

Facts About Blue Jeans (Part 2)

(Story words: dyed, loops, stretches)

When you look up close at denim fabric, you can see some white cotton yarns intersecting with blue yarns. The white yarns have not been dyed, while the blue yarns are dyed an indigo shade of blue. This gives denim fabric a pleasing, complex look that is different than a flat, solid blue.

Fabric can be divided into two main groups—knits and wovens. T-shirts are made of knit fabric. In knit fabric, one very long yarn creates a string of loops that connect together to make the fabric. People like knit fabric because it stretches and is soft, not stiff. Also, knit fabrics do not unravel. This means that if you cut off the bottom or the sleeve of a t-shirt, the fabric ends will remain intact.

In woven fabrics, many yarns are woven together. When you cut the fabric, it will unravel and fray at the ends. In the 1960s and 1970s, people began cutting the legs off of

their old jeans to make “cut off” shorts. People did not mind the long, soft strings of fray at the bottom of these shorts—in fact, frayed ends became the trend.

Today, department stores and online retailers sell many jeans that are fraying at the bottom and have holes in them. Some jeans that teens prefer may be unappealing to older people. In the eyes of the older people, the jeans look ragged and worn out before having been worn even one time. They would rather spend their dollars on pants that look in better shape.