The Skills of the Huguenots - Weaving
Who were the Huguenots?

- Christians
- French Protestants
- Persecuted
- Emigrated
- Immigrated
- Refugees
- Settled

The Huguenots **TRANSFORMED** England
Silversmithing
Brewing
Cartography

A to Z of London, John Rocque, 1737
Literary

The Penguin

Roget's Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases

Edited by Betty Kirkpatrick

One of the great reference books of all time in a new edition for the century

Authorized Edition

Penguin Books
Skills of the Huguenots

Military – strategy and soldiers
Skills of the Huguenots

Science – maths and medicine
Skills of the Huguenots

Commerce – banking and finance
Skills of the Huguenots

Luxury goods – silk weavers, clockmakers, silversmiths
HUGUENOT WEAVERS
Mrs Fanshawe’s Dress
Life Cycle of a Silk Worm
Silk Worms

• Silk thread is produced from the cocoons made by the larvae of the silk worm moth.
• The cocoon is made from a single continuous thread of up to 900m long.
• Cocoons were placed into boiling water making the cocoon easy to unravel.
How is silk made?

1. An adult female silk moth lays about 500 eggs, and then promptly dies.
2. After about 10 days, the eggs hatch and the larvae spend the next 20 days eating mulberry leaves.
3. The larvae spend about five days producing silk and spinning to cocoon of a single, long thread.
4. The cocoons are boiled to make it easier to unravel the silk and kill the pupae inside. If the silk moths were allowed to hatch, the long silk fibers would be cut.
5. The cocoons are unwound, and then the individual silk filaments must be twisted together to form a thread large enough for sewing.
6. The silk thread is cleaned, dried, and woven into fabric.
England - Spitalfields
Court dress, British, c. 1750, Silk, metallic thread, Costume Institute, Metropolitan Museum of Art
Value of Silk

Dress was an ‘heirloom’, left to daughter when the mother died
The silk for a dress took 4 months to weave, 1 week to sew the dress
Ladies only had a few dresses
Today we look at the style of clothes, but to people in the 17th Century, the quality and design of the fabric was more important
Silk Weaving Jobs

- Draw boy
- Throwsters (Image)
- Winders
- Dyers
Pattern Design

Probably the best known and striking of the jobs. They painted designs on graph paper for the loom mounters (draw loom) or the card cutters (jacquard looms).
Master Weavers

Master weavers

• controlled the weaving industry.
• sorted the silk supply,
• co-ordinating the various processes of production
• Owned property and equipment
• Negotiated sale prices
Journeyman Weaver

Worked

- a seven year apprentice
- Would rent spaces to work (and live) from Master Weaver
- If he wished to trade in his own right as a weaver he was required to pay an entry fee to become a Freeman of the City.
- Paid by the day
Journeymen Weavers
Anna Maria Garthwaite, 1742, designed the pattern for this silk brocade dress.

It is in the Fashion Museum, Bath
Fabric investigation

- Have a look at some examples of Huguenot-style fabric and compare it to your school clothes
- Why did it take so long to make?
- When do you think people wore it?
Huguenot Weaving Designs

Silk design by James Leman: Designer and Master Weaver

https://www.ourmigrationstory.org.uk/oms/huguenot-silk-weavers-in-spitalfields