

Glossary

Textiles

Canvas: Heavy cloth made of cotton, hemp or jute, used to make sails and tents.

Colourfast: Describes cloth that doesn't lose its colour when washed or worn.

Cotton: Cloth or fibre from the cotton plant, used to make clothing and furnishings.

Crochet: To loop and intertwine thread with a hooked needle.

Dye: Liquid used to colour fabrics.

Embroidery: Decorative patterns or pictures in needlework.

Felt: A soft cloth made by matting fibres together using water and friction.

Fibre: A natural or synthetic thread that may be spun into yarn.

Flax: The fibre of the flax plant that is made into thread and woven into linen.

Hemp: An Asian plant that is used to make canvas and rope.

Jute: The fibre of the jute plant that is used to make sacks and rope.

Knit: To use two long, eyeless needles to loop and intertwine thread.

Nylon: A synthetic material used to make clothing.

Ply: One of the strands twisted together to make a yarn (see 'Yarn' opposite). For example, wool is described as two-ply, three-ply and so on.

Polyester: A synthetic material used to make clothing.

Rope: A thick cord made by twisting together three or more strands of natural or synthetic fibres.

Selvedge: The non-fraying edge of a piece of woven fabric.

Silk: A very fine fibre produced by the silkworm.

Spin: To twist natural fibres into a long, continuous thread.

Stitch: A link made by drawing a thread through fabric with a needle.

Strand: A length of several yarns twisted together.

Swatch: A small sample of cloth.

Tapestry: A picture or pattern woven into fabric, used for furnishings and wall hangings.

Textile: Any fabric or cloth.

Warp: The yarns arranged lengthways on a weaving loom.

Weave: To form a fabric by interlacing yarns on a loom.

Weft: The yarns that are woven through the warp threads.

Wool: Yarn spun from the coat of a sheep, used in weaving and knitting.

Yarn: A continuous thread of fibres twisted together.