

**Programme 7: The Textile Industry****History****BROADCAST DATES****BBC2 10.30-10.50 AM**

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Broadcast Date</b>
6	History - Canals	Tuesday 30th May 2006
7	History - The Textile Industry	Tuesday 6th June 2006
8	History - Nendrum	Tuesday 13th June 2006

**PROGRAMME 7 - THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY****LEARNING OUTCOMES**

By the end of the programme, pupils should be able to

- understand the creation and production of lycra
- identify the differences between synthetic and natural materials
- understand the industrial development of linen-making in Ireland
- understand the making of linen from ancient times to modern-day production

**ABOUT THE PROGRAMME**

This programme compares the manufacture of two very different fibres – linen and lycra. One is a natural fibre and the other synthetic. Northern Ireland has been associated with the textile industry for many years. The North-west in particular has strong links through its supply of materials and fabrics to multinational clothing companies. It manufactures both natural and synthetic fabrics through Herdmans Mill in Sion Mills and Dupont at Maydown.

In the programme, two children are guided through the processes used to manufacture linen and lycra, and the histories of the two fabrics are compared.

**Natural Fibre – Linen**

Linen has been used as a fabric for over ten thousand years. From the time of the early lake dwellers in Europe through the age of the Pharaohs to modern times, linen has played an important role. It has both made history and preserved it. Linen comes from the flax plant, '*linum usitatissimum*' or 'most useful linen'. This fibre has contributed to our vocabulary – we still speak of a blonde person as being '*flaxen-haired*', an unmarried woman was called a *spinster* because traditionally only unmarried women spun flax, and lingerie got its name because at one time underwear was made only from linen.

The Bible makes reference to linen and it was used in ancient Egypt. Mummies were wrapped in shrouds of fine linen and over forty different designs of loin cloths have been discovered. The spread of the printed word owes much to the versatility of linen – it was used for making paper and linseed oil was used to make printing ink.

## Programme 7: The Textile Industry

## History

While linen has a glorious past, the linen industry needs to concentrate on the future. Linen plays an important role in the world of clothing and household textiles, but despite advances in technology, the basic process of man

- The streams are dried and the moisture evaporated.
- The streams are wound onto 'cakes' of Lycra.
- The Lycra is exported all over the world.

***Key words used during programme:***

SYNTHETIC, ELASTIC, CHEMICAL, VATS, SPINNING, EVAPORATE, IMPORT, EXPORT.

**Programme 7: The Textile Industry****History****1. CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES - Before the Programme**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Tasks</b>	<b>Worksheets</b>	<b>Relevance to NI Curriculum</b>
<b>INDIVIDUAL</b>			
<b>Investigation</b>	The children could go through their clothes at home and make a list of what they think is synthetic or natural.		<b>Science</b> Investigating the properties of materials.
<b>GROUP</b>			
<b>Discussion</b>	Explain and discuss the keywords.  Explore the differences between synthetic and natural, for example, food, clothing and roofs.  What other natural and synthetic substances occur in everyday life?		<b>English</b> Developing oral skills.

**Programme 7: The Textile Industry****History****2. CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES - After the Programme**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Tasks</b>	<b>Worksheets</b>	<b>Relevance to NI Curriculum</b>
<b>WHOLE CLASS</b>			
<b>Investigation</b>	<p>Take an item of clothing made from lycra and stretch it. Do the same with linen. Compare the effects of this stretching on the two materials.</p> <p>Experiment with the effect of water on linen and lycra – what happens to the materials when they are wet and what is the difference between them when they dry?</p> <p>Visit the Ulster Museum and explore the Egyptology Department and the Local History Department.</p> <p>The class could visit factories in their area to find out what exactly they produce, how it is made and what happens to it when it leaves the factory.</p> <p>Explore the differences between import and export.</p>		<b>Science</b> Investigating the properties of materials.

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## History

### RESOURCES

#### **Web site:** [www.waterni.gov.uk/](http://www.waterni.gov.uk/)

The Water Service web site has an excellent educational section, where there are interactive Flash movies covering the water cycle, water treatment, waste water treatment, conservation, pollution, water aid and a water quiz. It also has lots of information on what Water Service does. You can also access PDFs with information on each topic

#### **Contact:**

Water Service Customer Service Unit  
Water Service, Eastern Division  
Westland House  
Old Westland Road  
Belfast  
BT14 6TE

**Fax:** 028 9035 4755

**Tel:** 08457 440088.

#### **PDF:** [www.waterni.gov.uk/pdfs/SVALLEY.pdf](http://www.waterni.gov.uk/pdfs/SVALLEY.pdf)

This PDF is a short history for schools of Silent Valley

#### **The Wastewater Centre**

The exhibition, which is suitable for students of all ages, shows the past, present and future wastewater treatment facilities for Belfast.

#### **Contact:**

The Wastewater Centre  
115 - 121 Duncrue Street  
Belfast  
BT3 9JS

**Tel:** 028 9035 4703

**Fax:** 028 9035 4792

#### **The Water Bus**

The Water Bus visits P5-P7 children in schools throughout Northern Ireland teaching the importance of water and promoting the work of Water Service.

**URL:** [www.waterni.gov.uk/home-leisur.htm](http://www.waterni.gov.uk/home-leisur.htm)