

Year 5: Art  
Spring Term

# William Morris- Printing

## William Morris

William Morris (1834-1896) was one of the most influential designers of the 19th century. His work included wallpaper design and print, furniture, stained glass windows, tiles and tapestries.

By the middle of the 1860s, Morris worked mainly on his wallpaper designs. Interestingly, Morris was unable to draw birds and his friend Philip Webb drew them for the trellis design. In 1875, Morris started a new company called Morris & Co, meaning that he took full artistic control (he could choose what he wanted to design and make). This period was considered Morris' most important and creative as a pattern designer.



## Key Knowledge

There are different printing techniques e.g. relief, block, mono.

**Block printing:** using a carved or shaped block to create repeated patterns or images.

**Lino printing:** using a lino sheet to carve out a design and print it with ink.

**Mono printing:** using a smooth surface to create a one-off print by drawing, painting or pressing objects onto it.

**Screen printing:** using a mesh screen and a stencil to transfer ink onto a surface.

Do more: Explore some different types of wallpaper- including modern day ones! Can you use another type of printing to recreate them? Maybe you could design a new wallpaper for your bedroom!

Research more: Sculptures made from a material that isn't wire.



## William Morris Timeline

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