

Fibre to Fabric

Synopsis

- Clothes protect us from heat, cold and other adverse climatic conditions.
- All clothes are made from fibres.
- The fibres can be natural, i.e., of plant or animal origin, or synthetic, i.e., man-made.
- Wool is obtained from the fleece or hair of sheep, goat, yak, camel, Llama and alpaca.
- Silk comes from silk worms. Silk worms are caterpillars of silk moth.
- Sheep hair is sheared off from the body to yield wool by the following process. Processing of fibres into wool
- Shearing → Scouring → Sorting → Drying → Dyeing → Spinning → Weaving
- A pile of cocoons is used for obtaining silk fibres.
- The cocoons are kept under the sun or boiled or exposed to steam to separate out silk fibres.
- The process of taking out threads from the cocoon for use silk is called reeling.
- Reeling is done in special machines, which unwind the threads or fibres of silk from the cocoon.
- Silk fibres are spun by the silk worms.
- Silk fibres are made of protein.
- The rearing of silk worms for obtaining silk is called sericulture.
- Silk worms feed on mulberry leaves.

Scientific name of mulberry is *Morus alba*.