

Name _____ Date _____

Paragraph Parts

Silk was discovered more than 5,000 years ago by the Chinese. Silk is made from silkworm caterpillar cocoons. A silkworm is a caterpillar from China that eats leaves of mulberry trees. For about 3,000 years the Chinese kept the discovery of silk a secret. Silk takes a long time to make and costs a lot of money. Only very rich people could afford silk, but many people wanted to wear silk because it was light and cool in hot weather. Because silk cost so much money, poorer people found other kinds of cloth that looked like silk but didn't cost as much money. Women would beat cotton with sticks to make it soft and rub the soft cloth against large rocks to make it shiny. Shiny cotton was called "chintz" because it was a cheap copy of silk.

If you hear someone call something "chintzy," it means that it is not something of good quality.

1. Read the paragraphs.
2. Draw an arrow at the start of each paragraph.
3. Underline a sentence.
4. What is the main idea of this paragraph?
