

## Fibre to Fabric

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- For obtaining silk, silkworms are reared on a large scale. A female silk moth gives hundreds of eggs on the mulberry leaf. The eggs are then hatched by keeping them under the right temperature and humidity conditions. Then, the silk caterpillars are fed on mulberry leaves. After 20-25 days, caterpillars stop eating and start spinning cocoons around them. Further development of the moth continues inside the cocoon. The moth leaves the cocoon after its development is complete.
- Once the moth has left the cocoon, it is collected to obtain silk. The cocoons are kept under the sun or boiled or exposed to steam to separate the silk fibres. This process is known as **reeling** the silk. Silk fibres obtained after reeling are spun into silk threads.