prehistoric people use animal skin to make clothing
5000 – 3000 BC	Skills in spinning, weaving and dying first developed. People start to embroider and decorate fabric
3000 BC	Linen woven in Egypt. Cotton spun in India. Wool fabric in common use in the cold climate of northern Europe.
3 rd century AD	Textiles industry in Britain. The Romans built first weaving mill in south-west England.
12 th century	Silk woven and spun in china. Over the next few centuries the textile industry remains a cottage industry.
14 th – 17 th century	The textile industry grows. Women mainly do the spinning, men are in charge of weaving
1589	Knitting machine invented by William Lee
Early 18 th century	Cotton industry beginning to grow in Lancashire
1733	Flying shuttle invented by John Kay. By 1760 the shuttle is in general use in the cotton industry.
1764 - 1779	Spinning speeded up by invention of the spinning jenny by James Hargreaves in 1764, the water frame by Richard Arkwright in 1769 and the spinning mule by Samuel Crompton in 1779
19 th century	Textiles industry continues to grow. Further progress in the printing of fabrics. Sewing machine invented. The start of mass-produced clothing and other textiles products. The famous artist and textile designer William Morris (1834 – 1896) founds a company to make furniture, tapestries, carpets and furnishing materials.
1907	The artificial silk fibre Rayon is produced and used for clothing and underwear
1925	Acetate is used for dresses and jacket linings
1939	Nylon produced. Used for stockings and parachute materials.
1950	Elastane fibre, used in ladies' underwear and elastic, introduced. Today called Lycra
1956	Acrylic and polyester introduced to Britain. Used mainly for clothing
1970s	Bonded fibres used in carpet and blanket manufacture
1956 - 1996	Over 40 new fibres developed
1990s	Computer technology revolutionizes design and manufacture of textiles. New hi-tech fibres created and developed as a response to consumer/end use needs

The Textile Industry Today

It is a global industry with large companies employing many people and operating in many different countries around the world. Large amounts of data and graphics can be sent quickly around the world by ISDN (digital telephone lines) from one computer to another.

The use of new technology is becoming more widespread in the textiles industry. More companies are using Computer-Aided Design (CAD), Computer-Aided Manufacture (CAM) and Computer Integrated Manufacture (CIM) in the processing, designing, planning and manufacturing stages of textile products

Some of the people involved in textiles production:

- Fibre technologists look at ways at improving fibres and design new hi-tech ones.
- Textiles technologists add chemicals to improve performance of yarns.
- Colourists create colour themes and ideas for yarn ranges.
- Textiles designers produce fabric designs.
- Fashion designers design textiles products to be sold to the consumer.
- Pattern makers create sample patterns and grade the patterns into the sizes needed.
- Quality control team check that products are of correct quality.

To increase your knowledge and understanding of the textile industry you can view the following YouTube video:

“The Textile Industry During The Industrial Revolution”, Tara Mc Mullen

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4gFwMh_l6k

Review Questions



1. State the four main fibres used in textiles up to the beginning of the twentieth century?
i..... ii..... iii..... iv.....

2. Complete the following table.

Fibres developed between 1900 and 1960	What were they used for

3. What was the name of the machine invented in the 1800s which allowed textiles manufactures to mass-produce clothing?
.....

4. How do Textiles Company send information quickly from one site to another?
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5. What do the following terms mean?

- a. CAD.....
b. CAM.....
c. CIM.....

6. What are the roles of the following people in the textiles industry?

- a. Textiles technologists.....
b. Fashion designer.....
c. Pattern maker.....

Answer Key

1. State the four main fibres used in textiles up to the beginning of the twentieth century?
 i. **Linen** ii. **Cotton** iii. **Wool** iv. **Silk**

2. Complete the following table.

Fibres developed between 1900 and 1960	What were they used for
Rayon	Clothing and Underwear
Acetate	Dresses and Jacket Lining
Nylon	Stockings and Parachute material
Elastane	Ladies underwear and Elastic
Acrylic	Mainly for clothing
Polyester	Mainly for clothing
Bonded fibres	Carpet and blanket manufacture

3. What was the name of the machine invented in the 1800s which allowed textiles manufactures to mass-produce clothing? **Sewing Machine**
4. Textiles Company send information quickly from one site to another **by ISDN (digital telephone lines).**
5. a. CAD - **Computer-Aided Design**
 b. CAM - **Computer-Aided Manufacture**
 c. CIM - **Computer Integrated Manufacture**
6. a. Textiles technologists - **add chemicals to improve performance of yarns.**
 b. Fashion Designer - **design textiles products to be sold to the consumer**
 c. Pattern maker - **creates sample patterns and grade the patterns into the size needed.**

References

Sinclair R. (1997) Skills in Textiles Technology. Heinemann Educational

IMAGE: Textile Industry

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VIDEO: Mc Mullen T. The Textile Industry During The Industrial Revolution

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4gFwMh_l6k