**Fabric Analysis**

It is important that we understand the difference between *thread* and a *fabric.*

*Thread: Fabric:*

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*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

Fabrics are composed of horizontal and vertical woven threads, or interlocking threads which resemble knitting. Interlocking fabrics are generally stretchier than woven fabrics, which have some stretch diagonally.

**What tests can be performed to discover what distinguishes one fabric from another?**

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**YOUR JOB:**

It is your job to test a piece fabric, making observations and inferences about the particular fabric. You are to perform a variety of tests, and make notes about the result of it. There are some tests that Ms. Smith will be demonstrating for safety reasons. After that, we will be trying to identify a mystery fabric and there will be some follow up questions to answer.

Type of fabric: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Sketch of Sample Fabric**

**Sketch of Sample Thread**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Observations/Description of Fabric** | |
| **Stretchiness** | **Texture** |
| **Color** | **Weave** |
| **Absorbency** | **Wrinkling** |
| **Flammability**   * Burn or melt? * Fast of slow? * Odor? * Continues to burn? * Residue left behind? | |

**Mystery Fabric:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Tests Performed** | **Observations or Results** |

Based on your test results, what type of fabric do you think the Mystery Fabric is? Explain how you reached your decision.

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Why do you think fabric analysis would be useful in an investigation?

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Would fabric analysis be a strong piece of evidence in an investigation, like a fingerprint or footprint would be? Explain your reasoning.

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