

# Natural Fibers and Dyes

## Culture Exploration Kit



*Sample items from the kit*

Natural fibers and dyes are among the earliest materials developed by all major human civilizations. This kit has crafts made from the 4 most common fibers used – wool, cotton, flax and silk, selected from the cultures that first developed them (i.e. Silk embroidery from China, Cotton dolls from Mexico, etc). Also included are raw materials such as wool rovings, a cotton boll and silk worm cocoons, and a sample of petroleum-based textiles for contrast. CMLC Info Cards with intriguing facts and cultural histories are provided for each item.

**Appropriate for K-12 & up.**

**Highlights of this kit:** Wool Andean doll using a drop spindle, vintage Swedish toy spinning wheel, Invasive teasel plant introduced into Oregon for the textile industry, Murex snail shell used by Romans to create purple dye, instructions for art-activities on fibers and dyes; lesson plans and articles, plus, for older students materials on textile manufacturing, sweatshop labor, and the problems of textile waste in America, and the recent invention of a new blue pigment at Oregon State University.

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**Additional materials you might like to provide when using the kit:** crafts materials such as dowels, used CDs and wool to make drop spindles for spinning, wool & teabags for dyeing.