Pressing Tools and Techniques

Unit: Science of Textiles and Manufacturing

Problem Area: Equipment Use and Care

Lesson: Pressing Tools and Techniques

Student Learning Objectives.

Instruction in this lesson should result in students achieving the following objectives:

1. **Summarize pressing tools and their uses.**
2. **Summarize pressing techniques.**

Resources.

The following resources may be useful in teaching this lesson:

E-units corresponding to this lesson plan. CAERT, Inc. http://www.mycaert.com.

Editor's of Reader's Digest. *The New Complete Guide to Sewing*. The Reader's Digest Association, 2010.

"Everything You Need to Know About Your Iron's Settings," *eBay*. Accessed Dec. 11, 2015. http://www.ebay.com/gds/Everything-You-Need-to-Know-About-Your-Irons-Settings-/10000000177940893/g.html.

Olsen, Maris. "How to Press Fabric: 9 Tools You'll Need," *Craftsy*. Accessed Dec. 11, 2015. http://www.craftsy.com/blog/2013/11/how-to-press-fabric/.

"Sewing Techniques: Tips for Pressing," *Simplicity Creative Group*. Accessed Dec. 11, 2015. https://www.simplicity.com/t-sewing-techniques.aspx#tipspressing.

Soto, Anne Marie and Staff of the Simplicity Pattern Company. *Simplicity's Simply the Best Sewing Book*. Simplicity Pattern, 2011.

Warch, Constance. *Illustrated Guide to Sewing*, 2nd ed. Plycon, 2010.

Weber, Jeanette. *Clothing: Fashion, Fabrics, and Construction*, 4th ed. Glencoe/McGraw-Hill, 2008.

Equipment, Tools, Supplies, and Facilities

- ✓ Overhead or PowerPoint projector
- ✓ Visual(s) from accompanying master(s)
- ✓ Copies of sample test, lab sheet(s), and/or other items designed for duplication
- ✓ Materials listed on duplicated items
- ✓ Computers with printers and Internet access
- ✓ Classroom resource and reference materials

Key Terms.

The following terms are presented in this lesson (shown in bold italics):

- distilled water
- dressmaker or tailor's clapper
- ironing
- iron shine
- needle board
- pant presser
- point presser
- press
- pressing cloth
- press mitt
- pressure
- steamer
- tailor's board
- tailor's ham
- velvet board

Interest Approach.

Use an interest approach that will prepare the students for the lesson. Teachers often develop approaches for their unique class and student situations. A possible approach is included here.

> *Bring a much-wrinkled garment that students might wear to class (e.g., hoodie, linen blouse, or cotton slacks). Ask what image a person wearing this garment would project. How would people perceive a person wearing this garment? How would people perceive the same person whose outfit was crisp and pressed? Students may come to the conclusion that pressing is important. Once they reach this conclusion, have students make a list of the options available to get a finished look to an outfit. As the lesson progresses, add new options to the list as they learn additional information.*

CONTENT SUMMARY AND TEACHING STRATEGIES

Objective 1: Summarize pressing tools and their uses.

Anticipated Problem: What are pressing tools? How can a person select the correct tool for a pressing job?

I. Pressing equipment and tools

A. ***Pressing*** is a construction technique used to create a tailored, couture finish. Pressing is the key finishing detail during construction. To ***press*** is to use an iron in a lifting and lowering motion while creating a garment or item. ***Ironing*** is a sliding and pushing motion used to free a garment or other item of wrinkles. Ironing generally is not used during garment construction. The fabric's long-chain fiber molecules are heated and straightened with the added weight of the iron. The rule of thumb is "press as you go."

B. Pressing equipment—Essential equipment includes an iron, an ironing board, and steamers. Other types of specialty equipment are available online and at fabric and craft stores.

1. An iron is a tool used to smooth wrinkles or straighten fabric or clothing. A steam iron is necessary to press fabric. In contrast, a heavy iron produces flatter and crisper seams, and a narrow tip helps get into hard-to-reach areas of a garment. An iron's soleplate needs steam holes; some have anti-drip technology. Also, an iron's soleplate needs an open soleplate tip (steam holes) to properly press pleats and under-button areas. Some have "steam burst" options to remove stubborn wrinkles. In addition, most new irons have an auto-shutoff capability.
2. An ironing board is a flat surface topped with cotton or wool padding attached to legs. The flat metal surface usually has holes to vent steam and is topped with cotton or wool padding (rather than foam) for adequate moisture absorption. Many boards are fitted with an iron rest and a cord holder.
3. A ***pant presser*** is a piece of equipment used to take the wrinkles out of pants and put a crease in them. The pant presser has two main pieces: a heating pad and a pressing plate with stretcher bars. The machine holds the pants taut (stretched tight) when pressing to remove wrinkles. [NOTE: Home machine versions are costly but do a professional job without the cost of dry cleaning.]
4. The ***sleeve board*** is a piece of equipment that looks like two mini-ironing boards stuck together. It has small, flat surfaces for pressing narrow areas (e.g., sleeves and pant legs).
5. A ***steamer*** is a piece of equipment that heats water and uses several passes of steam to remove wrinkles from fabric. The professional steamer is a main-

stay of retailers, tailors, dressmakers, and the fashion industry. It has a large tank of water and a long hose with the steamer head on the end of a wand to pass over garments and furniture. Portable and travel steamers are smaller than the professional versions and are handheld. A steamer is used to freshen garments even when they do not need to be cleaned.

6. A ***tailor's board*** is a multi-functional piece of pressing equipment made up of variously shaped edges and surfaces for pressing. The pressing tool usually has areas to press points, curves, and flat parts of a garment. The board is usually made of wood. A soft, padded cover is available.

C. Each pressing tool performs a specific job. The following tools are designed for the purposes of pressing rather than ironing. Pressing tools are available online as well as in fabric and craft stores. Many can be made at home. Pressing tools and equipment include:

1. A ***dressmaker or tailor's clapper*** is a handheld round-nosed wooden block used to flatten bulky areas, create sharp creases, and make smooth flat seams. First, the fabric is pressed with a steam iron. Then the steam is removed from the fabric using the block to pound the fabric. A clapper flattens fabric without burning or scorching and leaves a flat crisp area with no shine. [NOTE: Some fabrics will not remain in place after pressing until they cool completely, but waiting for them to cool takes time. Clappers are used to "hold" the seam in place while the fabric cools.]
2. A ***needle board*** is a length of canvas covered with fine, upright small steel wires used to press pile or nap fabrics. Another term for a needle board is a ***velvet board***. The pile side of the fabric is pressed over the wire side of the board to prevent it from matting or flattening.
3. A ***point presser*** is a wooden tool that has a flat pointed surface for pressing seams in narrow openings, sash and pocket corners, and collar and cuff points. When turned over, the base works like the dressmaker's clapper.
4. A ***pressing cloth*** is a piece of lightweight fabric used to protect fabrics from the heat of an iron. The cloth must be placed between the right side of the fabric and the iron to prevent scorching or fabric shine. Press clothes made of a transparent fabric allow a person to tell when a garment is free of wrinkles. Also, the pressing cloth fabric must be able to handle various iron temperatures.
5. A ***pressing mitt*** is a padded cushion (pillow-like) with an open pocket for a hand to slip into for pressing curves. Most are covered in wool on one side and cotton on the other. A mitt may be used to press curved areas that are too small for a tailor's ham. A pressing mitt may be slipped over the end of a sleeve board to create a stable, rounded pressing surface.
6. A ***seam roll*** (sleeve roll) is a long cylinder (tube) of fabric with rounded edges used to press seams open in sleeves and other narrow areas. The seam roll is inserted in the sleeve and allows the seam to be pressed open without being creased. The rounded surface of the seam roll keeps the edges of the seam from pressing a ridge into the right side of the fabric. The fabric for the seam roll is wool on one side and cotton on the other and is usually stuffed with

sawdust (for ease of shaping and molding). Wool is used when pressing wool as it holds the steam, and the other side of the seam roll is cotton to be used with all other fabrics.

7. A ***tailor's ham*** is a firmly packed ham-shaped cushion with rounded edges for pressing curves, sleeve caps, princess seams, and dart details. Like the seam roll, the covering on a tailor's ham is wool on one side for pressing wools, and the other side is cotton for use with all other fabrics. The ham is usually filled with sawdust to easily shape and mold the tool for use in various situations.

Teaching Strategy: *Many techniques can be used to help students master this objective. Use VM–A through VM–D to review. Optional: Show the Pressing Equipment 101 video at http://sew-whats-new.com/video/teach-yourself-to-sew-pressing. Assign LS–A.*

Objective 2: Summarize pressing techniques.

Anticipated Problem: What are the recommended pressing techniques?

II. Pressing techniques

A. Pressing tips

1. "Press as you go." Pressing every seam as it is sewn, before it crosses another seam, is the only way to create a truly professional-looking garment or item. Pressing as a person sews means less finish pressing on the completed garment or item is required. Another benefit of pressing as one goes is that small construction defects are minimized. Pressing the seam flat along the stitching line—on the wrong side of the fabric—blends the stitches.
   a. It is necessary to press the seam flat along the stitching line to blend the stitches (pressed in the same way it was sewn). This step can be completed by pressing on both "wrong" sides of the fabric. This press step bonds the stitches with the fabric.
   b. The seam should be pressed to one side or open.
   c. The seam should be pressed open on the "wrong" side of the fabric using the tip of the iron. Moisture should be applied as necessary to flatten the seam.
   d. The fabric should be turned to the right side. Also, the seam should be lightly pressed again, if necessary. The "right side" of the fabric should be protected with a pressing cloth.
2. It is essential to press on the inside (wrong side) of the garment or item (unless otherwise stated in the pattern directions). When it is necessary to press on the outside of the fabric, a pressing cloth should be used to avoid fabric (or iron) "shine."
3. It is necessary to press each seam open as soon as it is sewn (unless otherwise stated in the pattern directions). The pressing open of all seams is recommended even if the seam would eventually be pressed to one side, such as for

collars, cuffs, or facings. Through this process, the crispness of the seamline is enhanced and the collar, cuff, and facing will be easier to shape.

4. It is essential to always press with the grain of the fabric.
5. It is important to always test-press a fabric scrap first to confirm the correct heat setting.
6. Other pressing tips
   a. Curved darts, curved seams, and eased seams should be pressed with special care to preserve their intended shape. Curved shaping requires the use of a tailor's ham (or a towel well wrapped in a clean white cloth) to maintain the intended shape of the garments.
   b. Strips of brown paper should be placed between the seam allowance and the fabric when pressing to prevent seam impressions showing through to the right side of the material (especially with fine and fragile fabrics).
   c. Light to moderate pressure should be used, depending on the fabric, when pressing during construction. (Heavy pressure may be used during ironing but seldom or never during pressing.)

B. Pressing variables: heat, moisture, and pressure

1. Heat re-orients the fabric's fiber molecules. In the case of cotton fabric, heating the long-chain fiber molecules causes them to be "reformed" and temporarily "locked" in place when the fabric cools completely. Heat settings are stamped on most irons (dials or charts) and indicate the approximate temperature of the iron used on the fabric.
   a. Heat settings vary depending on the fabric.
      (1) High or 445°F = Linen (dry iron)
      (2) Hot or 400°F = Cotton (dry or steam iron)
      (3) Medium or 300°F = Wool (steam iron), cotton blends, polyester, and silk
      (4) Low or 275°F = Lycra, spandex, and acrylic
   b. ***Iron shine*** is a sheen that occurs when fabric is exposed to heat too high/hot for the fabric; it appears to "melt" the fabric fibers. Iron temperatures too high for the fabric type can leave the garment with an iron shine or, if applied for an extended period of time, can scorch the fabric. Generally, it is best to press garments from the wrong side of the fabric. [OPTIONAL: Show the video "Everything You Need to Know About Your Iron's Settings" from the Resources.]
   c. As mentioned previously, a pressing cloth is a square of muslin or silk chiffon fabric that protects the garment or item from the iron's direct heat. Silk chiffon is sheer and makes an excellent pressing cloth, as it is transparent and can be used with high heat settings. When it is necessary to press on the right side of the garment, a pressing cloth should be used. Most pressing cloths are treated with a high heat finish.
2. Steam shapes fabric and is often used during pressing (and ironing). The iron heats water and the "steam vapor" produced presses seams and removes wrinkles from fabrics. Moisture relaxes the fibers and releases the fabric wrin-

kles. Ironing and pressing can be done with a dry iron, a steam iron, or an iron and a spray bottle. Some irons or steamers use tap water, but most recommend the use of ***distilled water***—water that has many minerals and impurities removed from it. It is important to follow the manufacturer's directions for the pressing equipment when in use. A steamer appliance or a combination of a spray bottle (mister) and iron are used to produce steam vapor.

3. ***Pressure*** is the weight of the iron plus the force used to press fabric. Assuming the iron is set at the appropriate temperature for the fabric, light to moderate pressure is sufficient to press a garment or item. Light pressure prevents the entire weight of the iron resting on the fabric and potentially leaving marks (iron shine). When working with heavily wrinkled clothes, medium to heavier pressure may be necessary.

C. Pressing hems

1. Some hems are left unpressed, especially some Paris couture house garments. When pressing the hem, it should always be pressed on the right side of the fabric.
2. It is important to avoid a sharp line showing on the right side of the fabric that is the extent of the allowance left as a hem. For example, if a person is hemming a heavy fabric, a layer of fabric of the same thickness and texture as the garment fabric should be placed alongside the finished edge of the hem. Then it should be pressed.
   a. The edge should be pressed carefully over a damp cloth and then over a dry cloth without pulling.
   b. While there is steam in the fabric, it is necessary to smooth over the hem with a wooden tool (such as a clapper) to sharpen the hemline.

D. Pressing different fabric types

1. Cotton and linen need a hot iron. In addition, crease-resistant fabrics benefit from steam.
2. Wool needs a medium iron temperature. When pressing on the right side of the fabric, a dry pressing cloth should be used under the iron. For steam pressing on the right side of fabric:
   a. It is important to place a dry cloth next to the fabric and then place a damp cloth on top of that.
   b. Next, it should be pressed.
3. Silk and synthetics need a cool iron. It is essential to press on the wrong side of the fabric.
4. Fur fabric (imitation fur) is pressed on a needle board or over several thicknesses of towels. With some thicker fur fabrics, a fine and sharp line may not be achievable. Instead, the fabric should be steamed and then pounded (clapper) to create an edge or seamline.
5. Velvet fabrics come in many varieties, from flock to brocade to silk or chiffon velvet. Just prior to pressing, it is important to run a finger fitted with a thimble along the seamline to open it. Then to avoid the seam allowances showing

through to the right side of the fabric, it is essential to place a strip of heavy brown paper under each side of the seam before pressing on a needle board.

6. Leather and suede fabrics (real and imitation) and vinyl fabrics are never steam pressed. They should be pressed with a warm dry iron over a press cloth or a sheet of heavy brown paper.

> **Teaching Strategy:** *Many techniques can be used to help students master this objective. Use VM–E. Show a YouTube pressing video, such as "How to Iron" at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x7fZ_2WuHTU. Assign LS–B.*

Review/Summary.

Use the student learning objectives to summarize the lesson. Have students explain the content associated with each objective. Student responses can be used in determining which objectives need to be reviewed or taught from a different angle. If a textbook is being used, questions at the ends of chapters may be included in the Review/Summary.

Application.

Use the included visual master(s) and lab sheet(s) to apply the information presented in the lesson.

Evaluation.

Evaluation should focus on student achievement of the objectives for the lesson. Various techniques can be used, such as student performance on the application activities. A sample written test is provided.

Answers to Sample Test:

Part One: Completion

1. press
2. iron
3. press
4. press
5. iron
6. pressing (or ironing in some instances)

Part Two: Matching

1. b
2. e
3. d
4. a
5. c
6. f

Part Three: Short Answer

1. Pressing is a construction technique used to create a tailored, couture finish. Pressing is the key finishing detail during construction. To press is to use an iron in a lifting and lowering motion as one creates a garment or item. The rule of thumb is "press as you go."

   Ironing is a sliding and pushing motion used to free a garment or other item of wrinkles. Ironing is generally not used during garment construction. The fabric's long-chain fiber molecules are heated and, with the added weight of the iron, straightened.

2. Answers will vary but should be similar to the following:
   a. Heat re-orients the fabric's fiber molecules. In the case of cotton fabric, the long-chain fiber molecules are reformed and are temporarily "locked" in place when the fabric cools.
   b. Iron shine is a sheen that occurs when fabric is exposed to heat too high/hot for the fabric; fabric fibers appear "melted." Iron temperatures too high for the fabric type can leave the garment with an iron shine or, if applied for an extended period of time, can scorch the fabric.

3. Answers will vary but should be similar to the following: Steam shapes fabric and is often used during pressing (and ironing). The iron heats water, and the "steam vapor" produced presses seams and removes wrinkles from fabrics. A steamer appliance or a combination of a spray bottle (mister) and iron are used to produce steam vapor.

Sample Test

Name _____

Pressing Tools and Techniques

Part One: Completion

Instructions: **Provide the word or words to complete the following statements. NOTE: Finish each statement with the term "iron" (or ironing) or the term "press" (or pressing).**

1. After sewing a seam on a skirt, I would _____ the seam.
2. I would _____ a wrinkled shirt.
3. I would _____ wool dress pants with wrinkles.
4. To give a professional couture finish to a cap sleeve seam, I would trim and _____ the seam.
5. I would _____ wrinkled tablecloths for a party.
6. Steam shapes fabric and is often used during _____.

Part Two: Matching

Instructions: **Match the term with the correct definition.**

a. seam roll
b. needle board
c. pressing mitt
d. pressing cloth
e. point presser
f. tailor's ham

_____1. A length of canvas covered with fine, upright small steel wires used to press pile or nap fabrics

_____2. A wooden tool that has a flat pointed surface for pressing seams in narrow openings

_____3. A piece of lightweight fabric used to protect fabrics from the heat of an iron

_____4. A long cylinder (tube) of fabric with rounded edges used to press seams open in sleeves and other narrow areas

_____5. A padded cushion with an open pocket for one's hand to slip into for pressing curves

_____6. A firmly packed ham-shaped cushion with rounded edges for pressing curves, sleeve caps, princess seams, and dart details

Part Three: Short Answer

Instructions: **Answer the following.**

1. What is the difference between ironing and pressing?

2. How does heat affect pressing and ironing? (Include a statement about iron shine.)

3. How does moisture affect pressing and ironing?

PRESSING AND IRONING

Pressing is a construction technique used to create a tailored, couture finish. To press is to use an iron in a lifting and lowering motion as you create a garment or item. In contrast, ironing is a sliding and pushing motion used to free a garment or other item of wrinkles. Ironing is generally not used during garment construction. The rule of thumb is "press as you go."

STEAMER

A steamer is a piece of equipment that heats water and uses several passes of steam to remove wrinkles from fabric. The professional steamer has been a mainstay of retailers, tailors, dressmakers, and the fashion industry. Portable and travel steamers are smaller than the professional versions and are handheld.

IRONS AND IRONING BOARDS: HOME AND PROFESSIONAL

An iron is a tool used to smooth wrinkles or straighten fabric or clothing. A steam iron is necessary to press fabric. An ironing board is a flat surface topped with cotton or wool padding attached to legs. The flat metal surface of the board usually has holes to vent steam and is topped with cotton or wool padding (rather than foam) for adequate moisture absorption. Many boards are fitted with an iron rest and a cord holder.

PANT PRESSER

A pant presser is a piece of equipment used to take the wrinkles out of pants and put a crease in them. The pant presser has two main pieces: a heating pad and a pressing plate with stretcher bars.

PRESSING TECHNIQUES: RULES OF THUMB

- #1: “Press as you go.”
- #2: Press on the inside of the garment or item (generally).
- #3: Press each seam open as soon as it is sewn (generally).
- #4: Always press with the grain of the fabric.
- #5: Always test-press a fabric scrap first to confirm the correct heat setting.

LS–A

Name _____

A "Pressing" Online Shopping Trip

Purpose

The purpose of this activity is to compare pressing tool and equipment prices and features.

Objectives

1. Research prices and features of common pressing tools and/or equipment.
2. Compare prices and features of the tools and equipment.
3. Recommend a "best" choice in three pressing tool and equipment categories.
4. Recommend two pressing tool and equipment Web sites.

Materials

- lab sheet
- paper
- writing utensil
- list of 10 pieces of pressing equipment
- computer or other electronic device

Procedure

1. Work independently to complete this lab sheet. Your goal is to research 10 pressing tools and/or equipment as shown in the table. [NOTE: Your instructor may add or modify the research table listings.] Take notes on your paper while you research.
2. Complete the table with your research data. Note the URLs of two of the pressing equipment and tool Web sites that you would recommend to others looking to purchase.

Category	Equipment / Tool Name	Features	Price
Equipment	Home iron Brand:		
	Professional iron Brand:		
	Home ironing board		
	Professional ironing board		
	Home steamer (hand or travel)		
	Professional steamer (floor)		
	Your choice:		
	Your choice:		
Tools	Needle board		
	Point presser		
	Pressing cloth		
	Pressing mitt		

Category	Equipment / Tool Name	Features	Price
	Seam roll		
	Tailor's ham		
	Your choice:		
	Your choice:		

3. Based on your online shopping, list two Web site URLs you would recommend to others.

   a.

   b.

4. Participate in a class debrief of the pressing tools and equipment online shopping lab. Based on your own research, make notes about the following:

   a. What would explain your recommendation of the two Web sites?

   b. Based on your research, which iron would you recommend to a family? Which one would you recommend to a small business owner? Which one would you recommend to a retailer or to a department store alterations department?

   c. Based on the prices researched, which pressing tools would you make yourself? What explains your choices?

5. Turn in your completed lab sheet to your instructor.

Name _____

Ironing Assessment

Purpose

The purpose of this activity is to demonstrate an ironing technique.

Objectives

1. Complete a data card with decisions and estimates about ironing.
2. Determine which heat and which moisture, if any, you would use to iron your pillowcase.
3. Iron your pillowcase.
4. Participate in an assessment of all ironed pillowcases.
5. Complete an assessment card of the displayed ironed pillowcases.
6. Debrief the ironing lab.

Materials

- lab sheet
- class notes
- wrinkled pillowcases (one per student)
- irons (dry and steam)
- ironing board
- spray bottle mister
- water
- two 3- × 5-inch index cards each

Procedure

1. Review your notes about ironing and about fabrics.

2. Pick up your wrinkled pillowcase and two 3- × 5-inch index cards. Set one card aside for the assessment portion of the lab. On the other card, record the following:

   a. Your name
   b. Select and list an ironing temperature (based on the pillowcase fabric).
   c. Write the fabric name and the reason you selected the ironing temperature.
   d. Select and list whether you are using a dry or a steam iron.
   e. Estimate the time it will take to iron the pillowcase.
   f. Actual time to iron the pillowcase: _____ (Fill in this information after you have ironed your pillowcase.)

3. Take turns using the irons and ironing boards available in the lab. Set up your own board, plug in your own iron, and set the temperature.

4. Record your start time. Iron the pillowcase. Record your stop time on the card.

5. Shut off the iron. Close the ironing board.

6. Attach your card to the pillowcase, and display it in the classroom as directed by your instructor.

7. When all pillowcases are displayed, use your second index card and a pen or pencil to jot notes during a walk-through assessment of the display. Note the following:

   a. Check temperatures and times on all pillowcases. What is notable?
   b. Look at all the data cards for pillowcases ironed with steam heat: What is notable about that group? Make notes on your card of your observations.
   c. Look at all the data cards for the pillowcases ironed with dry heat: What is notable about that group? Make notes on your card of your observations.
   d. Select the pillowcase that you feel has the best overall appearance. Write your reasons for the selection of that pillowcase.

8. Participate in a class debriefing of the following:

   a. What is the relationship, if any, between the heat setting (temperature) and fewer wrinkles? How would you describe this relationship?
   b. What is the relationship, if any, between moisture (steam or spray bottle mister) and fewer wrinkles? How would you describe this relationship?
   c. What is the relationship, if any, between the fabric type and the heat setting?
   d. What is the relationship, if any, between the fabric type and dry heat and/or steam heat?
   e. What is the relationship, if any, between the amount of time to iron and fewer wrinkles?
   f. What was the shortest amount of time to iron out wrinkles?
      (1) What was the fabric?
      (2) What was the temperature of the iron?
      (3) Was dry or steam heat used?

g. Based on the lab, how do these results impact how you would iron your own clothing or other items? What insight, if any, does the lab suggest for pressing techniques?
h. What, if anything, would you do differently if you repeated this activity?
i. Did you feel your pillowcase was effectively ironed and then changed your mind when compared to the others? If so, please elaborate.

9. Turn in both index cards to your instructor.

Ironing Assessment

One day ahead of the lab:

1. Have each student bring a pillowcase into the classroom and add a mark to identify the case. (Or substitute a selection of the school's tablecloths and/or napkins for the purposes of the laboratory activity.)
2. Wash and dry all of the pillowcases in the lab setting to ensure that all cases have the same detergent, softener, and dry cycle variables.

Lab day:

1. Students work on another assignment for the class or another lab activity while waiting their turn to iron.
2. Students may practice pressing techniques if time allows.