

**Preparing for Life and Career © 2013**  
**Chapter 23: Fibers, Fabrics, and Sewing Tools—Glossary**

**blend.** Yarn made of two or more very different fibers.

**cellulose.** The substance forming the main part of all plants' cell walls.

**combination.** Two or more yarns that vary in fiber composition, content, and/or twist level.

**fabrics.** Different materials made by weaving or knitting yarns or pressing fibers together.

**fibers.** Hairlike strands that can be twisted together to form yarns.

**filaments.** Continuous strands of fibers.

**finish.** A treatment that is given to fibers, yarns, or fabrics that can improve the look, feel, or performance of a fabric.

**knitting.** Looping yarns together.

**looms.** Machines used for weaving fabrics.

**manufactured fibers.** Fibers made in a laboratory through chemical processes.

**microfibers.** Extremely fine filaments that make extra smooth, soft, and silky fabrics.

**monofilament yarns.** Yarns made from a single filament.

**multifilament yarns.** Yarns made from 5 to 100 filaments spun into yarns that tend to be stronger and more durable.

**natural fibers.** Fibers created from plant or animal sources.

**overlock stitches.** Type of stitch used on the serger for seams.

**protein fibers.** Fibers created from animal sources.

**sergers.** High-speed sewing machines that stitch, trim, and finish seams in one step.

**sewing gauge.** A six-inch ruler with a sliding marker.

**shears.** Sewing tool that has extra-long blades and larger, bent handles for comfort and holding a fabric flat for more accurate cutting.

**spinneret.** A small nozzle with many tiny holes used in the production of fibers.

**spun yarns.** Yarns made by using short, natural fibers or manufactured fibers cut to staple lengths.

**staple fibers.** Short lengths of fibers.

**thimbles.** Sewing tool used to help push the needle through thick or tightly woven fabrics when hand sewing.

**weaving.** The process of interlacing yarns at right angles to each other to produce a fabric.

**yarns.** Continuous strands of fibers.