Silk facts

Silk is produced by the silkworm, which is not really a worm. It is the larva or caterpillar of a moth.

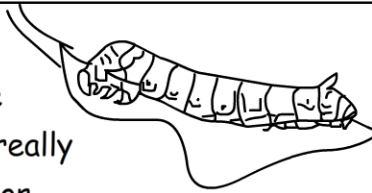The process of making silk was invented by the Chinese thousands of years ago.

The cocoon spun by a silkworm is one long continuous silk thread that when unwound is usually between 500 and 900 meters long.

Silkworms multiply their weight by 10,000 times in a month.

It takes around 30,000 silkworms to produce about 5 kg of raw silk.

A silkworm only eats mulberry leaves.

Silk is the strongest natural fiber known to man.

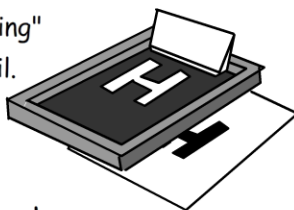Do you know any more interesting facts about silk?

Silkscreen printing

Silkscreen printing involves "pushing" ink through a screen over a stencil.

Look at some examples of silkscreen prints. Note how colours can be layered to create different colours and patterns.

Draw a design suitable for silkscreen printing.

Make a separate stencil for each colour you intend printing, then cut them out.

If your school has silkscreens, print your design.

Writing a report

Write an information report about silkworms.

Plan your report.

* What is a silkworm? (classification)

* What does a silkworm look like? (description/appearance)

* What is the life cycle of a silkworm?

egg

caterpillar

cocoon

moth

* Other interesting information about silkworms.

Number Crunchers

Regina has hand painted some silk scarves. There are three sizes, small, medium and large.

Regina intends selling the scarves for the following prices: small $5, medium $10, large $20

How much money will Regina get for:

- 3 small, 2 medium and 2 large scarves?

- 2 small, 3 medium and 1 large scarves?

- 4 small, 2 medium and 4 large scarves?

- 5 small, 5 medium and 5 large scarves?

Extension research

Where is the "Silk Road"?

Why was it an important trade route?

What things were carried along the "Silk Road"?

Mark the "Silk Road" on a map of Asia.

For more fun and revision you can play games online using Studyladder's website.