Two Experiments

Bleach Experiment
1. Collect some fabric scraps that you know are washable. Include both white and colored. Some of the scraps should be man-made fibers, others cotton.
2. Cut two 2-inch squares from each scrap. Label each swatch by fiber type – cotton or man-made.
3. Fill a quart jar with 3 cups of warm water. Add 2 teaspoons of liquid chlorine bleach.
4. Put one sample of each fabric in the jar. Let the samples soak for 30 minutes. Then remove, rinse in clear water, and allow drying.
5. Compare the bleached and unbleached swatches. Did any of the bleached samples change color? How? Were there any other differences?

Seam finish experiment
2. Stitch the swatches into five pairs. Use a different seam finish for each pair.
3. Wash and dry your samples in the washing machine and dryer at the same time you are washing towels or sheets. Repeat four or five times, or more.
4. After each washing, examine the samples for signs of wear. Which seam finish appears to wear best? Which shows the most wear?

Repeat the experiment, using other types of fabric.