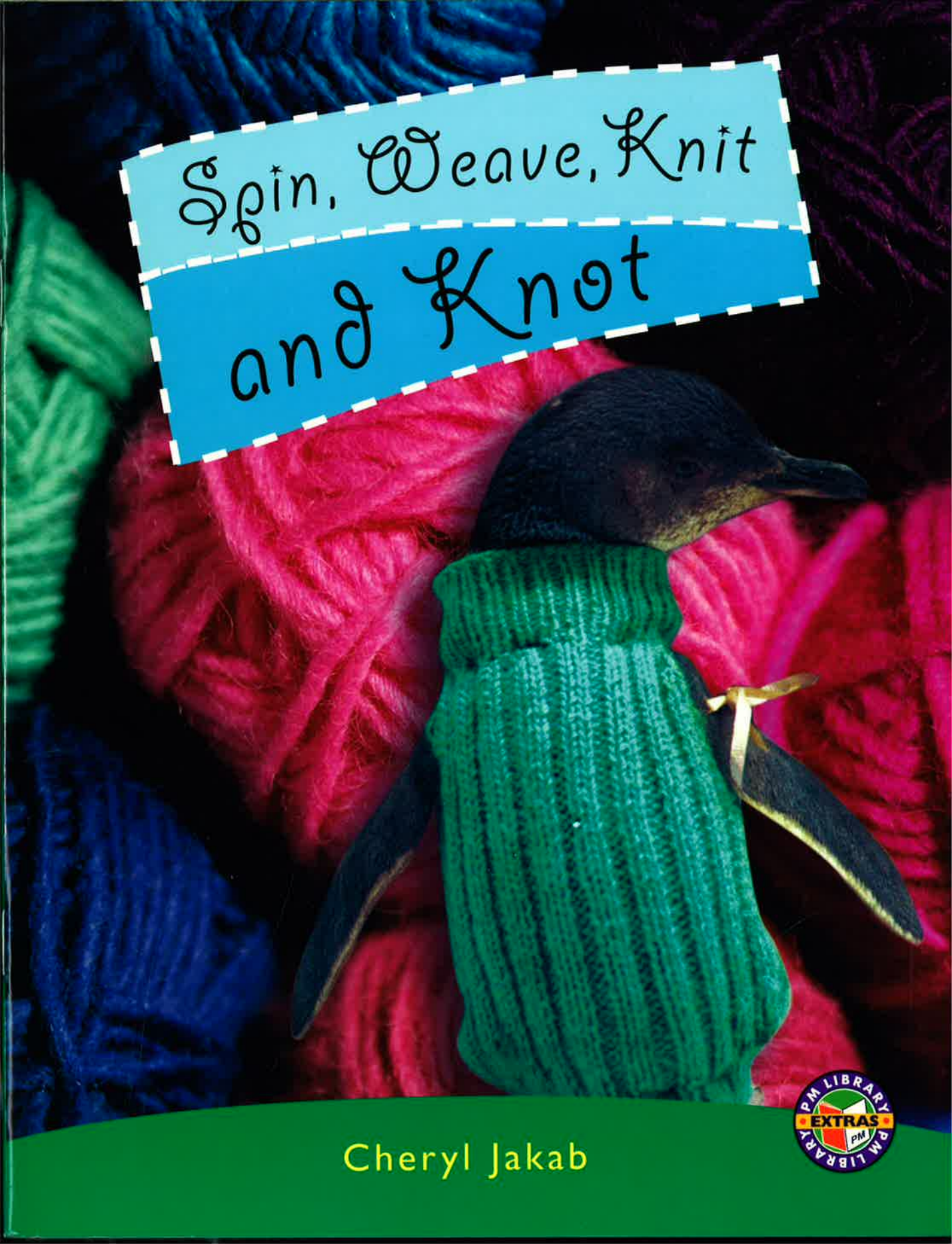
Spin, Weave, Knit and Knot



Cheryl Jakab

PM LIBRARY EXTRAS PM LIBRARY

Spin, Weave, Knit and Knot

For teachers' inspection ONLY

Key vocabulary

ancient, fibres, flax, hide, loom, microscope, natural papyrus, synthetic, textiles, warp, weaving, weft, yarn, needle, casting on, nylon, orlon, heddle

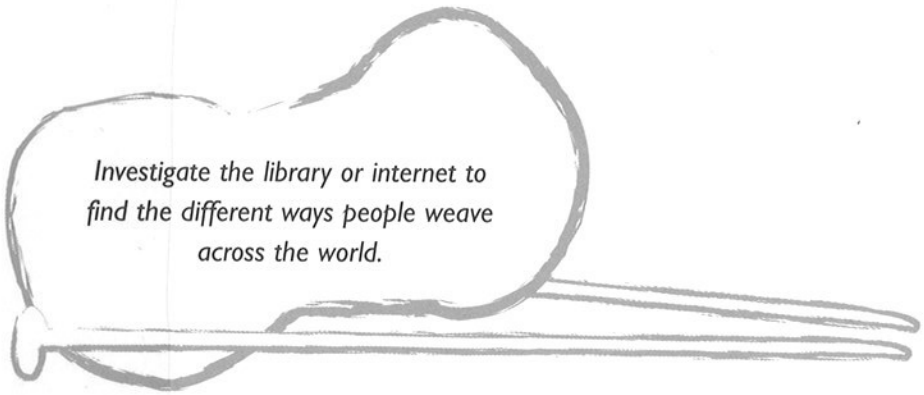
Grammatical conventions

- Action verbs: cut, fit, knot, turn, tie
- Use of commas to list items, e.g. 'spinning, weaving, knitting'
- Proper nouns: Africa, Arabs, Egyptian, Turkish, Chinese, Russian

Spelling

- Silent letters: knitting, knots, known, tomb
- Doubling the last consonant before adding 'ing': spinning, knotting, knitting
- Words containing 'c' that makes an 's' sound: place, piece, vice
- Word origins: microscope, civilisations, century

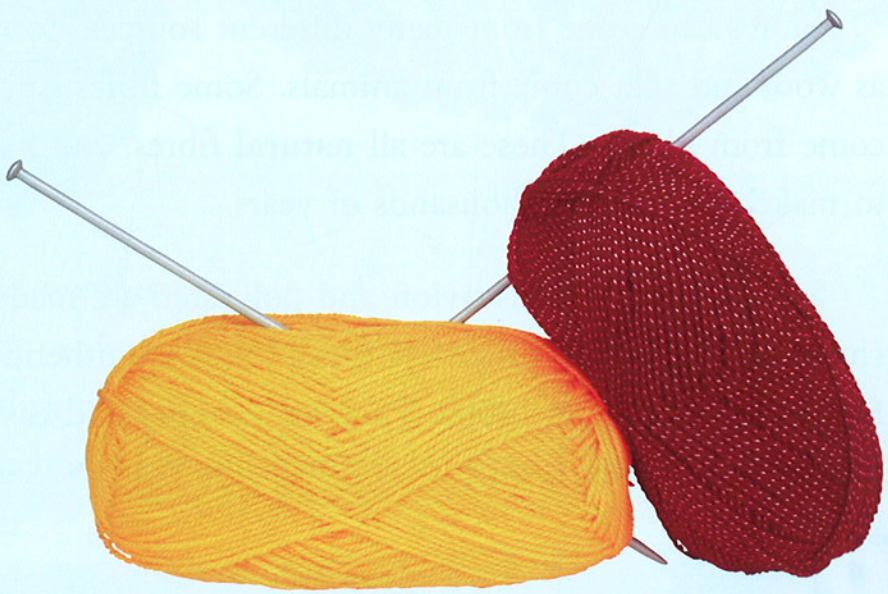
Creative thinking task – Knowledge



For teachers' inspection ONLY

Contents

Chapter 1	About fibres and fabrics	**4**
Chapter 2	Weaving	**8**
Chapter 3	Knitting	**12**
Chapter 4	Knotting	**18**
Chapter 5	Being creative with fibres and fabrics	**22**
Glossary		**24**
Index		



For teachers' inspection ONLY

Chapter 1

About fibres and fabrics

Fibres are all around us. Look closely at the clothes you are wearing. You will see they are made with fibres. Some fibres are used as threads for sewing and other fibres are made into fabrics.



Balls of wool.



Reels of cotton thread.



Rolls of fabric.

Fibres can come from many different sources. Some fibres, such as wool and silk, come from animals. Some fibres, such as cotton, come from plants. These are all **natural** fibres, and have been used to make clothing for thousands of years.

Some fibres, such as nylon and polyester, are made from chemicals. These are called **synthetic** fibres. Synthetic fibres were first produced in the 1900s. They are cheaper and easier to produce than natural fibres.

For teachers' inspection ONLY

Using threads, fibres and fabrics

People have discovered many different ways to make fibres into threads and fabrics. These techniques include spinning, **weaving**, knitting and knotting.







Threads and **textiles** can be used to make many things. Warm knitted clothing made from wool offers protection from the cold. Light cotton fabrics are used to make clothing for warmer weather. Other items, such as bags and hammocks, can be made by knotting threads together.

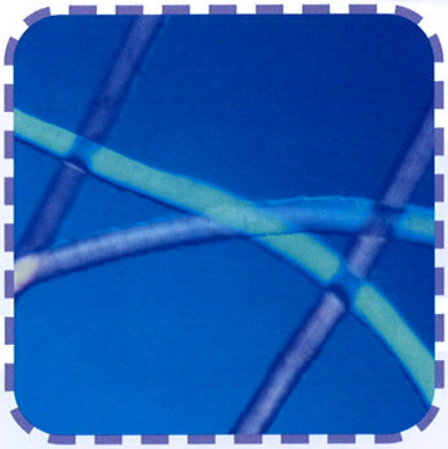
For teachers' inspection ONLY

From fibre to thread

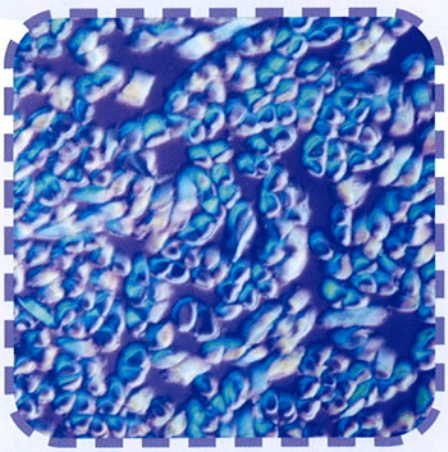
Look closely at a fabric and you might see the fibres it is made of. Wool fibres are thick and warm. Silk fibres are soft and fine. The differences between fibres are easier to see when looked at through a **microscope.**



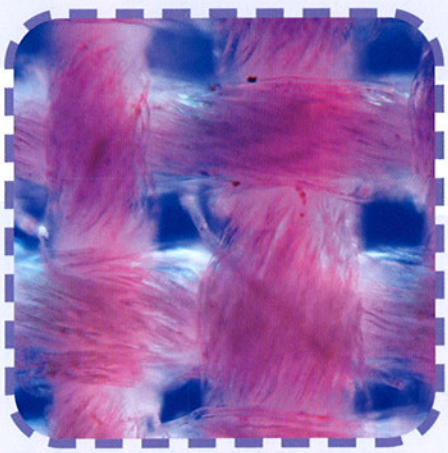
A close-up view of cotton fibres.



A close-up view of wool fibres.



A close-up view of silk fibres.



A close-up view of synthetic fibres.

For teachers' inspection ONLY

Natural fibres such as cotton and wool are very short. Before they can be woven into cloth, the fibres must first be twisted together to make a long thread or **yarn**. This process is called spinning. Spinning links the short fibres together so they will not pull apart.

People have been spinning fibres for more than 10 000 years. At first, they simply rolled the fibres together by hand. Then, around 7000 BC, they began using a simple machine called a distaff and spindle. Much later, a wheel was added to help the spinning process. This machine was called the spinning wheel.

In 1767 a machine called a spinning jenny was invented. This made the process of spinning much faster. Today most threads are spun by machine.



These Miri women are making cotton thread by twisting fibres together into a distaff.



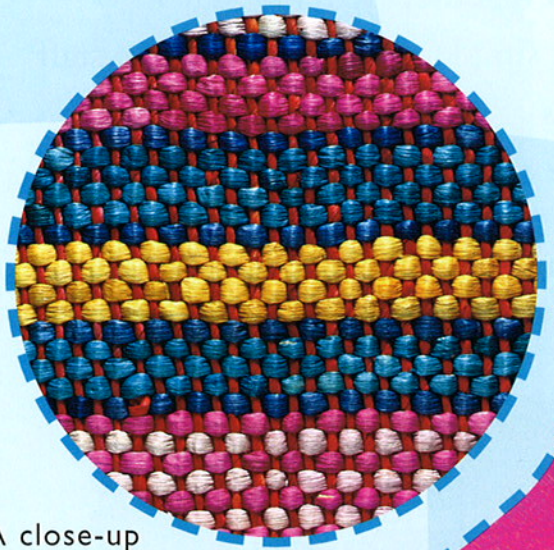
This woman is spinning wool on a spinning wheel.

For teachers' inspection ONLY

Chapter 2

Weaving

Once fibres have been spun into long threads, the threads can then be made into cloth. Even though most of the fabrics used today are made by machine, the process is the same as hand weaving.



A close-up view of a woven fabric.

Women in Guatemala weave very intricate and traditional patterns by hand.

