

Activity 33

Wise Clothes Shopping

Wise clothes shopping starts with an understanding of quality. If you know how to recognize quality in fabrics and construction, you're more likely to make good choices.

Part I Directions: To recognize quality in fabrics you need to know how they are made. Check your understanding by answering the questions below.

1. What are the four natural fibers commonly used in clothing?

2. What advantages do fabrics made of natural fibers have over those made of synthetic fibers?

3. How can you determine what fibers are used in a garment?

4. What is the difference between woven fabrics and knit fabrics?

5. How can you test the fabric grain of a shirt?

Part II Directions: Quality construction is just as important as quality fabric. For each construction term listed below, describe the qualities you would look for when judging quality in a garment.

6. **Side seams:** _____

7. **Darts:** _____

8. **Buttonholes:** _____

9. **Cuffs:** _____

10. **Pockets:** _____

11. **Sleeves:** _____

Activity 34

Planning Your Wardrobe

A well-planned wardrobe takes effort, but it's worth it. By thinking ahead, budgeting carefully, and making the most of what you already have, you can achieve a wardrobe that meets your needs.

Directions: Start planning your wardrobe by answering the following.

Color

A well-planned wardrobe is built around a few basic colors.

1. What colors do you prefer to wear?
2. What colors suit you best?
3. Of the colors you have listed, which three will become the basis of your wardrobe?

Combinations

You can build your wardrobe around two or three basic outfits. Think about the clothes that you already have before deciding what you need.

4. List clothing items that you like and that could become part of a basic outfit.

5. List clothing items that you would like to add to your wardrobe in order to have two or three basic outfits.

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Activity 34 *continued*

Shopping Plan

You need a budget and a shopping plan before you start shopping for clothes. Once you know what your budget is, you can determine your priorities and make a shopping plan.

6. Of the items you listed under number 5, which item would you like to purchase first?

7. What are your shopping options for that item?

8. Where would you get the best price for that particular item?

9. Would you consider waiting until that item goes on sale? Why or why not?

At the Store

Assume that you know what item you want, you are ready to buy it, and you are at the store.

10. Would you choose a brand name item? Why or why not?

11. What information would you look for on the clothing label?

12. What information would you look for on the care label?

13. Would you choose an item that needs to be dry-cleaned? Why or why not?

14. How would you judge the quality of the item?

Activity 35

What's It Really Worth?

An easy way to find out how much value you are getting for the money you spend on clothing items is to calculate the cost per wearing. Cost per wearing is the amount of money spent each time you wear a garment.

Part I Directions: To determine cost per wearing, you first estimate how many times you will wear a particular garment. Then add up the cost of the garment and the cost of cleaning it. Divide the total cost by the number of times you will wear the garment. This will give you an estimated cost per wearing. Use the chart on the next page to figure out the cost per wearing of two garments:

- 1. A pair of blue jeans**—purchase price \$36; home laundering 15¢ per wash; assume you will wear them 60 times, and that you will wash them after every three wearings.

Cost per wearing = _____

- 2. A wool sweater**—purchase price \$36; dry cleaning \$4 per cleaning; assume you will wear it 30 times, and that you will have it cleaned after every five wearings.

Cost per wearing = _____

Part II Directions: Answer the following questions.

- 3.** The blue jeans and the sweater both cost \$36. What factors accounted for the difference in cost per wearing?


- 4.** Why is it a good idea to figure out the cost per wearing before you buy a garment?

- 5.** For what kinds of clothes would you be willing to pay a higher cost per wearing?

- 6.** How can you keep down the cost per wearing on your everyday clothes?

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Activity 35 *continued*



GARMENT COST PER WEARING		
Name of Garment		
Estimated Number of Wearings		
Purchase Price of Garment		
Cost per Cleaning		
Number of Cleanings		
Total Cleaning Cost		
Total Cost for Garment		
Cost per Wearing		

Activity 36 Recycling Clothes

You'll be amazed how many uses you can find for old clothes once you put your mind to it. Use your sewing skills, along with your creativity, to make good use of old garments instead of throwing them away.

Directions: In the spaces below, describe four different items that you could make from a pair of old jeans. Draw small sketches of the items on the right.

Description	Sketch
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	