

From Fibre to Fabric

Chapter 8: Clothes — How Things are Made · Topic 1

Key Concept

Natural fibres include cotton (from cotton plants), wool (from sheep), and silk (from silkworms), each requiring different processes to become fabric.

Cotton fibres are harvested, cleaned, spun into thread, and then woven or knitted into fabric, which can then be dyed and made into clothing.

Synthetic fibres, like polyester and nylon, are manufactured from chemicals, often derived from petroleum, rather than grown or raised naturally.

Understanding the fibre-to-fabric process helps us appreciate the work behind our clothing and understand the difference between natural and synthetic materials.

Quick Revision Notes

- Natural fibres include cotton, wool and silk.
- Cotton comes from cotton plants.
- Wool comes from sheep.
- Silk comes from silkworms.
- Cotton is harvested, spun into thread, then woven into fabric.
- Synthetic fibres like polyester are manufactured from chemicals.
- Synthetic fibres are often derived from petroleum.
- Understanding this process builds appreciation for clothing.

Practice Questions

- 1 Find a cotton and a synthetic fabric item at home.
- 2 Research how silk is obtained from silkworms.
- 3 Trace the steps from cotton plant to a cotton shirt.
- 4 Compare natural and synthetic fibres.
- 5 Discuss why understanding fabric production is useful.
- 6 Research one more type of natural fibre.