

Test a fabric's "stretch factor"

There are many properties that can be used to describe matter. Fabrics are a type of matter. Some fabrics stretch more than others. A property of matter which can stretch and return to its original shape is called *elasticity*. Some fabrics are more elastic than others. You can compare the elasticity of two types of fabrics by stretching them and measuring how much they stretch.

Science activity



Lauren tried to compare the stretch in five different fabrics. Her data table shows which length the fabric was before stretching and the length it stretched to. Can you calculate how much each fabric stretched?

Fabric	Starting length	Stretched length	Amount of stretch
cotton	11 cm	18 cm	7 cm
wool	3 cm	8 cm	
nylon (e.g. tights)	5 cm	25 cm	
polyester(e.g. sportswear)	20 cm	27 cm	
denim	15 cm	17 cm	

According to this data table, which fabric stretched the most? Explain.

According to this data table, which fabric stretched the least? Explain.
