



SPINNING

Twisting fibers into thread and yarn is a process that has existed for 10,000 years. Women used the drop spindle for spinning for almost 9,000 years.

A drop spindle is a special kind of hand spindle. It uses a weight called a whorl attached to a stick called a spindle to twist the fibers. First, fibers are attached to the spindle. It is then spun like a top and dropped. The whorl pulls harder on the fiber and makes a tighter twist. This means that the thread is stronger.

The Chinese invented the spinning wheel a long time ago. The spinning wheel increased the spinning rate 100 times. This meant that more and larger cloth pieces could be made much faster. This was important in sea-faring nations. Larger sails could be made more quickly. Larger sails meant larger ships. Larger ships meant longer voyages and larger cargoes. That meant that ships could go to new places and take people with them to settle the newly discovered land.