

NAME: _____

PRE-VISIT ACTIVITY – Plain and Fancy

DIRECTIONS: Use the words below to fill in the blanks of this story. Each word should only be used once.

carved	cloth	decorate	dying	embroidery
fabric	garments	loom	machines	molded
needlework	objects	painted	patterns	portrait
quilt	textiles	thread	weaving	

It's fun to **decorate**, especially what we wear. Our clothes are made from cloth, also called **fabric** or **textiles**. Long ago, all textiles came from plants or animals, carefully made into **garments** (for example, clothing, such as pants, shirts or dresses). Fabric can look different because of **weaving** (how the **threads** are joined together as fabric), because of **dying** (how the cloth is colored), and sometimes **embroidery** (sewing designs onto the fabric, also called **needlework**). When made by hand, each garment is one of a kind, and no two are exactly alike.

Besides clothing, people have always made and decorated **objects** (things you can see and touch) for their comfort, needs, and enjoyment. Today, most of our everyday possessions are made by **machines** and not by hand. Long ago, most household items were made out of metal, wood, glass and/or clay in addition to cloth. Craftsmen used different tools and skills to decorate these different materials: they **carved** wood; **molded** glass, clay and metal; and, **painted** textiles and wood. They tried new ways to make useful things look nice.

One way textiles are used is in making a **quilt** – pieces of cloth sewn together in repeated shapes (you could also call repeated shapes **patterns**) and padded for strength and warmth. Long ago before cameras, when someone wanted a picture of themselves or their family, they had a painter do a **portrait**. There are many ways to decorate many things, as you can learn more about on your Winterthur visit.

