

Steps through Learning

Art: William Morris

Vocabulary that I will learn and use during this unit of work

Relief Printing

Positive Space

Negative Space

Pattern

Wallpaper

Tapestry

Printing

Sticky knowledge about

- William Morris was an influential 19th century designer
- He used repeated patterns in his artwork, called block printing
- His technique made it idea for repeating floral patterns to make patterned wallpaper



-William Morris was a British textile designer. He was also an architect writer, a poet, a translator and a social activist!

-He had a great impact on the design of churches, houses and furniture in the late 19th and early 20th Century.

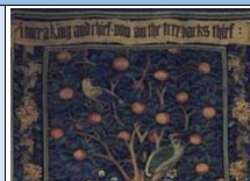
-He is most famous for designs such as *Strawberry Thief*, *Woodpecker Tapestry* and his beautiful handprinted versions of the works of Geoffrey Chaucer.

-Morris closely observed nature to influence his patterns.

-He founded the Kelmscott Press in 1891.

Significant Works

Woodpecker Tapestry (1885)



-The *Woodpecker Tapestry* shows a woodpecker in a fruit tree. It is unusual in that it was one of the very few tapestries designed only by Morris (many were a team effort at Morris & Co).
-It was inspired by a Roman tale. A sorceress turns King Picus into a woodpecker when he refuses to become her lover. The text at the top and bottom of the tapestry outlines this transformation.

Strawberry Thief (1883)



- The *Strawberry Thief* textile design is perhaps William Morris' most famous of all.
- Morris was influenced by the thrushes that he saw stealing the fruit in the garden of his countryside home at Kelmscott Manor.
-To print the repeating pattern, Morris used the painstakingly slow indigo-discharge method, which he admired above all other techniques. The tapestry became hugely successful.

The Works of Geoffrey Chaucer (1896)



-Morris founded the Kelmscott Press towards the end of his life. He wanted to revive the skills of hand printing, which the mechanics of the Industrial Revolution had destroyed. *The Works of Geoffrey Chaucer* was his greatest triumph in this field. It contains 87 wood-cut illustrations. He used many 15th Century printing techniques.

William Morris Timeline

21 st March 1834 Born at Elm House, Walthamstow, Essex, to wealthy parents.	1847 Morris' father dies. Morris is aged only 13.	1853 Begins studying theology at Exeter College, in Oxford.	1855 Takes a tour of France with friend Edward Burne-Jones.	1856 Gives up his architecture apprenticeship to focus on painting.	1859 Married Jane Burden.	1871-73 Goes on trips to Iceland and Italy.	1875 Sets up Morris and Co. textile company.	1880 Works on the Throne Room at St. James's Palace.	1884 Morris founds the Socialist League.	1891 Morris founds the Kelmscott Press.	3 rd October 1896 William Morris dies at Kelmscott House.
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