

**Exploring Life and Career © 2012**  
**Chapter 11: Learning to Sew—Glossary**

**alterations.** Changes made in the size, length, or style of a garment so it will fit properly.

**appliqué.** Smaller pieces of fabric or trim sewn on a garment.

**basting.** Sewing fabric pieces together with long, loose, temporary stitches.

**cones.** Spools of thread used on sergers instead of bobbins.

**embroidery.** Decorative stitching using a needle and thread.

**grain.** The direction yarns run in a fabric.

**guide sheet.** Step-by-step directions for cutting and sewing a project included with the pattern.

**nap.** A layer of fiber ends above the fabric surface.

**notions.** Items other than fabric that become part of a garment or project.

**off-grain.** Fabrics with the lengthwise and crosswise yarns not at right angles to each other.

**on-grain.** Fabrics with the lengthwise and crosswise yarns at right angles to each other.

**overlock stitches.** Stitching to prevent seams from raveling.

**pattern.** Paper pieces to follow when cutting out fabric for making a garment or project.

**raveling.** When threads pull out of the cut edges of a fabric.

**recycling.** Turning a used product into a product that can be reused.

**redesign.** To change the appearance or function of a garment.

**seam.** A row of permanent stitches used to hold two pieces of fabric together.

**selvage.** The finished lengthwise edges on a piece of fabric.

**serger.** A type of high-speed sewing machine that sews, trims, and finishes seams at the same time.

**sew-through buttons.** Buttons that need shanks added with thread.

**shank.** A short stem that holds a button away from fabric.

**tie-dyeing.** Parts of the item's fabric are tied to prevent the dye from reaching the fabric evenly.

**use and care manual.** A booklet of instructions for a tool.