

# Textiles

## Summary

In this activity, we will be learning about why it is important to preserve artifacts, or other precious items, and what the greatest concerns are in caring for fabric. Can you identify the agents of deterioration? We will be setting out a piece of fabric in sunlight for an observational period and leading a scavenger hunt.

## Materials

- Fabric
  - *Any color except white and that you do not mind using.*
- Pencil or pen
- Paper
- Camera

## Steps to Follow *(All activities must be done with adult supervision)*

1. Let us think about some questions before we start.
  - a. *What are some reasons that you or a museum would want to preserve an artifact?*
  - b. *Create a list of dangers that could damage an artifact.*
  - c. *Do you have any items that you store to keep safe for future generations, like a photo book?*
2. Find a piece of fabric that you can place in a window or other location where it will receive direct sunlight.
3. Take a photo of your item to record how it looked before you began, and then take a photo of it once a week or every other week.
4. With each photo you take, compare it to the original starting picture and record your findings on some paper.
  - a. *How has the item changed over time and what caused it?*
  - b. *You are observing the damage that comes from light, an agent of deterioration, as it damages the colors and causes them to fade. Temperature, humidity, pests (bugs), and even oils from our hands can cause damage over time, to name a few. Why do you think we wear those cool blue gloves!?*
  - c. *If you have two pieces of the same fabric you can set this up without photos. While one piece sits in direct sunlight, place the other in a drawer or box that you can compare it with.*
5. Try doing a scavenger hunt around your home for objects that may have deteriorated because of light.
  - a. *Clothes you wear outside more than others.*
  - b. *Curtains blocking out the sunlight from windows.*
  - c. *Any item that has spent long periods of time in direct sunlight.*