



Year 6 William Morris

This unit is a continuation of the previous unit, looking in detail at the work of the Victorian designer *William Morris*. The children start by looking at *Morris'* wallpaper designs, learning that these were stylized forms based on nature, bearing the influence of Islamic design, with which the children will be familiar from their work on this subject in year 5. They learn how the wallpaper was produced by block printing and create their own *Morris* inspired designs printed using the reduction method (essentially the opposite of block printing) on polystyrene tiles. This is an extension of the relief printing skills they learnt in year 2 and 3.

The children go on to explore how *Morris* was not only a designer but a businessman and a writer. They look at the houses which he built and where he lived, noting the gothic influences demonstrated in his architectural design (and referring to their previous study on gothic design in the unit on *Victorian Art and Architecture*). They learn that he was a key figure in the arts and crafts movement, and how this movement rejected industrialization of the Victorian age, looking to models of traditional production and craftsmanship of the medieval age.