

Class: Choosing Fabric for Shorts

Kari is making shorts for camp. Her leader said to buy a medium weight cotton fabric in a plain weave for her shorts.

Help her choose the best fabric for her shorts. You may use the magnifying glass to look at the fabric closely. Rank the fabrics from best to worst.



Image from: http://www.friendsofpr.com/karenp/BBP_Pants.html

Select samples as described, number the samples but provide no other information:

- 3 Blue cotton in a plain weave
- 2 Blue cotton denim in a twill weave
- 4 Cotton blend knit (choose a firm knit)
- 1 Nylon-lycra knit (choose a nylon-lycra that is for a swimsuit or leotard, not for biking shorts)

Official Placement: 3-2-4-1

Cuts: 3,4,8

(Hormel scores, for online score calculations see:

<http://www.worldaccessnet.com/%7Enormans/hormel.html>)

#3 Fabric sample 3 should be ranked best because Kari got a plain weave cotton fabric in a medium weight suitable for shorts. She followed her leader's instructions.

#2 Fabric sample 2 should be ranked better than 4 and 1 because the fabric is cotton, it is suitable for shorts, but it is a twill weave, not a plain weave. Kari did not follow her leader's instructions precisely. The fabric is a twill but 4 and 1 are knits.

#4 Fabric sample 4 is cotton blend fabric but it is a knit. Kari did not follow her leader's instructions. You could make shorts from the fabric. They would not be as good for camp as 3 or 2 because the fabric is not as sturdy. It may snag. It is a better choice than 1, the nylon/lycra, which is a swimsuit or leotard knit.

#1 Fabric sample 1 is the worst choice. It is a knit and made from nylon and lycra. It is not a good fabric for shorts for camp because it will snag easily and Kari did not follow her leader's instructions at all.

Selecting Fabric for Summer Pajamas

Ami is making summer pajamas. The pattern requires a knit with some stretch. She wants the pajamas to be cool. Help her select the best fabric for her project. Rank the fabric samples from best to worst for her project.

Find Samples to mount and display as numbered (may leave off descriptive words). Also, a copy of a cover picture from a suitable pattern might make a nice visual addition:

- 1. Flannel**
- 2. Cotton Knit**
- 3. Nylon Tricot**
- 4. Cotton Plisse**

Rationale: Selecting Fabric for Summer Pajamas

Rank: 2 3 4 1

Cuts: 3 7 3

(Hormel scores, for online score calculations see:

<http://www.worldaccessnet.com/%7Enormans/hormel.html>)

2 Sample is a light-weight cotton knit. This is the best fabric for Ami's project. The cotton knit will offer the stretch she needs for her pattern and the fabric will be cooler than the nylon tricot.

3 Sample is a nylon tricot knit. This sample will offer the stretch Ami needs for her garment but the fabric is hot and sticky to wear on hot and humid nights.

4 Sample is a woven, cotton plisse. This fabric is a good choice for summer pajamas as it is cool but the fabric has no stretch so her

garment may not go over her head or fit properly with this pattern selection.

1 The fabric selection is flannel. Flannel is a good fabric for winter pajamas but too heavy for summer and the fabric offers no stretch so it would be the worst fabric for her pajamas.

Note: Changes have been made to the requirements/standards for fabrics and flammability in sleepwear. Pajamas for youths may be made from 100% cotton fabric along as they fit snugly. See links below for more information:

<http://www.cpsc.gov/businfo/frnotices/fr99/sleep.html>

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PM733.pdf>

Woven Plaids

Rosa's 4-H group is learning to sew with plaids. Plaids are fabrics that are designed with lines that cross. Plaids look best in an outfit when the lines match.

Rosa wants to make a cotton plaid shirt. Her 4-H leader told her to buy a woven plaid, as it will be easier to work with when Rosa matches the plaid.

Help Rosa buy her fabric. Which fabric is the best for her project?

Rank the fabric samples from best to worst.

1. Diagonal Stripe Cotton-polyester Knit
2. Polyester Knit Plaid
3. Printed Cotton Plaid
4. Woven Cotton Plaid

Reasons:

Rank 4 3 2 1

Cuts: 2 5 8

(Hormel scores, for online score calculations see:

<http://www.worldaccessnet.com/%7Enormans/hormel.html>)

Information on different types of fabrics can be found in **Fun with Clothes**, Sewing Supplement Leaders' Guide, page 3.

4. This is the best fabric for Rosa to buy. The plaid is a woven, cotton plaid. Rosa wants to make a cotton plaid shirt and her leader wants her to have a woven plaid. Some printed plaids are not printed straight so they will be difficult to match.

3. This is the second best fabric for Rosa to buy. It is woven cotton fabric and it is a plaid. However, the plaid is printed, not woven with dyed threads. If it is not printed straight, Rosa will have a difficult time matching her lines.

2. This is the third best fabric for Rosa to buy. It is a plaid but it is a polyester knit. It is a little heavy for a shirt (better for a lightweight jacket and/or pants).

1. This is the worst fabric for Rosa to buy. It is a diagonally printed stripe and a cotton-polyester knit. It will be difficult for Rosa to match the diagonal stripe and the fabric is a knit, not a woven. It is not at all what Rosa or her leader wanted for the fabric for her shirt.