

Textile Treasures with Zara the Zebra

Learning objective: To understand the properties of fabrics, the process of textile construction, and the importance of selecting appropriate materials for specific functions.

Help Zara the Zebra sort through her art studio supplies! Read the questions carefully and use your knowledge of textiles to select or write the correct answers.

Answer Key: 1. B*, 2. False, 3. True, 4. Weaving, 5. C*, 6. A*, 7. True, 8. Polyester, 9. False, 10. Template.

Teacher Note: Ensure pupils justify their choices for questions 5 and 8 during class discussion.

Word bank: Synthetic · Natural · Weaving · Template · Fastening · Durability · Absorbency · Stitching

1. 1. Zara is making a raincoat. Which property is most important? A) Softness B) Water resistance* C) Stretchiness D) Flammability (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: Cotton is a synthetic fibre made from crude oil. (1 mark)

3. 3. True or False: A 'running stitch' is a basic sewing technique used to join two pieces of fabric together. (1 mark)

4. 4. What is the process called where threads are interlaced at right angles to create a piece of fabric? (1 mark)

5. 5. Which of these is a type of fastening? A) Embroidery B) Dyeing C) Velcro* D) Knitting (1 mark)

6. 6. Why might a designer choose a synthetic fabric over a natural one? A) Higher durability and resistance to shrinking* B) It is always cheaper to grow C) It is better for the environment D) It feels softer on the skin (1 mark)

7. 7. True or False: A template is used to ensure fabric pieces are cut to the exact size and shape required. (1 mark)

8. 8. Name a common synthetic fabric often used in sportswear. (1 mark)

9. 9. True or False: Wool is a synthetic fibre. (1 mark)

10. 10. Which word describes how much liquid a fabric can soak up? (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a design for a functional accessory, such as a pencil case or a tote bag. Label the materials you would use and explain why you chose that specific fabric based on its properties.



Extension challenge: 1. Explain why a designer must consider the 'seam allowance' when cutting fabric pieces for a project. 2. Compare and contrast the properties of denim and silk. 3. Justify your answer: If you were tasked with creating a protective cover for an outdoor garden bench, which material would you select and why? 4. What might happen if a garment designer failed to test the shrinkage of a fabric before sewing? 5. How does the 'weave' of a fabric affect its strength? 6. Propose a way to upcycle an old cotton shirt into a new product; what skills and tools would you require?