

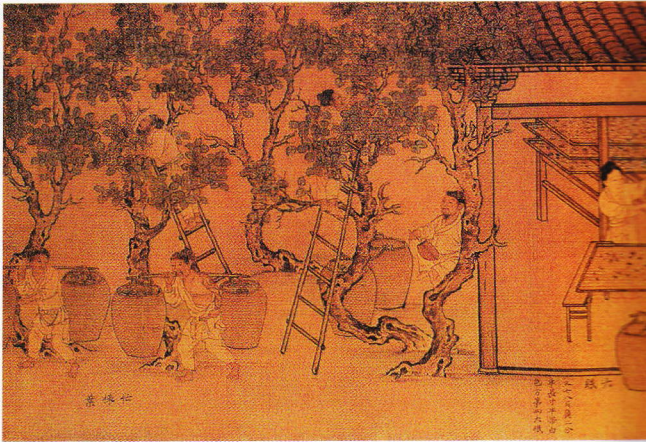
HOW TO SELECT

wild. Silk can also be made from a number of other insects, such as hymenoptera (bees, wasps and ants) and arachnids (spiders), although not in fabric form.

Silk from the bombyx mori differs from other types in color, shape and texture. Bombyx mori have a remarkably short and paltry existence: the moths are flightless

around the clock. They are in a strict environment in w temperature changes, noises or strong smells are permitted.

After approximately one m during which the larvae ha munch their way through astounding 10,000 times t own weight, they begin to



◆ Silkworm Rearing and Silk Weaving (I) Picking mulberry leaves to feed the silkworms.

and blind, and their only purpose in life is to reproduce. They typically lay around 500 tiny (all 500 together weigh no more than 5 grams) eggs over four to six days then promptly die, their life's work complete.

The larvae then hatch into worms which are cultivated in highly controlled conditions; they are fed a diet of 100 percent chopped mulberry leaves twice an hour

their cocoons. The fluffy w cocoon takes three or four to construct, after which i incubated for about one w The cocoons are then stea or pierced with a needle to the worm inside, protecting smooth, round shell from b ripped apart by a hatching m

Just as silk-founder Lei found all those tens of cent ago, dropping a cocoon