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This hands-on activity investigates the different characteristics of materials.

The resource gives instructions for a hands-on activity where students can examine different types of fabrics and learn about their different characteristics.

Using magnifying glasses and sandpaper, students can test and observe the weave and wear quality of fabric samples. By comparing the qualities of different fabrics, they can come to understand why so many different types of fabric exist and are able to recognize and suggest different uses for them.

Engineering Connection

Some engineers design fabrics and other new materials. Other engineers incorporate those fabrics and materials into the products they design. For some product designs, durability over extended periods of time in rough conditions is important. Durable products do not have to be replaced as often, are typically more cost effective, and create less waste. Testing to understand the physical properties of fabrics aids in deciding their best use.

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