

DESIGN &amp; TECHNOLOGY · Y1-Y6

# Textiles

Knowledge Organiser — KS1 to KS2 D&amp;T

## Key vocabulary

1

**Textile**

A type of cloth or material made by weaving or knitting threads.

2

**Fabric**

Another word for textile.

3

**Thread**

Long, thin material used for sewing.

4

**Needle**

A pointed metal tool with an eye (hole) for the thread.

5

**Stitch**

One movement of needle through fabric. Many stitches make a seam.

6

**Seam**

Where two pieces of fabric are joined together with stitches.

7

**Template / Pattern**

A shape you trace to cut out fabric in the right size.

8

**Hem**

The neatened edge of a piece of fabric.



9

**Knot**

A tie at the end of thread to stop it pulling through the fabric.

10

**Embroidery**

Decorating fabric with stitches.

## Common fabrics

Different fabrics for different

- COTTON — soft, breathable, easy to sew. From cotton plants.
- WOOL — warm, stretchy, slightly water-resistant. From sheep.
- SILK — smooth, shiny, expensive. From silkworms.
- POLYESTER — strong, dries quickly, doesn't crease. Made from chemicals (synthetic).
- DENIM — heavy, hard-wearing cotton. Used for jeans.
- FELT — easy to cut, doesn't fray. Great for primary projects.
- FLEECE — soft, warm, often synthetic.
- Each fabric has a 'right side' (the front) and 'wrong side' (the back).

## Stitches you can learn

From simplest to strongest

- RUNNING STITCH: easiest. In, out, in, out — like a dotted line. For tacking and decoration.
- BACK STITCH: stronger. Each stitch goes BACK to meet the last one — looks like a solid line.
- OVER STITCH (whip stitch): wraps around the edges. Joins two pieces of felt edge-to-edge.
- Always KNOT the thread at the start, KNOT again at the end.
- Don't pull stitches too tight — fabric will pucker.
- Take your time — stitching is a slow craft.



## Joining fabric

More than just stitches

- STITCHING: the strongest, most permanent.
- GLUE (fabric glue): quick but not very durable.
- VELCRO: opens and closes — for pockets, fastenings.
- BUTTONS & BUTTONHOLES: classic fastening.
- ZIPS: smoother fastening, harder to attach.
- PRESS STUDS: small metal fasteners.
- Choose the join based on: how often it needs to open, how strong, how the product is used.

## Making a textile product

Steps from idea to finished

- 1. RESEARCH: look at existing products. Examine seams, stitches, fastenings.
- 2. DESIGN: draw your idea. Label fabrics, stitches, fastenings.
- 3. PATTERN: make a paper template the right size.
- 4. CUT: pin pattern to fabric, cut around carefully (and safely!).
- 5. SEW: pin pieces together, then stitch. Tack first if it's tricky.
- 6. DECORATE: embroidery, buttons, sequins.
- 7. EVALUATE: does it work? Is it strong? Would you change anything?
- Real designers prototype, test, change, prototype again — just like engineers.

