
UNIT: Backgrounds and Surface Treatments**LESSON:** Textiles/Fibers

COMPETENCIES:

1. Describe the origin and characteristics of natural and synthetic fibers.
 2. Identify fibers by name and categorize them into appropriate groups.
 3. Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of various fibers and their household uses.
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OVERVIEW/SUMMARY:

Throughout history, fabric has contributed to the decorative beauty of particular eras. For centuries, fabric has been used to cover walls, drape windows and beds, and upholster chairs and sofas. Today's fabrics are versatile and easy to work with. They express lifestyle, personality, mood, or time period. Fabrics are readily available, relatively inexpensive, and durable. Today's interior designer can satisfy the desire for elegance and practicality at the same time.

MOTIVATOR:

Place fabrics in paper sacks or create "feel boxes". Have students feel and describe the contents. This could also be done by blindfolding a few students and having them describe what they feel to the rest of the class. Show them the fabrics and demonstrate how texture influences the appearance of the fabric. Discuss the role of fabric as it applies to interior design.

OPTIONS/SUPPLIES:

OPTION 1

DISCUSSION: Introduce students to textiles by completing the discussion "TEXTILES" or having the students read the appropriate chapter in a text book.

OPTION 2

ACTIVITY: Show samples of natural fibers and their origin: wool, cotton plant, silk worms, and flax. Show the students the corresponding fabrics. Burn samples of each fabric and discuss the properties and uses of each fiber using the information "FIBER". Give each student a square inch of fabric to mount on their "FABRIC CARDS".

[**SUPPLIES:** samples of fabric, tongs, matches, pan to catch ashes, bottle of acetone for acetate, double stick tape]

RESOURCES:

Corbman, Bernard P., TEXTILES, Fiber to Fabric, Gregg Division/McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York, New York, 1983, pp. 68-126.

Kicklighter, Clois E. and Kicklighter, Joan C., Residential Housing. The Goodheart-Willcox Co., Inc., South Holland, Illinois, 1986, pp. 127-135.

Nielson, Karla J. and Taylor, David A., Interiors, an Introduction, Brown and Benchmark, Madison, Wisconsin, 1994, pp. 249-269.
