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**UNIT: SEWING****TOPIC: Sewing Equipment****TIMELINE: Day 1**

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**OBJECTIVES:**

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1. Identify various pieces of sewing equipment.
  2. Classify small sewing equipment into categories according to use: marking, cutting, stitching, measuring.
  3. Discuss purposes of sewing equipment.
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**MOTIVATOR/INTRODUCTION:**

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If you wanted to go skiing, what equipment would you need? Would you have much fun without ski poles or warm gloves?

In sewing, there is also some basic equipment we need in order to do a good job. The correct tools, with the proper use and care, will increase your sewing speed and accuracy.

Buy the best equipment you can afford. It will give better service and last longer.

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**INFORMATION:**

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1. Equipment Directory--Make a learning board containing the various pieces of equipment you will be discussing. As each item is discussed, go to the board and show the students how it is used and explain its purpose.
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**INDIVIDUALIZED ACTIVITIES:**

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1. Equipment List
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**GROUP ACTIVITIES:**

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Gather sewing supplies that have been discussed in class. Place 10 items on a tray. Review the purpose of the items with the students. Then cover the tray and remove two items. Uncover the tray and have students identify which items were removed. Repeat this procedure until all items are removed. Then begin the game again with new items. Review the purpose and names of the pieces of equipment until students are familiar with them.

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**CHALLENGE PROJECTS:**

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**SUMMARY:**

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For class, you need to mark all of your equipment with your name using masking tape, an engraver or permanent marker.

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**RESOURCES:**

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See 4-H Construction, Basic Tools for additional information and visuals.

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## EQUIPMENT DIRECTORY

**DIRECTIONS:** Display the sewing equipment listed below. Let several students come to the front of the room and identify pieces of equipment. Discuss information about each piece of equipment and have students complete their sheets.

There are five different classifications of sewing equipment: MEASURING, CUTTING, MARKING, STITCHING AND PRESSING.

### MEASURING EQUIPMENT

1. TAPE MEASURE--A long, narrow, strong piece of plastic-coated material used for measuring. Most are five feet or 60 inches long. A metal piece at both ends keeps the ends from raveling. Often they are marked with inches on one side and metric measurements on the other side. They are used for taking body measurements and measuring fabric.
2. HEM GAUGE--Also called a seam gauge. Made of metal or plastic. Sometimes they have a little piece of chalk on the end to use in marking. Usually they are about six inches long. They have a little marker so that you can easily measure and mark. Used for marking hems, top stitching, and measuring seam allowances.
3. RULER or YARD STICK--Straight edges used for altering patterns.

### CUTTING EQUIPMENT

1. SCISSORS--These have straight handles that are the same size. Used for cutting threads or paper. Do not use them to cut your fabric.
2. SHEARS--These have bent handles that are a different shape and size. They allow you to cut next to the table and use the whole blade. This leaves a smooth clean edge. Dull shears chew up the fabric. Make sure all pins are out of the way before cutting--they can quickly ruin your shears. When handing the shears to someone else, extend the handle out-never point sharp objects towards someone.
3. PINKING SHEARS--These have jagged-shaped blades which give a decorative edge to fabrics. Never cut out your fabric with them. You would be unable to measure the seam allowance correctly. They do not prevent seams from raveling.
4. CLIPPERS--Great for clipping threads. They are not strong enough to cut fabric.
5. CUTTING BOARDS--Heavy boards used for cutting fabric. They protect floors and tables from getting scratched or marked. When cutting on the floor, they prevent the pins from sticking into carpeting.

SEWING ~~~~~INFORMATION continued

6. SEAM RIPPER--Used for picking out mistakes and cutting open buttonholes. (Use a straight pin at each end so you do not cut too far.) These are very sharp. Use them to pick out stitches--not to cut them because you may rip your fabric.
7. ROTARY CUTTER--This cutting tool with the round blade is extremely sharp. It is used with a special board and a plastic ruler for straight cutting, as to not cut the table. Always put the safety on as soon as you finish cutting a section.

MARKING EQUIPMENT--All marking equipment is used to mark pattern symbols onto fabric. Markings should always be placed on the wrong side of the fabric.

1. TRACING WHEEL AND PAPER--Choose a color similar to that of the fabric. Test first on a small swatch to make sure the color comes out of the fabric. Some paper markings come out after pressing--others come out after washing. Use a piece of plastic wrap to protect your pattern from tearing. Use a ruler to get straight lines.
2. TAILOR'S CHALK OR PENCIL--Comes in squares or pencil type in a variety of colors. The lines drawn are sometimes very wide. You cannot mark both fabric pieces at the same time. Chalk comes off very easily.
3. ERASABLE MARKING PIN--These make dark, clear lines. The pens are very easy to use. Some pens make lines that disappear in 48 hours, others wash out.

### STITCHING EQUIPMENT

1. NEEDLES--These come in many different sizes. The smaller the number, the larger the needle. Sharps have small eyes; crewel or embroidery needles have large eyes. Use larger needles when sewing heavier fabrics and smaller ones for lightweight fabrics. Machine needles come in sharps for woven fabrics and ball points for knits.
2. PINS--Pins made of steel or brass will not bend easily and are rustproof. Sharps are used for woven fabrics and ball points are used for knits. Round heads make them easier to see and to work with. Glass heads will not melt under the iron, plastic heads often will.
3. PIN CUSHION--A pin cushion that fits on your wrist is very handy. That way you are not always looking for your pins. Some pin cushions have hardwood sawdust in them to keep pins and needles sharp. If you have a plastic band on your pincushion that is uncomfortable, you may sew a piece of elastic on it to fit around your wrist.

## SEWING ~~~~~INFORMATION continued

4. THREAD-- Thread with a cotton core wrapped in polyester is the most commonly used type of thread today. Select a color that is slightly darker than the color of your fabric. When sewn in, it will look exactly right. Some machine manufacturers recommend special imported threads which seem to tangle less, but are also quite expensive.
5. THIMBLE--A thimble is used to protect your finger while hand sewing. It fits on your third finger.
6. WAX--Running your hand sewing needles through this helps prevent the thread from knotting and tangling.
7. GLUE STICK--This is specially made for sewing. It will temporarily hold interfacings and appliqués in place before sewing them permanently. Test them on the fabric before using, to make sure the glue will not leave marks.