



Waterbeach Community Primary School

Curriculum Capture for Year 5 Art: The Victorians (Art and Crafts Movement)

Key Knowledge

Reaction to the Industrial Revolution

Following the Industrial Revolution, Victorian Britain was a land of machines and mass production (making things in bulk instead of one-by-one). This had made Britain very wealthy but some people did not like how design and fashion had become plain, and how lots of things looked the same. The Art and Crafts movement was about hand-crafted items that were made by people and not machines. They thought quality (how well a thing is made) was much more important than quantity (how many of the things can be made).

William Morris

One of the founders (starters) of the Art and Crafts movement was William Morris (architect, furniture & fabric designer, writer and artist). Wallpaper was a big trend in the Arts and Crafts movement and Morris was very famous for his designs. The wallpaper was made using vegetable dyes and wooden blocks. Morris loved the middle ages and nature, and his designs reflected these themes. Morris was also a socialist, which meant he thought the workers in the factories should have more power than the people that owned them.

Inspired by Nature

William Morris grew up in rural (countryside) Essex with large gardens and nearby woods to explore. He loved gardening and was given his own garden plot by his parents. This love of nature and plants stayed with him as he got older. Lots of his work and designs included imagery from nature: leaves, plants, birds, berries, seeds and flowers. His wallpaper designs did not try to copy these things exactly because Morris didn't think it was a good idea to try to "imitate nature". Instead, he believed his designs should have "beauty, imagination and order". His wallpaper designs were colourful, complicated and were designed to repeat again and again across a wall.

Vocabulary

Industrial Revolution	Between 1760-1840, there was an increase in factories (powered by engines) which allowed lots of the same thing to be made at once (much more quickly than if being made by hand). Cities grew and lots of people moved to work at these factories.
Motif	A single image, shape or symbol in a design.
Pattern	A motif (or more than one motif) that repeats again and again.
Repeats	A motif is simply repeated over and over, either vertically or horizontally. 
Reflection	A motif is reflected on a line (line of symmetry). 
Rotation	A motif is rotated around a single point. 



"Strawberry Thief", 1883, wallpaper design.

"Willow Bough", wallpaper design.



Wallpaper printing blocks.

Portrait of William Morris



Key Skills

Creating patterns for a purpose	Pupils will build on their work exploring environmental and manmade patterns in Y6 to create their own pattern inspired by nature, just as William Morris did with his wallpapers.
Design prints	Pupils will design a print using a motif that repeats, including reflection and rotation. (Examples above).
Creating a print block	Pupils will create a simple print block from a polystyrene tile and carving instruments. This block can then be covered in paint and repeatedly pressed on paper to make their wallpaper design.