



# Tsuruoka Silk

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### GREETING

Hello everyone. Thank you for reading this brochure about Tsuruoka Silk. We are a group of third year students from the cross cultural understanding course who are studying English in Tsuruoka Chuo high school. We have researched about Tsuruoka silk so far because we want foreigners to know the positive points of Tsuruoka. So, we decided that our theme is “Tsuruoka silk”. We researched and summarized them in the brochure.

In September, 2016, we went to Matsugaoka reclamation field located in Haguro-town, Tsuruoka-city to learn about sericulture and silk. Indeed, in Japan, only Tsuruoka-city has silkworm-raising rooms and Yamagata-prefecture is famous for Tsuruoka Silk. Through this brochure, we want you to know about beautiful Tsuruoka Silk.

Please enjoy the Silk Girls' Collection!



## HISTORY OF TSURUOKA SILK

Shonai clan lost the war in 1869. So, the ex-samurais had to find a new way to live. In those days, the two largest exported products were raw silk and tea and this was immediately after the Meiji Restoration. So they started cultivating mulberry fields for silkworms to eat and built silkworm raising rooms. They started to raise silkworms and to grow tea.

Cultivation started in August 17th and then continued for about 100ha, lasting 58 days. As for growing tea, they failed to grow it. But later, in modern time, some people managed to begin again 6 years ago.

Now, Matsugaoka has the only silkworm raising rooms in Japan making Yamagata Prefecture famous for Tsuruoka silk.

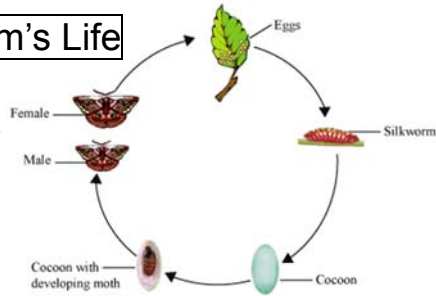
◆ About Matsugaoka reclamation field (in Haguro-town, Tsuruoka-city)

... The building itself has three floors. Floors 1 and 2 are for raising the silkworms and floor 3 is for ventilation



## Cycle of the Silkworm's Life

Eggs ⇒ Silkworm ⇒  
 Mature Silkworm ⇒  
 Cocoon ⇒  
 Matured Butterfly



## Breeding of Silkworms

- (1) Prepare the rooms
- (2) Gather the silkworms
- (3) Give the mulberry leaves to the silkworms
- (4) Breed the silkworms
- (5) Send to a silk mill



## How to Make "Raw Silk Thread"

- (1) Remove the bad cocoons
- (2) Extract the pupa from the cocoons by steaming them
- (3) Dry the cocoons
- (4) Boil the cocoons, then find a thread
- (5) Collect together the threads and wrap them around the frame
- (6) Prevent the thread from Catching then use a bigger frame
- (7) Remove "Raw Silk Thread" from the frame



GREETING FROM A STUDENT  
OF HOME ECONOMICS COURSE  
IN TSURUOKA CHUO HIGH SCHOOL  
“WHAT I WANT TO TELL YOU THROUGH THIS  
FASHION SHOW”

Hello. Thank you for visiting the Silk Girls collection!  
We are the Silk Girls of Tsuruoka Chuo high school and  
are glad to be able to show you our beautiful dresses.

Our theme of this year's collection is “INFINITY”.  
All the dresses in the collection are made of Tsuruoka  
Silk-material. Tsuruoka Silk, which is used as dress  
materials, is produced in Tsuruoka-city. Indeed, in  
Japan, Tsuruoka-city is the only area that has all the  
resources available to produce silk-materials.  
Tsuruoka-city is proud of this silk because it is a famous  
product all across Japan and is regarded as precious  
material.

We want you guys to know how beautiful Tsuruoka  
silk is, through the dresses made of Tsuruoka Silk. Also,  
this year, we tried to make a lot of types of dresses.

The theme of this year's collection is “INFINITY”.  
Today we will show you that INFINITY is the word to  
show high school students' possibility.

We hope you will enjoy the collection!



“SILK GIRLS’ ACTIVITIES”

◆ What is Silk Girls’ Project?

The “Silk Girls’ Project” was first  
founded 7 years ago. Students who  
learn about the silk production of  
clothes in Tsuruoka Chuo high school are called “Silk  
Girls”. The Silk Girls will explain the silk culture that  
has supported Tsuruoka’s industry for many years.

◆ Why was Silk Girls Project founded?

Tsuruoka-city, where all processes and techniques in  
creation of silk products have been inherited, is the  
northernmost point of silk production in Japan. Because  
of this, the Silk Girls study history of Tsuruoka Silk and  
of industry. Also, they will explain the positive points of  
Tsuruoka Silk through dress making, as well as many  
other uses.

◆ What kind of activities did they do?

The Silk Girls participated in the “Silk Tour”, where  
they learned all about silk. Also, they participated in  
“Ginza Yukata festival”, where they wore Yukata they  
made themselves. Fashion shows have been held at  
various locations, the “Daisangyo Festival”, the Marika  
and the welfare facility, four years ago. These fashion  
shows have also been called the “Silk Girls’ Collection”.





# INTERVIEW

—We interviewed students who made dresses using Tsuruoka-Silk.

## Dress Made of Tsuruoka Silk material



Q, Which points on your dress are you particular about?

—It's design. I designed a simple dress to show the sheen of Tsuruoka Silk-material.

Q, Which parts on your dress did you use silk-material?

—It's 100% silk.

Q, How long did it take to make your dress?

— About one month.



Q, Which points on your dress are you particular about?

— I focused especially on making the shape of the skirt beautiful.

Q, Which parts on your dress did you use silk-material?

—I used it on the skirt.

Q, How long did it take to make your dress?

—Two months.

## Color Dress



Q, Which points on your dress are you particular about?

—I was most particular about the handmade butterflies on the chest.

Q, How long did it take to make your dress?

—About one month.



I was so surprised to hear the clothing course members have been making the dress during the classes and till very late after school!

## —Ending

Thank you for reading. Did you enjoy this brochure that we made and today's Silk Girls' Collection? We believe that you were able to have a great time today.

So far, we have told you about Tsuruoka Silk. Do you now know how great the silk produced in Tsuruoka is? Tsuruoka Silk is one of the famous products Yamagata Prefecture is proud of. Actually, Tsuruoka Silk is used in materials for products such as stalls, bags and so on because of its quality. There is a company that makes products using Tsuruoka Silk and the company's name is "kibiso". If you are interested in it, please go to kibiso's website and get some information about how and where to buy them.

As we wrote on page2 (greeting-article), we want more and more people to know the positive points of Tsuruoka-city. We could learn about Tsuruoka Silk in detail through actions of our study because we went to Matsugaoka reclamation field located in Haguro-town, Tsuruoka-city to write this brochure. There we saw silkworms, old buildings and listened to the story and history about why silk industry was started in Tsuruoka. We found it important to go to places with your own feet. Though everyone doesn't know about Tsuruoka in detail,

in fact, there are a lot of places for sightseeing and delicious foods grown in Tsuruoka. So we do want you to go and experience them yourself. Please see how wonderful Tsuruoka-city is by yourself.



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Students taking the course of cross cultural  
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