

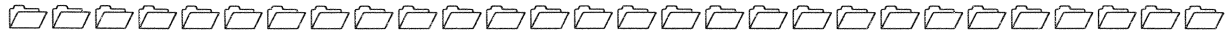
## **TEXTILE HISTORY TIMELINE**

### **PREHISTORIC AND ANCIENT TIMES**

- 6300 B.C. Archaeological discovery of fine woven cloth fragments in Turkey (30 to 38 threads per inch).
- 3000 B.C. Cotton was being grown in Pakistan, western India, and perhaps the Americas.
- 2700 B.C. Chinese cultivated silkworms and developed special looms to weave silk cloth.
- 2500 B.C. Linen found on Egyptian mummy woven at 540 threads per inch, as well made as that of today. Goddess Isis is shown in a pictograph holding a shuttle.
- 327 B.C. Alexander the Great was amazed at the beautiful printed cotton being produced in India.
- 300 B.C. Ancient Greeks and Romans developed an enormous trade in textiles.
- 75 B.C. Silk became the luxury cloth in Rome.
- 63 B.C. Cotton awnings were used in Rome.

### **THE MIDDLE AGES**

- 768 A.D. Charlemagne established a silk weaving industry at Lyons and imported wool from England.
- 900 A.D. Alfred the Great encouraged expansion of the wool industry in England.
- 1120 A.D. Henry I sponsored the first woolen cloth guild. He relocated skilled Flemish weavers to English villages to increase production.
- 1153 A.D. First annual cloth fair held in England.
- 1200 A.D. Spinning wheel was in common use.
- 1305 A.D. Venice had 17,000 people engaged in weaving wool.

**TEXTILE HISTORY TIMELINE - PAGE 2****MODERN TIMES**

- 1533 A.D. Pizarro reported that Peruvian spinning and weaving was superior to European.
- 1589 A.D. William Lee invented a machine to knit hosiery.
- Early 1600 A.D. Textile workers in the Netherlands improved methods of dyeing and finishing cloth.
- 1631 A.D. The Dutch East India Company imported fine calico from India.
- 1654 A.D. English textile craftsmen were forbidden to emigrate to America.
- 1661 A.D. A resident of Danzig, Poland built a power loom. The government had him drowned and destroyed the loom.
- 1667 A.D. English law required all persons to be buried in woolen cloth. More cloth was being produced than could be sold.
- 1669 A.D. The English colonies in America were forbidden from trading wool materials.
- 1696 A.D. Irish weavers produced cloth less expensively than the English. Attempts were made to suppress the weavers. Irish linen was superior to all others.
- 1733 A.D. John Kay, an Englishman, invented the flying shuttle loom.
- 1764 A.D. James Hargreaves invented the spinning jenny, the first machine to spin more than one piece of yarn at a time.
- 1768 A.D. Spinning and weaving contests held in America to oppose the Stamp Act. (Britain wanted to collect taxes on everything that was sold in the colonies. Americans opposed the tax because it violated the newly enunciated principle of "no taxation without representation.")
- 1769 A.D. Richard Arkwright patented the water frame, a spinning machine that ran on water power.
- 1779 A.D. Samuel Crompton invented the spinning mule, a machine that combined the spinning jenny and the water frame.
- 1785 A.D. Edmund Cartwright patented the first power loom.

**TEXTILE HISTORY TIMELINE- PAGE 3**

- 1790 A.D. Samuel Slater built the first water-powered machines in the United States for spinning cotton.
- 1793 A.D. Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin.
- 1800 A.D. Ireland exported 25 million yards of woven line.
- 1804 A.D. The Jacquard loom used punched cards to enable a single weaver to produce complex patterned fabric. This is an early example of precomputer technology.
- 1816 A.D. Large numbers of power looms were beginning to be installed in the factories in America.
- 1861 A.D. Union soldiers wore uniforms that were machine-made. Confederate uniforms were still made primarily from handspun and handwoven fabric.
- 1884 A.D. Hilaire Chardonnet developed the first manufactured fiber, a form of rayon.

**THE TWENTIETH CENTURY**

- 1900 A.D. The Industrial Revolution completed sweeping spinning and weaving from the home workshops to the factories and mills.
- 1910 A.D. Chardonnet's fiber first produced in the United States under the name of artificial silk, now known as rayon.
- 1935 A.D. Wallace C. Carrothers developed nylon.
- 1940 to 1950 A.D. Polyester, acrylic, and other artificial fibers were introduced.
- 1960 A.D. Double-knit polyester fiber was introduced. Also, the Textile Fiber Product Identification Act became law.
- 1970 A.D. Knitting machines controlled by computers produced fabrics with highly complex patterns at tremendous speeds.
- Early 1980 A.D. Robots were introduced into the textile industry.
- Late 1980 A.D. Textile mills used high-speed looms that had many tiny shuttles called darts instead of a single shuttle. Other looms wove with no shuttles at all; a jet of water or air carried the filling through the warp up to 1000 times a minute—four times faster than a shuttle on a standard high-speed loom.