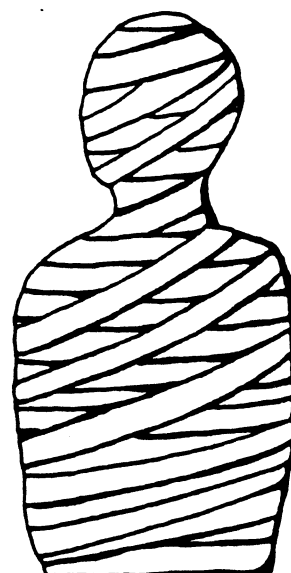


EVENTS IN TEXTILE HISTORY

The history of textiles is ancient. No one knows for sure when the first cloth or fabric was discovered by man. Can you think of a need early people had that could have led to the invention of cloth? Certainly protection from the elements had to be one of their earliest needs. They needed fabric from which to make articles of clothing to protect their bodies from the extremes of temperature and various forms of precipitation. As you review this list, try to think of reasons why certain events in the development of textiles might have taken place. Is history an accident? That is the question!

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 ends per inch, as well made as that of today. Goddess Isis shown in a pictograph holding a shuttle.
- 327 B.C. Alexander the Great 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.



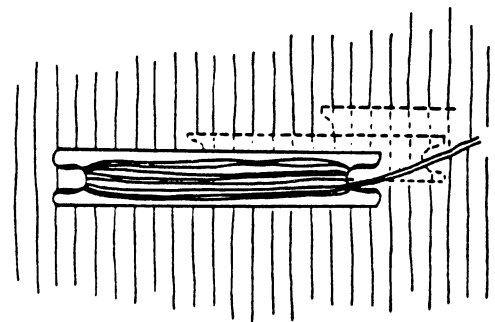
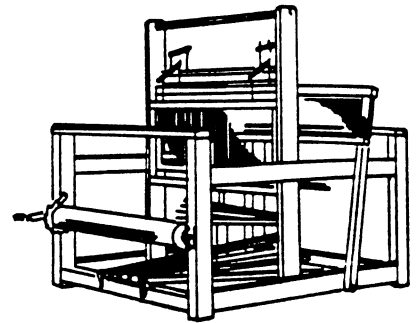
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THE MIDDLE AGES

- 400–1500 A.D. Textile industry gradually developed in Europe.
- 768 A.D. Charlemagne established silk weaving industry at Lyons and imported wool from England.
- 900 Alfred the Great encouraged expansion of the wool industry in England.
- 1120 Henry I sponsored the first woolen cloth guild. He relocated skilled Flemish weavers to English villages to increase production.

EVENTS IN TEXTILE HISTORY (continued)

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1153 | First annual cloth fair held in England. |
| 1200 | Spinning wheel was in common use. |
| 1305 | Venice had 17,000 people engaged in weaving wool. |
| 1533 | Pizarro reported that Peruvian spinning and weaving was superior to European. |
| 1589 | William Lee invented machine to knit hosiery. |
| 1631 | Dutch East India Company imported fine calico from India. |
| Early 1600s | Textile workers in the Netherlands improved methods of dyeing and finishing cloth. |
| 1654 | English textile craftsmen were forbidden to emigrate to America. |
| 1661 | A resident of Danzig, Poland, built a power loom. (See the illustration.) The government had him drowned and destroyed the loom. |
| 1667 | English law required all persons to be buried in woolen cloth. More cloth was being produced than could be sold. |
| 1669 | The English colonies in America were forbidden from trading wool materials. |
| 1696 | Irish weavers produced cloth less expensively than the English. Attempts were made to suppress the weavers. Irish linen was superior to all others. |
| 1733 | John Kay, an Englishman, invented the flying shuttle loom. (See the illustration.) |
| 1764 | James Hargreaves invented the spinning jenny, the first machine to spin more than one piece of yarn at a time. |
| 1768 | Spinning and weaving contests held in America to oppose the Stamp Act. |
| 1769 | Richard Arkwright patented the water frame, a spinning machine that ran on water power. |



EVENTS IN TEXTILE HISTORY (continued)

- 1779 Samuel Crompton invented the spinning mule, a machine that combined the spinning jenny and the water frame.
- 1785 Edmund Cartwright patented the first power loom.
- 1790 Samuel Slater built the first water-powered machines in the U.S. for spinning cotton.
- 1793 Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin. (See the illustration.)
- 1800 Ireland exported 25 million yards of woven linen.
- 1804 Jacquard loom used punched cards to enable a single weaver to produce complex patterned fabric. This is an early example of computer technology.
- 1816 Power looms were beginning to be installed in large numbers in America.
- 1861 Union soldiers wore uniforms that were machine-made. Confederate uniforms were still mostly made from handspun and handwoven fabric.
- 1884 Hilaire Chardonnet developed the first manufactured fiber, a form of rayon.
- 1900s The Industrial Revolution completed sweeping spinning and weaving from the home workshops to the factories and mills.
- 1910 Chardonnet's fiber first produced in the U.S. under the name of artificial silk, now known as rayon.
- 1935 Wallace H. Carrothers developed nylon.
- 1940s–1950s Polyester, acrylic, and other artificial fibers were introduced.
- 1960s Double-knit polyester fiber was introduced.
- 1970s Knitting machines controlled by computers produced fabrics with highly complex patterns at tremendous speeds.
- Early 1980s Robots were introduced into the textile industry.
- Late 1980s Textile mills used high-speed looms that had many tiny shuttles called darts instead of a single shuttle. Other looms were used to weave 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.

