

## Take a closer look at your fabrics

The microscope makes this sort of investigation easy. The students can see the structure of the fibres reasonably clearly. The structure of the fabric also becomes clear – is it woven? Is it knitted? Is it felted? How are decorative features included (sewn in, knitted in, printed on the surface...)?

### You will need:

- A variety of fabrics with different textures and colours (denim works well, Velcro is interesting, so is the straps on carry bags)
- Illuminated portable microscopes (one between two or three students)

### What to do:

- Choose five different fabrics.
- In turn, look at each fabric under the microscope.
- Compare each fabric's texture and weave.

Use the worksheet on the next page:

1. Glue a sample of each fabric you looked at in the left column.
2. Next to each sample, draw a picture of what you saw.
3. In the last column, describe what you found out. You can use the ideas listed or ones of your own. You can use the same statement for more than one sample.



This one was stretchy	This one looked a bit like rope
This one was smooth	This one looked like plaits
This one was rough	This one was shiny
I could see through this one	This one had lots of colours

😊 Draw a happy face next to the one that surprised you the most.

Choose one of your fabrics. What do you think it is made up of? What has been done to make this piece of fabric?

My sample	What I saw	What I found out
Sample 1		
Sample 2		
Sample 3		
Sample 4		
Sample 5		

I chose sample number \_\_\_\_ My fabric is made up of ...

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How I think my fabric was made ...

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