

Design Technology: The Wonderful World of Textiles

Learning objective: To understand the properties of fabrics, the techniques used to join them, and the importance of functional design in textiles.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of textile terminology and design principles. Read the front, think of your answer, and then check the back.

What is a 'textile'?

A type of cloth or woven fabric, often made from natural or synthetic fibres.

Define 'properties' in the context of fabric.

The characteristics of a material, such as how stretchy, soft, waterproof, or durable it is.

What is the purpose of a paper template in textile design?

A template is used to draw an accurate shape onto the fabric before cutting to ensure precision and reduce waste.

Explain why we might choose a running stitch for a project.

A running stitch is a basic stitch used for gathering, tucking, or joining two pieces of fabric together simply.

What is 'appliqué'?

A decorative technique where smaller pieces of fabric are stitched onto a larger base fabric to create a design or pattern.

What is a 'seam' and why is it important?

A seam is the line where two pieces of fabric are joined together by stitches; it must be strong to hold the item together.

What does 'fraying' mean and how can we prevent it?

Fraying is when the edges of fabric unravel; it can be prevented by using a zig-zag stitch or a hem.

Compare natural fibres and synthetic fibres.

Natural fibres come from plants (like cotton) or animals (like wool), whereas synthetic fibres are man-made (like polyester).

What is 'sustainability' in textile design?

Designing products that last a long time or using recycled materials to reduce the environmental impact of fashion.

Why is it important to consider the 'function' of a product before choosing a fabric?

The function determines the requirements, for example, a raincoat needs to be waterproof, while a summer shirt needs to be breathable.