WILLIAM MORRIS
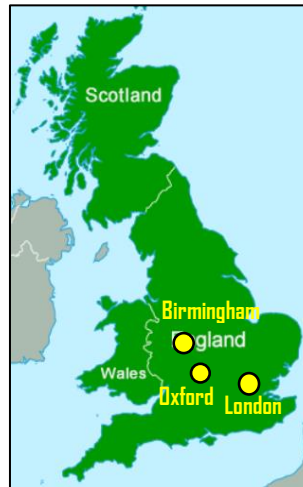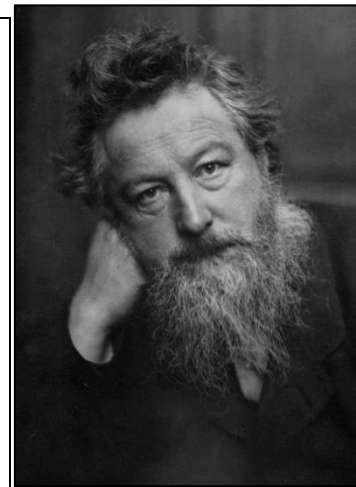
St Margaret's Academy

Biography

-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.

-Morris lived between 1834 and 1896. He spent most of his life in London but also lived in other area, e.g. Oxford and Birmingaham.

Scotland
Birmingham
England
Wales
Oxford   London

Big Questions

What influenced Morris' designs?

What impact did William Morris have on life in Victorian Britain?

How does Morris compare to artist Orla Kiely?

What will I know by the end of the topic?

Who William Morris was and what impact he had on life in Victorian Britain?

The names of three different types of pattern.

The themes that influenced Williams Morris' designs

The purpose of a stencil and how to use one

The purpose of a motif and how it is used in design

How Morris is similar to and different from the artist **Orla Kiel**

What art skills will I apply?

Make prints and patterns using everyday natural and man-made objects, based on cultural influences in the style of William Morris
Talk about repeated block pattern, mirrored /symmetrical and half drop patterns.
Use a range of materials to create a more complex printing block using more than one colour
Talk about and evaluate a wide range of complex patterns
Create complex surface textures by mixing and combining techniques.
Make and use a multi-layered stencil.

Key Vocabulary

Symmetrical

Asymmetrical

Geometric

Motif

Reflection

Roller

Decorative

Printing

Textiles

Embroidery

Woodpecker Tapestry

Strawberry Thief

Works of Geoffrey Chaucer

Wood-block

Hand-print

Stencil

Embroidery	-Embroidery involves decorating fabric or other materials using a needle to add thread or yarn. -Embroidery was the first technique that Morris adapted for products that he sold. -His embroideries were often commissioned to decorate the inside of new churches.
Tapestries	-Tapestries are a form of textile art, which are traditionally hand woven on a loom. -In Morris' time, tapestries were highly-prized wall coverings, used as decorations in homes and churches. -They were practical as well as luxurious: they provided insulation, and wealthy owners moving from one residence to another could take their tapestries with them.
Hand-printing	-In the later part of Morris' life, he became more and more enthusiastic about the beauty in calligraphy and page decoration. He set up the Kelmscott Press in 1891. -He designed his own fonts, made his own paper and printed by hand. The illustrations were wood-cut – carved into wood before being printed on the page.

How do I create art like Morris?

Step 1: Create your design! Using your pencil, draw your picture onto the thin paper.

Step 2: Trace it! Hold your drawing in place over the polystyrene & trace it. Press down firmly.

Step 3: Spread your ink/paint, into the paint box. Then use your roller to spread it over your polystyrene.

Step 4: Position your Styrofoam in one corner of your card. Press your polystyrene on top of the card to print your design. Make sure that you press firmly, so that it prints properly.

Step 5: Repeat this process over your page to create your pattern. If you need to, use a paintbrush to brighten up any faded prints.

Things you'll need: Thin paper, card, pencil, polystyrene, printing ink/ paint, paint box, paint roller.

A child's polystyrene-printed pattern.

William Morris Timeline

21st March 1834	**1847**	**1853**	**1855**	**1856**	**1859**	**1971-73**	**1975**	**1880**	**1884**	**1891**	**3rd October 1896**
Born at Elm House, Walthamstow, Essex, to wealthy parents.	Morris' father dies. Morris is aged only 13.	Begins studying theology at Exeter College, in Oxford.	Takes a tour of France with friend Edward Burne-Jones.	Gives up his architecture apprenticeship to focus on painting.	Married Jane Burden.	Goes on trips to Iceland and Italy.	Sets up Morris and Co. textile company.	Works on the Throne Room at St. James's Palace.	Morris founds the Socialist League.	Morris founds the Kelmscott Press.	William Morris dies at Kelmscott House.