

Bulletin number 13. On January 20, teacher Rebeca Gonzalez gave the presentation, “Textiles: Origin and Identity”. The importance of textiles for Guatemalans, mainly for the descendants of the Mayan culture, was discussed. Below is the summary.

TEXTILES: ORIGIN AND IDENTITY

OBJECTIVE

Invite participants to immerse themselves in the fantastic and colorful legacy of Guatemalan ancestral culture.



What is a textile?

- It is a material capable of being reduced to threads and being woven.
- It is a fabric, fiber, or materials that are used to make fabrics.

HISTORY

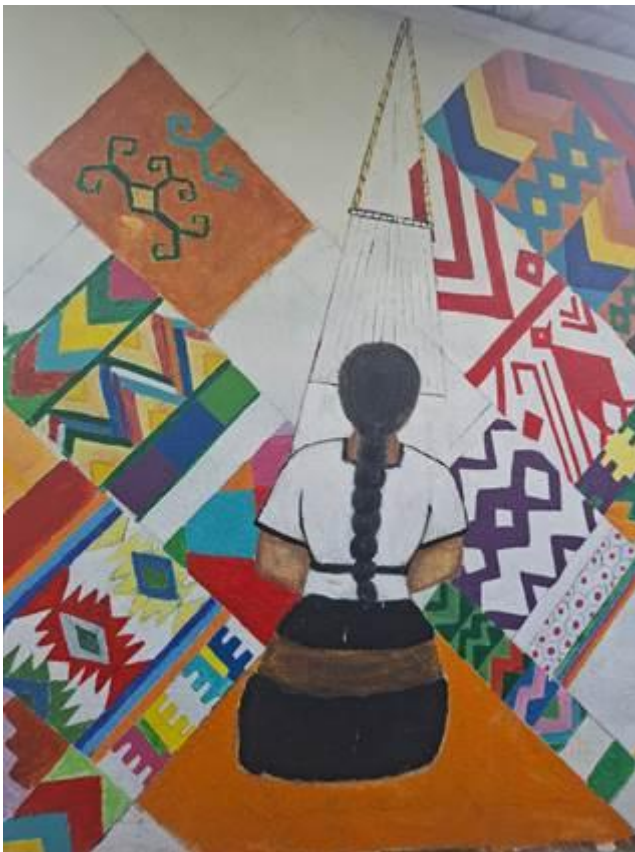
Cultures where textiles were developed:

- Egypt: In 7,000 B.C., linen began to be used.

- China: During the Shang Dynasty in the seventeenth and eleventh centuries B.C., silk fabrics were manufactured.
- India: In 1750 B.C. cotton was used.
- Mexico and Guatemala: Used cotton and maguey fibers.
- When the Spaniards arrived, the natives used cotton and maguey fabrics.
- Men wore loincloths and women wore tunics, or simply a type of undyed skirt. Colors were used for certain clothing according to social class.

The Standing Loom

In the sixteenth century, with colonization, this tool was introduced to make textiles. At first it was a task assigned to men.



The Backstrap Loom

It is of Mesoamerican origin. It is said that the goddess Ixchel gave the backstrap loom to the first inhabitants of Guatemala.

This tool is tied to one end, like a strong column or tree and the other is attached to the weaver's hip.

Meaning of Colors

- **Red:** Symbolizes dawn, energy, power, and blood.
- **Blue:** Represents the sky and water.
- **Yellow:** Represents the sun and corn.
- **White:** Symbolizes air, spirituality and hope.
- **Black:** Represents the night, the sunset, war and death.
- **Green:** Represents nature and life on earth.

Importance of textiles

- It served as currency.
- It is a legacy passed down from generation to generation.
- It is a tradition that has a deep meaning of identity and heritage.



Identity:

Through textiles, cultures have shaped their histories, traditions and beliefs.

Different materials, colors, techniques are used. dyeing, and symbols to represent their individual villages and areas.

EXPRESSIONS

- (*Tirar del hilo*) Pulling the thread: Deducing things from small clues.
- (*No dar puntada sin hilo*) Do not stitch without thread: Act to obtain the greatest benefit of oneself.
- (*Hilar fino*) Spinning fine: To do something very carefully, very meticulously.

EXPANDING YOUR VOCABULARY

[Vocabulario: Textiles: Origen e Identidad](#)

Register now, and don't miss our open class on February 17th, where you will learn more about the Guatemalan culture "Traditions and Customs of the Colonial City," led by teacher Rosa María.

Subscribe and invite others to our "YouTube Channel" [Los Textiles: Origen e Identidad](#) "Facebook Group", [ProntoSpanishTutors](#).

¡Gracias por participar y hasta pronto!

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