

# Textiles

## Cultural Patterns in Textiles

Subject: History/ Visual Arts/Geography

Grades: 6-8

### **Skills:**

- Visual analysis
- History
- Social studies

### **Materials:**

- Worksheets
- Colored pencils
- Access to the following websites:  
<https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/History-of-Scotland/The-History-of-Tartan/>  
<http://www.turkishculture.org/textile-arts/fabrics-and-textiles-67.htm>

### **Summary:**

Often times a textile pattern represents a cultural history or identity. Tartan is often associated with Scottish heritage. It is a woven fabric, generally made of wool from sheep, with horizontal and vertical bands at right angles to one another. The warp and the weft (the length and width) is alike, creating the appearance of squares which are intersected by stripes. This pattern is referred to as the “sett.” The Celts were known to have woven in ancient times and believed to have introduced it to Northern Britain and Scotland. For centuries it has been worn by the Highlanders and today is regarded as a symbol of different clan kinship.

Turkish brocades, called kemha, are associated with Turkish heritage. Turkey was formerly known as the Ottoman empire and during its the empire’s rule, the production of textiles, including kemha, was strictly regulated by the government. Kemha, like other textiles, were made of materials that were made in accordance to a thread count and weight that was dictated by the government. Kemha used silk acquired from silk worms and woven with gold and silver threads. Embellishments often include tulips, or other flowers, as well as animals and fruit, and are considered part of Turkish heritage. Other popular woven fabrics were made of wool, like the silk textiles, embellished with gold and silver threads.

***Discuss:***

What woven textiles are you familiar with that represent a cultural identity?

***Instructions:***

Explore the history of the two textiles described above on the websites offered. Then, draw on your knowledge of your family's history. Is there a cultural group you identify with? If so, research the history of textiles for that culture. If not, pick a culture and explore it.

Then, using the worksheet provided, document what you learn in one paragraph. Sketch a pattern you viewed.

Lastly, imagine you are a weaver producing a blanket that is inspired by your cultural heritage. What would it look like? Carefully detail the design on the worksheet using colored pencils.

# Cultural Patterns in Textiles

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Is there a cultural group you identify with? If yes, what is it?**

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**If not, choose a group to study.** \_\_\_\_\_

**A brief history of \_\_\_\_\_ Textiles**

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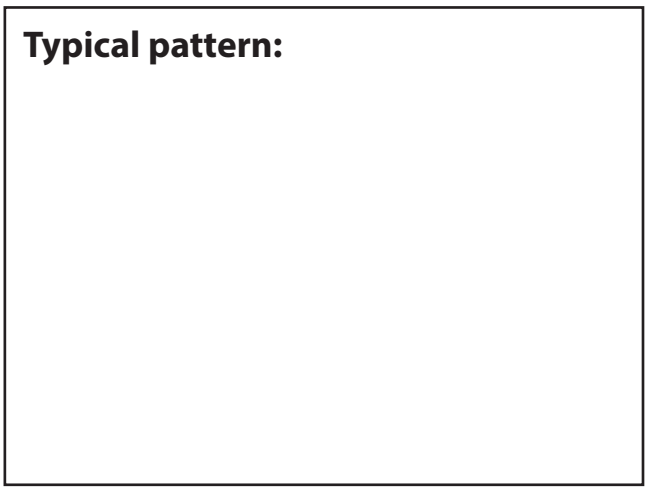
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**Typical pattern:**



Imagine you are a weaver producing a blanket that is inspired by your cultural heritage. What would it look like? Carefully detail the design on the worksheet using colored pencils.

