

The Secret Geography of Cloth



Sample items from the kit

There's a geography lesson in every closet! Did you know the clothing we wear is made from fabric produced all over the world? (Of course you did.) But did you also know that the names of many fabrics are derived from the places they originated? That Angora sweater takes its name from Ankara, Turkey while your Satin prom dress is named after Zayton, China. Denim Jeans sport the names of competing mill towns Genoa, Italy and Nimes, France. And last but not least, every OSU football Jersey gets its name from sturdy fishermen's sweaters knit on the tiny Isle of Jersey, Channel Islands.

This fun kit includes a large selection of textiles (mostly modern American clothing) named after locations from all across the world. Each is accompanied by an illustrated information card of the fascinating history of the textile, paired with a well-researched booklet on the history of each place going from ancient times through to the present day. Also included are histories of three Oregon cities named after Old-World places that also gave their names to textiles: Madras, Paisley and Damascus.

Highlights: Illustrates the amazing, globe-trotting span of human trade and cultural exchange over the millennia. Includes maps, a binder of activities and lesson plans on the textile trade, and relevant books. For older students, lesson plans covering the ethical issues of cheap clothing produced under sweatshop conditions are also included.

Appropriate for ages: K-12, through Adult

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You might also like to provide: T-shirts worn to class by each of the participants, for the "My T-Shirt" lesson