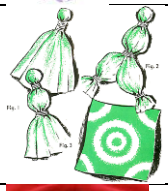
Glossary of textiles vocabulary

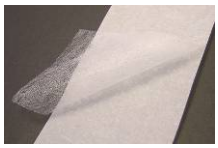
Decoration techniques

Appliqué	When one shape of fabric is sewn on top of another piece of fabric, it can be attached using hand stitching or zig-zag machine stitch.	
Transfer print	An image from the computer is printed onto paper and then transferred to fabric using a heat press (THIS IS NOT CALLED HEAT PRESS!)	
Sequins	Small plastic shapes that ad sparkle to a design	
Tie dye	A resist dye technique-elastic bands are put around fabric and then placed in dye to create interesting patterns where the elastic bands have been	
Reverse appliqué	Fabric is layered and then a design or pattern is cut into the top layers to reveal the fabrics underneath	
Hand embroidery	Using a needle and thread to create patterns or pictures or word with stitches	
Batik	Another resist dye method, hot wax is used to draw onto fabric, then dye is painted onto the fabric. Where the wax is the dye will not soak in, and when the wax is removed, white lines remain.	 
Fabric pens/paints/crayons	Dye can be applied straight to fabric by pens, paints or crayons, often they need “fixing” (setting of the dye so it won’t come out) this is done with heat.	  
Plexi glue and foil-	a clear glue is applied to the fabric in a design, when it is dried, a foil is rubbed onto the glue making it shiny.	
Tassel	Decorative component	
CAD CAM machine embroidery	This is using an automated sewing machine to create words or pictures onto fabric. The machine have some pre programmed designs but your own designs can be up loaded to the machine too if you have he correct software.	
Also see printing methods		

Smart materials (materials that react to their environment) that are classed as decoration techniques:

Thermo chromatic: Paint Dye Beads Thread	Thermo means heat, Chromo means colour, the paint/dye changes colour in different temperatures	
UV reactive beads/paint/thread	The colour changes depending on the amount of UV rays (light) they experience	
LEDs	Light Emitting Diodes, small electronic lights that can be sewn into clothing, however they require a battery to run and often need conductive thread to work.	 
Solar Panels	Small panels that can generate power from UV rays form the sun.	

Things that are not decoration techniques:

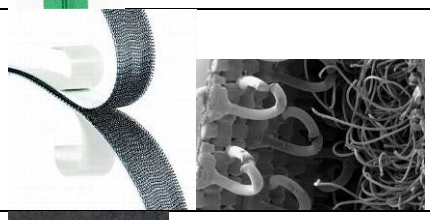
Bondaweb	A web of glue that is ironed onto fabric in order to cut out a neat shape, and then ironed onto fabric for accuracy and neatness when sewing.	
Heat press	**Machine used** to transfer an image printed from the computer from paper to fabric with heat and pressure	

Printing methods

Block printing	One image is stamped over and over again to make a repeat pattern. Each layer of colour is stamped individually. Time consuming, and requires great hand skills	
Screen printing	An image is transferred to a very fine mesh screen and then dye is pushed through the screen using a squeegee, this forces the dye through and onto the fabric.	
Transfer printing	An image from the computer is printed onto paper and then transferred to fabric using a heat press (THIS IS **NOT** CALLED HEAT PRESS!)	

Fastenings

Many of these double up as components

Button **Covered buttons**	These can used as a fastening to bring two pieces of cloth together or a decorative component Can be covered with fabric to match the rest of the garment/product	
Toggle	Used to fasten one piece of fabric to another (similar to a button)	
Zip	Used to join two pieces of fabric together on a on a coat or a bag	
Velcro	Hooks of Velcro on one side of the fabric stick into loops on the other side, a very easy to open and close fastening, suitable for children's wear, as it is safe and easy to use.	
Press Studs/Poppers	Used on duvets, some children's clothing, very easy to do up and undo	
Magnetic clasps	Can sometimes break	
Padlock	Used for decorative purposes and security	
Buckle	Used to adjust belts or straps to the right length	
Bag Clasp	Usually a "snap" fastening, they can come in different shapes, sizes and styles	
Frog Buttons	Similar to a toggle, but the button is made from a knotted cord which is pushesd through a loop on the other matching side.	
Safety buckles/clips	Easy to do up and can be tricky to undo. Used to removable bag straps, or safety gear.	
Eyelets and Lacing	Creates a decorative effect, front/back of garment. Firm when closed, roomy when open, can be adjustable to different sizes. Fiddly though	
Hook and eye	A hook on one edge of fabric links into the eye on the opposite side, sometimes used at the top of dress zips for extra security	

Fabrics

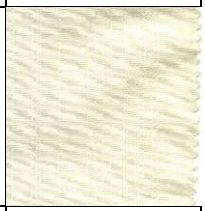
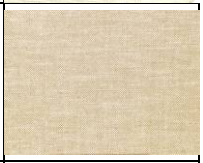
DO NOT USE LEATHER OR FUR in your designs-it is considered un-ethical and is not **sustainable** or **environmentally friendly**

As a rule, natural fibre fabrics are:

- absorbent and dye well
- They are not classed as excellent insulators.
- They are usually quite flammable unless treated.

Synthetic fibres tend to:

- melt under intense heat which is quite dangerous,
- they are usually non absorbent unless blended with a natural absorbent fibre
- don't tend to be good insulators unless they are manufactured specifically.

Fabric	Origin	Advantages	Disadvantages	Looks like:
Cotton	**Natural-** From a plant	Cheaper than silk Cooling fabric Strong and durable Absorbent Dyes well	Can crease easily	
Linen	**Natural-** From a plant	Strong not elastic Absorbent Durable Keep you cool	Not very warm Creases easily	
Silk	Natural- From a caterpillar	Naturally warm, but also keeps you cool Breathable Natural lustre (shine) Smooth to the touch Dyes very well	More expensive than other fabrics as it is very labour intensive to make	
Wool	**Natural** (sheep's wool)	Naturally warm and insulating, Naturally flame retardant (won't catch fire easily) Water repellent	Can shrink when in hot water	
Polyester	**Man made/ Synthetic** (oil/plastic)	Cheap than silk to produce Can be manufactured to have different finishes and quality's Crease resistant	Non breathable Not biodegradable Not absorbent Not very warm	
Lycra	**Man made/ Synthetic** (oil/Plastic	Very stretchy/elastic strong Crease resistant Good for sports wear	Not absorbent Not insulating Not breathable	
Satin	Can be woven from man made or synthetic fibres	Very shiny surface Dyes well if made from silk Used for dress fabrics, or underwear	Not durable or strong	
Denim	Natural- cotton	A twill woven cotton fabric Durable and strong absorbent	Not stretchy unless it has lycra woven through	

Silk cotton	Blend of synthetic and natural	Properties of both fibres, Smooth to the touch, has a lustre, Drapes well Washes well and dyes well	Not as absorbent as silk Not stretchy	
Polycotton	Blend of synthetic and natural	More crease resistant than cotton on its own A good all rounder fabric	Requires specific dyes due to the synthetic element of the fabric	
Fleece	Man made/synthetic Can be made from recycled plastic bottles	Warm Durable Cheap to manufacture Stretchy due to it being a non woven fabric Soft	Melts under intense heat unless treated Does not dye well	
Bamboo fabric	Natural fibre	Smooth and soft to touch Naturally hypoallergenic fabric for sensitive skin Natural UV protection Natural functions of anti-bacteria and deodorization Available in innovative and fashionable designs	Manufacturing the textile can harm the environment, as lots of chemicals are used	
Soya fabric	Natural fibre	Resistant to wrinkles Dries quicker than linen or cotton Biodegradable Looks a lot like silk Drape nicely Allows perspiration to evaporate Cool and comfortable during hot weather	It is a by product of soya oil But still uses allot of chemicals in the processing	

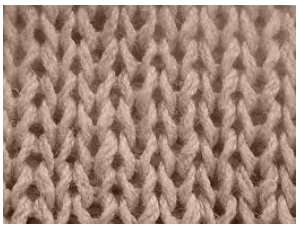
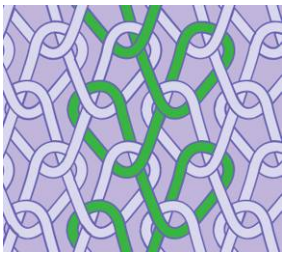
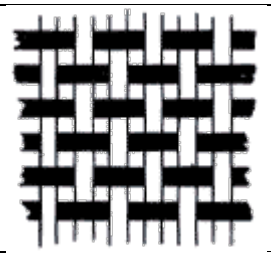
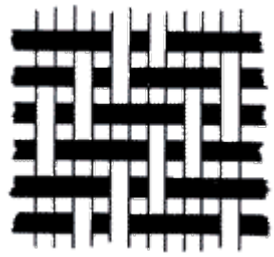
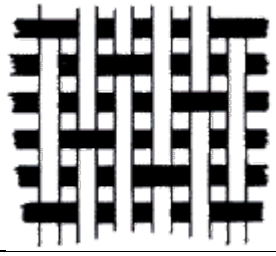
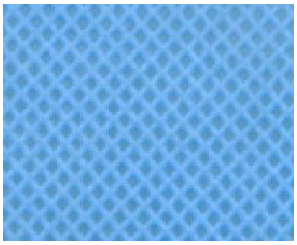
Facings

Interfacing	Interfacing-Adds strength and support to garments; help keep their shape; can be stitched or ironed onto the fabric. Used on collars, cuffs, waistbands etc. non woven.	
Stitch and Tear	Bonded material. Used to reinforce fabric when on the embroidery machine	

Sustainable/environmentally friendly fabrics

Recycled fabrics: Plastic bottles turned into fleece 	**Reusing:** used clothing can be donated to charity shops to be used again, or they can be modified to give them a new lease of life. **Reprocessing** : textile items are broken down to their fibrous form and then re-made into something new. Things that can be recycled into another fabric: furniture, carpets, tires, footwear, and nondurable goods such as sheets and towels. Both are good for the environment because they reduce the amount of wastage going to landfill site. And reduce the need for more NEW products.
Sustainably grown fabrics like: Bamboo, linen (example logo) 	What is taken out of the environment is put back in, so land and resources such as water, soil and air can be replenished and are available to future generations. Attempts are made to reduce waste and Pollution and producers try to minimize transportation costs and fossil fuel used so as to preserve the environment.
	The EU Ecolabel helps you identify products and services that have a reduced impact on the environment throughout their life cycle, from the extraction of raw material through to production, use and disposal. Recognised throughout Europe, it is a voluntary label promoting environmental excellence which can be trusted.
Fair trade cotton 	Fair trade means that the producer receives a guaranteed and fair price for their product regardless of the price on the world market. This means their quality of life should improve, as well as the long-term prospects for their children. Fair trade products sometimes cost more in supermarkets in MEDCs, but many consumers consider this a small price to pay for the benefits they bring.
Organic cotton/linen 	Organic cotton is grown using methods and materials that have a low impact on the environment. Organic production systems replenish and maintain soil fertility, reduce the use of toxic and persistent pesticides and fertilizers, and build biologically diverse agriculture. This means it is better for the environment, but it can be more expensive for the consumer to buy because the farming methods can be more expensive.

Fabric constructions

Knitted		Weft-knitted fabrics are made by hand or machine. Weft knits are used for socks, T-shirts and jumpers. Weft-knitted fabric is made by looping together long lengths of yarn. This makes the fabric stretchy and comfortable. The yarn runs in rows across the fabric. If a stitch is dropped it will ladder down the length of the fabric. Weft knits, made by hand or machine, are used for socks, T-shirts and jumpers.
Warp knit		Warp-knitted fabric is made by machine and is used for swimwear. Warp-knitted fabric is made by machine. The loops interlock vertically along the length of the fabric. Warp knits are slightly stretchy and do not ladder. They are used for swimwear, underwear and geotextiles.
Plain weave		In plain-weave the warp and weft are aligned so that they form a simple criss-cross pattern. It is strong and hardwearing. It is used for fashion and furnishing fabrics.
Twill weave		In twill-weave the crossings of weft and warp are offset to give a diagonal pattern on the fabric surface. Twill weave is strong and *drapes* well. It is used for jeans, jackets and curtains.
Satin Weave		Satin weave is like the twill; however the surface is very shiny due to the warp threads going over three weft threads instead of two or one. This mean the woven fibres are exposed uninterrupted.
Bonded/non woven		Bonded-fibre fabrics are made from webs of *synthetic* fibres bonded together with heat or adhesives. They are cheap to produce, but not as strong as woven or knitted fabrics. Bonded-fibre fabrics are mainly used for *interlining*. They are easy to sew, crease-resistant, do not fray and are stable to washing and dry-cleaning.