

Textiles Tell the Tales – Weaving the Past into Our Futures

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Synopsis

The unit will be cross curricular with students initially learning some of the history of textiles, then reading both nonfiction and fiction stories about the processes of fiber preparation and textile creation and to expose students to the close relationship between humans and the role of textiles in society, agriculture, economics and the environment. We will study the raw materials, and the advances in production that revolutionized the textile industry. Students will experiment with preparing, spinning, and weaving various fibers. This immersion approach allows students to feel connected to both ancient and current cultures across the globe, realizing the level of creativity and innovation (both individual and collective) attained by those without the benefit of all of our modern technology and instant information access. It is imperative that the students not just learn about the historical significance of textiles, but the future implications, as well. Students will study the environmental footprint of the “throw away” textile mentality. Lastly, we will research ways to repurpose or recycle textiles in an effort to be more environmentally conscious, culminating in the schoolwide adoption of a textile recycling program.