

From Thread to Cloth

Vocabulary

Spinning

- Fibers – are the parts of plants (stems, fluff around seeds) or animals (hair, fleece) that are not eaten and digested by people.
- Shearing – clipping
- Fleece – woolly sheep's coat removed each year by shearing or clipping
- Card – verb - to card fleece. This process basically brushes and smooths the fibers.
- Card – noun – tools. Two flat wooden paddles covered on one side with hundreds of tiny metal teeth that spinners use to brush cleaned fleece to prepare it for spinning.
- Tension – the act of stretching tight (but not too tight)
- Twist – to turn or rotate a selected amount of fibers to make them strong. The continuous process of spinning or twisting produces yarns and threads.

Weaving

- Textile – any woven or knitted cloth
- Floor Loom – a loom that is operated by a seated weaver who raises and lowers shafts using foot treadles
- Shafts – moveable frames in a floor loom that contain the heddles. There can be a minimum of two or as many as 16 shafts for fancy work. There can be hundreds of heddles!
- Heddles – slender, flat metal bars or wires that are attached to and slide along the top and bottom rods on each shaft
- Heddle Eye - each heddle has a small hole that accepts a warp thread
- Treadles – are pressed to raise or lower different shafts and that opens different sets of the warp threads to allow the weft to pass through
- Warp – All weaving starts with threads or yarn stretched tight on a loom, from the back to the front and threaded through the eyes of the heddles.
- Weft – any material, usually yarn or thread, used to weave across and between the warps.
- Shuttle – can be as simple as wooden stick or plastic needle. Shuttles carry the weft yarn back and forth across and through the warp, over and under the warp threads.
- Boat Shuttle - a wooden flat-bottomed boat-like device that holds the wound weft on a rotating bobbin. It slides across the warp, between the chosen threads and leaves behind a length of yarn that when beaten becomes part of the fabric being woven.
- Bobbin – a spool wound with weft yarn that sits in a boat shuttle that unwinds and exits the shuttle leaving behind yarn as it passes through the warp.