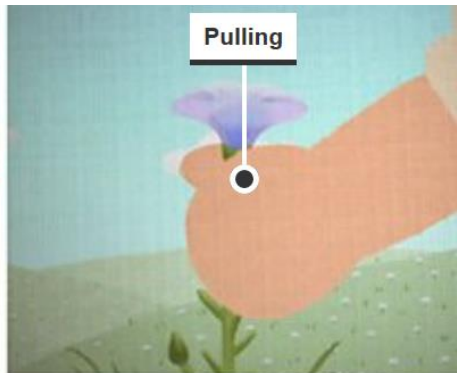


How does flax become fabric?

Make sure you have watched the video and completed the activities on <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/znskjhv/articles/zh9rmfr> before doing this

task.

The next page explains the process of flax becoming linen. Put the explanations in order and draw a picture for each stage of the process.



After the beets were dried out, they were scutched with a large wooden blade. This removed the hard-outer layer and revealed the fibres inside.

The men sowed the seed by hand whilst the women had to weed the ground to make sure the plants grew well.

Finally, the farmer took the woven linen to the 'brown linen market' where drapers bought it and took it to be bleached at the White Linen Halls in Belfast, Newry or Dublin.

When the plant was 1 metre tall and had a pale blue flower, it was ready for harvesting or pulling.

Next the women and girls at the mill spun the fibres into yarn using a Dutch wheel. The yarn was then boiled and prepared for weaving.

After harvesting the plant had to be soaked in a flax dam for between 10 and 15 days. This made the water smell rotten which is why this stage is called retting.

Selling

Spinning

Sewing

Scutching

Retting

Pulling