



Spinning was done by hand on a spindle weighed and balanced with a small **whorl**, which kept it rotating steadily. In this relief from ancient Susa in Iran, the whorl is hidden behind the hand of the woman who is spinning.

Place whorl box here

CLOTH PRODUCTION

Cloth production in ancient times was a complicated, time-consuming process. The raw material was wool from sheep and goats. Also, fibers obtained by soaking and pounding the stalks of the flax plant were used to make linen. All three kinds of fibers were spun into thread, which could be dyed and was then woven into cloth. Simple pieces of clothing were fashioned from the coarsely-woven material. Cloth does not survive in the damp soil of Israel/Palestine, but the objects displayed here are enduring evidence that women once wove and spun for their families.

Place loom weight
and needle box here



The **loom weights** that appear in excavations were attached to the lower ends of the warp threads of the vertical loom to keep them taut, as seen in this painting adapted from a Greek lekythos or oil flask. There were also horizontal looms that did not require weights. Bronze and bone **needles** were used to sew the cloth together to make pieces of clothing.