



## Teacher's Notes: Silk

### Learning Objectives:

The students will be able to identify a silkworm and a cocoon, and silk.

The students will be able to describe what a silkworm eats.

The students will be able to explain how silk is made.

The students will be able to state where most silk is made.

### Activities

1. Bring silk in for students to touch.
2. Give students a variety of fabrics. Have them feel the fabrics and identify which one(s) are silk.
3. Lifecycle of a silkworm. Make leaves using green construction paper. Make a silkworm using a Q-tip. Cut off one end of the Q-tip and draw black lines to make the body. Roll up a cotton ball for the cocoon.
4. Using the technology printable, students do image searches. Students can insert images into a PowerPoint or Word document. Students write a word or sentence to describe each image.

**General Tips:** The goal is to build background knowledge while leading an engaging discussion on any and all information that can be talked about on a given page. The items that you choose to bring up or focus on should be modified for the students you are working with. For example, if you have a student who can point to something in the picture, answer yes/no questions be sure to incorporate a lot more of that as you go through the book. On the same token, be sure to ask a lot of comprehension questions and critical thinking questions at the level appropriate for students. There is something for everyone.

**Page 1** Silk is a beautiful, soft fabric. Some people wear silk scarves. Some people wear silk shirts. The silk fabric is made from the cocoon of a silkworm. A silkworm is a type of worm. A silkworm uses its mouth to spin a cocoon around itself. The silkworm lives in the cocoon until it grows into a moth. Have students view the following children's video about the invention of silk. Pause periodically to point and discuss. [\(10\) Invention Of Silk | The Dr. Binocs Show | Best Learning Video for Kids | Preschool Learning - YouTube](#)

**Point:** hand, silk

**WH Questions:** What fabric is made from silkworm cocoons? Is silk soft or rough? What is silk made from?

**Yes/No:** Is silk rough? Is silk soft? Is silk made from bees? Is silk made from silkworm cocoons?

**Opinions/Experiences:** Do you like the feel of silk? Do you own anything that is silk?

**Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 1, ask students, “What fabric is made from silkworm cocoons?” The answer is the main idea card “silk.” Students will find the main idea card and read it to their partner. Teacher will prompt them to ask their partner some of the questions talked about above.

**Page 2:** There are silk farms. Silk farmers buy silkworms. Have students a few minutes about silkworms and silkworm farms. Pause periodically to point and discuss. [\(10\) Silk worm farming in India: how your silk is made - YouTube](#)

**Point:** farmer, hat, silkworms, hands, money

**WH Questions:** What do silk farmers buy? Who buys silkworms?

**Yes/No:** Do silkworm farmers buy cows? Do silkworm farmers buy silk? Do silkworm farmers make silk?

**Opinion/Experiences:** What other animals have wings? If you could fly, where would you fly to? What happens if you grab a dragonfly’s wing?

**Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 2, ask students, “What do silk farmers buy?” The answer is the main idea card “silkworms.” Students will find the main idea card and read it to their partner. Teacher will prompt them to ask their partner some of the questions talked about above.

**Page 3:** Silkworms eat leaves. They really love to eat mulberry leaves. Have students view the following video of silkworms eating leaves. Pause periodically to point and discuss. [\(10\) Silkworms Eating Mulberry Leaves Time Lapse - YouTube](#)

**Point:** leaves, silkworms

**WH Questions:** What do silkworms eat? What animal eats leaves?

**Yes/No:** Do silkworms eat pizza? Do silkworms eat ants? Do silkworms eat leaves?

**Opinion/Experiences:** Silkworms eats leaves? What do you like to eat?

**Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 3, ask students, “What do silkworms eat?” The answer is the main idea card “leaves.” Students will find the main idea card and read it to their partner. Teacher will prompt them to ask their partner some of the questions talked about above.

**Page 4:** Silkworms make cocoons. They use their mouths to make the silk thread for the cocoon. The silkworm wraps themselves inside the cocoon. The cocoons are white. They stay in the cocoon until they turn into a moth. Have students view the following time lapse video of a silkworm making a cocoon. [\(10\) silk worm building cocoon - YouTube](#)

**Point:** cocoon **WH Questions:** What do silkworms make? What color are the cocoons?

**Yes/No:** Do silkworms make cocoons? Are the cocoons green? Are the cocoons white? Are the silkworms inside the cocoons?

**Opinion/Experiences:** Look at the cocoons? What do they look like to you?

**Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 4, ask students, “What do silkworms make?” The answer is the main idea card “cocoons.” Students will find the main idea card and read it to their partner. Teacher will prompt them to ask their partner some of the questions talked about above.

**Page 5:** Silk farmers put the cocoons in boiling water. The water is very hot!

**Point:** nymph in water, dragonfly nymph, eggs icon, nymph icon **WH Questions:** What do farmers do to the cocoons? **Yes/No:** Do silk farmers boil the cocoons? Is the water cold? Is the water hot?

**Opinion/Experiences:** We boil water when we cook some foods. Can you think of any foods that we put in boiling water?

**Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 5, ask students, “What do farmers do to the cocoons?” The answer is the main idea card “boil.” Students will find the main idea card and read it to their partner. Teacher will prompt them to ask their partner some of the questions talked about above.

**Page 6:** The boiled cocoons are used to make silk threads. Thread is thin strings of fabric. People who sew use thread. Cocoon threads are white. The white threads can be dyed different colors. That is how we can have different colored silk. Have students view the following video showing how thread is made from the boiled cocoons. Pause periodically to point and discuss. [\(11\) Silk Extraction from boiling SILKWORM Cocoons | Thailand Traditional | Factory Explorer - YouTube](#)

**Point:** silk threads, pink, yellow, pink, green, blue

**WH Questions:** What are the boiled cocoons used to make? How do they make the thread different colors?

**Yes/No:** Is the boiled cocoons used to make thread? Do they dye the thread different colors?

**Opinion/Experiences:** What color silk thread is your favorite?

**Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 6, ask students, “What are the boiled cocoons used to make?” The answer is the main idea card “thread.” Students will find the main idea card and read it to their partner. Teacher will prompt them to ask their partner some of the questions talked about above.

**Page 7:** The silk threads are used to make silk fabric. Silk fabric is soft and shiny.

**Point:** hands, thread, fabric

**WH Questions:** What can the silk thread made into?

**Yes/No:** Is the silk thread made into food? Is silk thread made into fabric?

**Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 7, ask students, “What is silk thread made into?” The answer is the main idea card “fabric.” Students will find the main idea card and read it to their partner. Teacher will prompt them to ask their partner some of the questions talked about above.

**Page 8:**

**WH Questions:** What can the silk fabric be used to make?

**Yes/No:** Is the silk fabric used to make food? Is the silk fabric used to make clothes?

**Opinion/Experiences:** Would you like to wear something made of silk? What silk clothing would you like to wear?

**Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 8, ask students, "What is silk fabric used to make?" The answer is the main idea card "clothes." Students will find the main idea card and read it to their partner. Teacher will prompt them to ask their partner some of the questions talked about above.

**Page 9:** China is a country that is far away from the United States. Have students find China on a map.

**Point:** United States, China

**WH Questions:** Where is most silk made?

**Yes/No:** Is most of the silk made in the United States? Is most of the silk made in China?

**Opinion/Experiences:** China is far away from the United States. Would you like to visit China?

**Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 9, ask students, "Where is most of the silk made?" The answer is the main idea card "China." Students will find the main idea card and read it to their partner. Teacher will prompt them to ask their partner some of the questions talked about above.