

Learning objectives

Sequencing events as to how linen is made.

15-20
mins

KS2

Teacher preparation

Follows on from worksheet: - **The Linen Process**.

Equipment & resources

Laminated cut out sequencing cards

Main activity

1. Complete written worksheet of linen process.
2. Allow children to try sequencing the events.
3. Ask the pupils the try to sequence and record the events. They may chose to do this with illustrations.

<p>FLAX WAS SOWN IN THE SPRING USUALLY AROUND APRIL.</p>	<p>Beetling the linen involved using a machine to beat the surface of the cloth to make it shiny and smooth.</p>	<p>Linen yarn was reeled into lengths of 300 yards (274.32 metres). This was called a cut. Twelve cuts made one hank.</p>
<p>Harvesting was usually done in August. The flax was traditionally pulled out of the ground, not cut like other crops.</p>	<p>A flat broad wooden knife was then used for 'scutching'. This removed the outer skin and the inner parts and left the fibres.</p>	<p>LINEN YARN WAS THEN WEAIVED INTO CLOTH ON A LOOM.</p>
<p>Bundles of flax were put into a pond or tank of water for retting. After retting for up to two weeks, to soften the stems, the flax was taken out and dried.</p>	<p>NEXT, THE FIBRES WERE HACKLED OR COMBED TO UNTANGLE THEM.</p>	<p>The fibres were then taken and wrapped around each other during spinning to make strong linen yarn.</p>
<p>FINALLY, THE CLOTH WAS SPREAD ON THE GRASS TO BE WHITENED BY THE SUN.</p>	<p>The cloth then needed to be bleached; this involved washing and boiling it.</p>	<p>The flax had to be beaten with a wooden 'beetle' to separate the outside layer and the woody centre of the stem.</p>