



Threads of Learning
Teacher's Guide

Unraveling the Mysteries of Silk



THE AMERICAN TEXTILE HISTORY MUSEUM
491 Dutton Street Lowell, Massachusetts
Education Department: (978) 441-0400 X250

www.athm.org





Program Description

Ages: Grades K - 2

Length: 2.5 hours (includes silk scavenger hunt through the Museum).

Silk, spider webs, and rayon are produced in a similar way. Learn about the science, technology, and culture of silk, and other extruded fibers. Students will identify the anatomy of a spider and hear and reenact the legend of the discovery of silk in ancient China, as well as experiment with unraveling a silk cocoon.

Objectives

The students will be given a thorough explanation of the process of silk and will participate in hands on activities that demonstrate this process. The students will then be able to identify and describe the characteristics of natural materials and human-made materials. The students will also be introduced to the different stages of silk development which includes the life cycle of the spider and the silkworm. From this point the students will be able to describe these stages and will be able to identify the safe and proper use of tools and materials that are involved in this portion of the silk process.



Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Framework Connections

Pre- Kindergarten to Kindergarten

Learning Standards

- PreK-K.2 Put events in their own and their families' lives in temporal order.
- PreK.5 Retell stories that illustrate honesty, courage, friendship, respect, responsibility and the wise or judicious exercise of authority, and explain how the characters in the stories show these qualities.
- PreK-K.8 Give examples of different kinds of jobs that people do, including the work they do at home.

Grade 1

Learning Standards

- 1.7 After Reading or listening to folktales, legends, and stories from America and from around the world, describe the main characters and their qualities.
- 1.9 Explain that Americans have a variety of different religions, community, and family celebrations and customs, and describe celebrations or custom held by members of the class and their families.

Grade 2

Learning Standards

- 2.8 Give examples of traditions or customs from other countries that can be found in America today.



Massachusetts English Language Arts and Literacy Curriculum Framework Connections

Pre-K and Kindergarten

Reading Standards for Literature

- MA.1-MA. 7, MA. 9

Reading Standards for Informational Text

- MA.1.-MA.7.

Grade 1

Reading Standards for Literature

- 1-7
- MA.8.A.

Reading Standards for Informational Text

- 1-2

Grade 2

Reading Standards for Literature

- 1-3

Reading Standards for Informational Text

- 1-2

Massachusetts Science Curriculum Framework Connections

Pre-K and Kindergarten

Earth and Space Science

- 1,4,5

Life Science (Biology)

- 1-4, 6-8

Grade 1

Earth and Space Science

- 1,4,5

Life Science (Biology)

- 1-4, 6-8

Grade 2

Earth and Space Science

- 1,4,5

Life Science (Biology)

- 1-4, 6-8