

How Clothes Are Made (When You Don't Have Machines To Help)

Lady Margherita da Fiorenza
<http://www.margheritadafiorenza.com>

Clothes are made of many kinds of materials. In the Middle Ages, people used materials that they could get from nature to make their clothes. Three of the materials they used the most were **linen**, **silk**, and **wool**.



Linen is made from the flax plant. It is strong and comfortable. In the Middle Ages, underwear and some other clothes were usually made of linen.

Silk is made from the cocoons of the silkworm moth. In the Middle Ages, the fanciest clothes were usually made of silk.

Wool is made from the hair of sheep. It is very warm, even if it gets wet. In the Middle Ages, many outer clothes were made of wool.

To make clothes, first people had to gather the **fiber** from nature. Then they had to wash it and get it ready to spin. **Spinning** was how people made short fibers into longer, stronger thread. Some of the thread was used for **weaving** into cloth. Some of it was used to **sew** the cloth together to make clothes. It was hard work and took a long time to make even one outfit. Only rich people could have a lot of clothes.