

## How is Silk Made?

A

Smooth silk has always been the most luxurious and fancy of fabric types. In the ancient world only the richest people, like the Great Emperors of China, could afford the expensive material. Silk is very expensive because of how difficult it is to make. Where does silk come from?

B

Silk is made by silkworms. Silkworms grow on mulberry trees. These worms only eat Mulberry leaves. To make silk you need to have a lot of Mulberry Trees!

C

Silkworms eat Mulberry leaves until they get full. Then they begin to make a cocoon. A cocoon is a protective shell that they live in while they change into moths. Silkworms make their cocoons by spitting out silk and then wrapping it around themselves.

D

Farmers then come and collect all the cocoons from the Mulberry Trees. They put the cocoons in hot water. They boil the cocoons for five minutes. Then they remove the cocoons from the water and let them dry out.

E

Next, farmers pick up the cocoons and use a small needle to pick the skinny and small strands of silk from the cocoon. Once they have a strand on the needle they then spin the needle to unwind the silk. This is very difficult and takes a lot of time. Each silk strand is very thin and must be joined with other threads to make silk. It takes about 2,500 silk worms to make one pound of raw silk!

F

Finally, all the silk strands are then weaved together to make silk fabric. Then clothing is made from the silk fabric. It is a very long task but it makes something very beautiful!

RI.3.3

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 Color the sentences in the text that explain the steps of how silk is made.

- Write a paragraph describing the steps of how silk is made. Use the words **first**, **then**, **next**, and **finally** in your paragraph.

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- Describe a CAUSE and EFFECT for how silk is made.

Cause:		Effect:
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RI.3.10

- Write one WORD to summarize the following paragraphs:

A. \_\_\_\_\_ B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_ D. \_\_\_\_\_

- Underline three important words in the text.

- What did you learn about how silk is made?

Complete Sentences	Cite the Evidence	Restate the Question
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RI.3.1

7. Write three questions where the answer could be found in the text. Then find the answer to your question and color it.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

Color the answer to your question 

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Color the answer to your question 

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Color the answer to your question 

RI.3.2

8. Write one WORD that describes the main idea of the text: \_\_\_\_\_

9. What are three key details in the text that support the main idea?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

10. Describe HOW one of these key details supports the main idea.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

RI.3.4

11. Find the underlined word, luxurious in the text. Use the context clues to explain what this word means. Circle the words in the text that are a clue to the meaning of the word.

\_\_\_\_\_

12. Find the underlined word, strands in the text. Use the context clues to explain what this word means. Circle the words in the text that are a clue to the meaning of the word.

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