

ADR3.2 Textile timeline

5000 BCE	Cultivation of flax, Nile Valley, Mesopotamia	1764	Spinning jenny, James Hargreaves, England
4500 BCE	Vertical loom, spindle and woven fabrics, Egypt	1769	Water frame, Sir Richard Arkwright, water powered loom
	Cultivation of hemp, South-East Asia		Silk point net invented by Robert Frost
3000 BCE	Cultivation of cotton, Indus region, India	1770s	Introduction of perpetual carding, based on idea of Lewis Paul
2640 BCE	Development of sericulture and spinning, China	1775	First warp knitting machine, England
2500 BCE	Dyed fabrics, India	1779	The spinning mule, Samuel Crompton, England, based on spinning jenny and water frame, to make fine muslins
2000 BCE	Cultivation of wool, Mesopotamia		
436 BCE	Asbestos, Greece, used as lamp wicks	1783	Roller printing, Thomas Bell, Scotland
1 BCE	Drawloom, Egypt, warp yarns hence variety of patterns	1784	Ropemaking machine, Richard March, England
300	Dacca muslin, India	1785	Claude-Louis Berthollet uses chlorine as bleach, France
1197	The Law of Cloth fixed a standard for manufacture, size and quality of woollen fabric in Britain		Charles Taylor develops turkey red dye
1490	Leonardo da Vinci invents spinning wheel	1785	First power loom, machine comb, Edmund Cartwright
1530	Continuous spinning wheel, Johann Jürgen, Germany	1787	John Kendrew and Thomas Porthouse of Darlington, England, patented mill or machine for spinning yarn from hemp, tow, flax or wool
1535	Denier system for silk introduced, France	1789	Liquid chlorine bleach (Javelle water), Paris
1545	Steel needles being used		
1575	Pile weaving introduced, India	1792	Cotton gin, Eli Whitney, USA, start of US prosperity
1589	Stocking frame invented by William Lee, England	1790s	Spinning mule now using 400 spindles
1664	Robert Hooke speculates copying silk fibres	1799	New bleaching powder, MacIntosh & Tennant, Scotland
1670	First commercial stocking frame, England	1801	John Macarthur established merino flock, Australia
1681	Ready-made clothing concept, England	1806	Jacquard loom, Joseph Marie, France
1700s	Bleach linen fabrics with horse chestnut extract	1808	Bobbin net machine invented by John Heathcote, England
1733	Flying shuttle invented, John Kay, England	1813	John Levers invents Levers loom for machine lace, England
1742	First cotton mill, Birmingham, England	1820	Thomas Hancock patents rubber elastic, England
1743	Three-colour printing machine by Keen & Platt, England	1821	Bauwens & Didelot machine to dress silk, France
1750–60	Dropbox loom, Robert Kay, England		

1825	Wet spinning of linen, Thomas Kay, England	1892	Viscose discovered by Cross, Bevan & Beadle, England
1828	Blackburn loom by William Dickinson, England	1893	Whitcomb Judson invents zipper, Chicago
1830	Bartholemy Thimonier invents chain stitch machine, France	1900	Chlorination of wool, shrink and felt proof
	Brass hooks and eyes	1904	Viscose production, artificial fibres, Courtauld, England
1833	Robert Owen forms trade union, Scotland	1905	Textile mills switch to electric power, England
1834	Walter Hunt invents lockstitch machine	1913	Zipper used by US army
1837	First elastic sided boot, Joseph Sparkes Hall, England	1921	Acetate, British Celanese Ltd
1838	Flax hackling machine, J Wordsworth	1924	The name rayon was adopted in the US
1840	Snap fasteners	1928	Crease proof cotton developed by Broadhurst, Lee & Co, England
1846	Josue Heilmann invents cotton comb, England		Dry-cleaning with white spirit, William Joseph Stoddard, US
	Elias Howe patents lockstitch machine	1930	Hydrogen peroxide used as bleach
1849	Walter Hunt invented safety pin, US	1931	Glass fibres used in textiles
1850s	Miracle fastener or snap fastener, US	1934	Polyvynl chloride (PVC), Shia Viscosa, Italy
1853	James Noble and George Edmund Donisthorpe invent Noble comb for wool	1938	Nylon, DuPont, US
1854	First textile mill in Bombay	1940	First nylon stockings
1855	Artificial silk produced by Aydemars	1941	Polyester fibres discovered, Dickson & Whinfield, England
1856	Synthetic aniline purple dye invented by William Perkin, England	1946	Lurex, Dow Chemical Co, US
1859	Opening of Suez Canal	1948	Velcro invented by George de Mestral, Switzerland
1859–63	Raschel invents flat bedknitting machine	1951	Modacrylic fibres, Union Carbide Chemical Co, US
1864	Fully fashioned knitting machine, William Cotton, England	1953	Polyester fibres, DuPont, US
	Introduction of circular knitting	1954	Dr AJ Farnworth develops washable non-iron wool fabrics, Australia
1867	Diamonds discovered in South Africa		Triacetate fibres, Celanese, England
1870s	Chemical lace or guipure machine lace invented	1956	Polynosic rayon, Tachikawa, Japan
1880	Metric numbering system introduced for wool, France		Lycra, DuPont, US (first elastic fibre not based on rubber)
1889	Chardonnet silk, man-made by Count Chardonnet, Paris	1967	Carbon fibres developed
1890	Mercerising process invented by Horace Lowe, England		

The Australian Dress Register is an initiative of the Powerhouse Movable Heritage NSW program, which is coordinated through the Museum's Regional Services program to support research and documentation of cultural heritage collections.

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500 Harris St Ultimo Sydney + PO Box K346 Haymarket NSW 1238 + www.powerhousemuseum.com

Telephone (02) 9217 0220 + Facsimile (02) 9217 0355 + Email regionalservices@pnm.gov.au

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