



Prior Knowledge

Use sketchbooks to record media explorations and to design patterns for prints.

Create printing blocks using a relief or impressed method.

Combine different prints to create one large piece.

Print with two colour overlays.

Extend knowledge and skills in printing to use on fabric.

Discuss, modify and improve own and others' work.

Print using a variety of materials, objects and techniques

Replicate patterns observed in natural or built environments.

Create printing blocks using a calligraph (string, foam etc) or impressed method

Talk about the process used to make a simple print.

National Curriculum

Create sketch books to record observations and use them to review and revisit ideas.

Improve mastery of art and design techniques, including drawing, painting and sculpture with a range of materials [e.g., pencil, charcoal, paint, clay]

Know about great artists, architects and designers in history.

Essential Knowledge

Artist – William Morris.

William Morris was a nineteenth-century British designer known for his detailed patterns inspired by nature. His work often featured repeating images of leaves, flowers, and birds, arranged in flowing and balanced designs. Morris believed that beautiful design should be part of everyday life, and his patterns were used on wallpapers, fabrics, and in books. His style continues to influence artists and designers today.

In this unit, children study Morris's work to understand how natural shapes can be used to create detailed repeating motifs. They practise sketching elements such as vines, leaves, and petals, and explore how these can be arranged to create a balanced, decorative pattern.

Children use foam printing blocks to create their own layered print. They begin by drawing their full design into a foam tile using a pencil, then print the first layer. After each print, they cut away more of the tile to remove details, creating a second and third layer. This reduction technique allows them to build a print that has three layers of colour, with each new layer revealing more of the pattern.

Children should know how to use rollers to apply ink evenly across the foam, listening for a “tacky” sound to check the right amount of ink is used. They experiment with colour combinations, thinking carefully about contrast, harmony, and the order of each printed layer.

Through this process, children develop their understanding of relief printing, layering, and how repeated patterns are built. They evaluate their prints and reflect on their use of design and colour, drawing inspiration from the work of William Morris.

Key Vocabulary

Designer	A person who plans the look or workings of something prior to it being made, by preparing drawings or plans.
Contrast	Differences in colour, tone, or shape that contribute to the visual effect of a design or image.
Relief	A method of shaping in which the design stands out from the surface.
Implement	A tool or utensil.
Impressed	Applied to something using pressure.
Replicate	Make an exact copy of; reproduce.

Skills

Use sketchbooks to record media explorations and to design patterns for prints.

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Discuss, modify and improve own and others' work.

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Talk about the process used to make a simple print.

Equipment

Sketchbooks; printing ink; roller; foam tile; pencils.



Artist & Curriculum Link

William Morris (1834 – 1896)



William Morris – Was a British artist and designer best known for his detailed and decorative prints, particularly in wallpaper and fabric design. He used a technique called block printing, where carved wooden blocks were used to repeatedly stamp patterns onto materials. His designs were inspired by nature, featuring swirling leaves, flowers, and vines arranged in intricate, flowing patterns. Morris believed that art should be both beautiful and useful, so he created designs that could decorate everyday objects like furniture and textiles. Children can learn from him by exploring how repeating patterns and careful symmetry can make artwork look rich and detailed, just like his famous prints.

Link to History - Victorians

William Morris was a Victorian artist and designer known for his detailed, nature-inspired prints used in wallpaper and fabric. His work links to Victorian history through the Arts and Crafts Movement, which reacted against the mass production of the Industrial Revolution. Morris believed in hand-crafted, high-quality design and wanted everyday objects to be both beautiful and useful, reflecting a Victorian interest in craftsmanship and natural beauty.