



Workshop: The Wonder Fabrics

Students will explore the properties of different materials and investigate the impact of man-made fabrics. Inspired by the innovations of M&S textile technologists, they will produce a proposal for their own pioneering fabric or item of clothing.

Duration: 2 hours **Audience:** KS3-5, up to 30 students

Location: M&S Company Archive

Learning Objectives:

- To learn about the properties of different fibres and fabrics.
- To understand the impact of man-made fabrics on people's lives.
- To design a fabric or clothing development to meet a specific need, using M&S innovations as inspiration.

Workshop Overview:

Activity	Content
Welcome & Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet and greet • Why are you here? What we are going to do today. • Housekeeping
What is an archive? What is M&S?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is an archive? Why do we preserve objects and documents? • What is M&S? What do you already know?
History of M&S Textiles Presentation	PowerPoint presentation on the history of textiles at M&S and the introduction of man-made fabrics.
Fibre to Fabric – Part 1	Card matching activity introducing the main categories of fibres and how they are made into fabrics.
Fibre to Fabric – Part 2	Activities comparing the properties of different types of fabric.
The Wonder Fabrics	Students use M&S advertising to investigate how man-made fabrics were marketed and what made them so popular in the decades following WW2.
Current innovations – Case Studies	Students are introduced to recent M&S textile innovations.
Fabric for the Future	Inspired by recent M&S textile innovations, students follow a design brief to suggest their own idea for a new fabric or clothing development, which they will then present to the class.
Plenary	Evaluation