

Weaving

People have been weaving for thousands of years all over the world. We still weave today - most of the fabric we use for clothes, curtains, rugs and other things is still woven. You need a warp and a weft to weave fabric or cloth. The **warp threads run up and down** the piece of cloth, and **the weft runs across from side to side**.

Cloth is woven on a **loom**, which holds the warp threads or yarn in place while the weft is woven through them. **Weft** is an old English word meaning "that which is woven". The warp threads are opened up for the weft threads to go through easily. The opening is called '**the shed**'. A **shuttle** carrying the weft threads on a **bobbin** is pushed through. Woven cloth can be plain (in one colour or a simple pattern), or it can be woven in decorative or artistic designs, including tapestries.

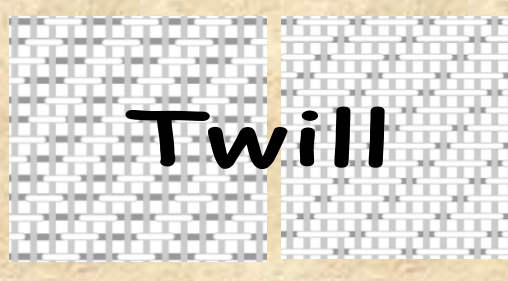
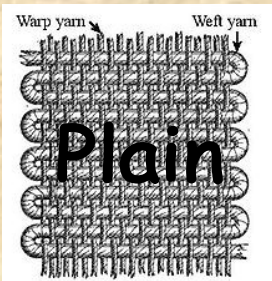
The three basic weaves are **plain, satin and twill**.



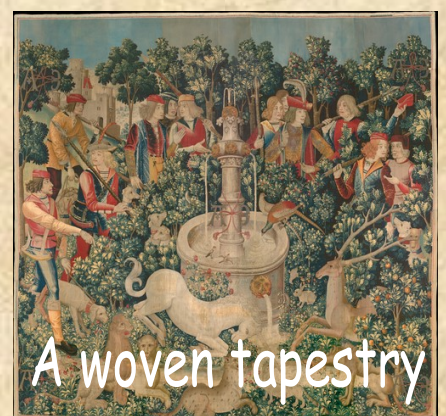
Here's the shed (the opening for the shuttle).



Shuttle and bobin inside



Looms and weavers from around the world and from history.



A woven tapestry



Modern factory loom