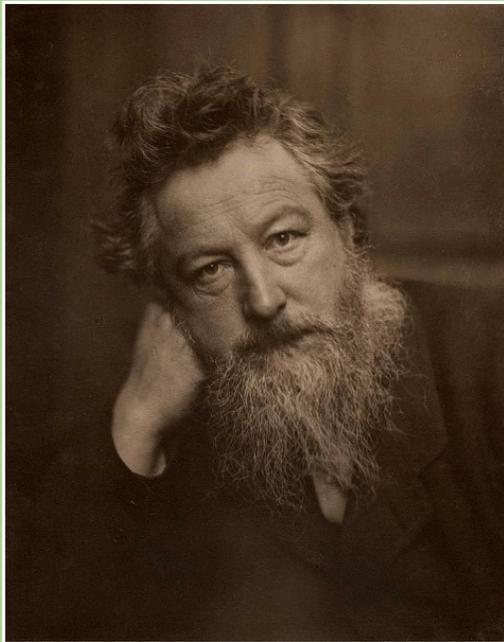


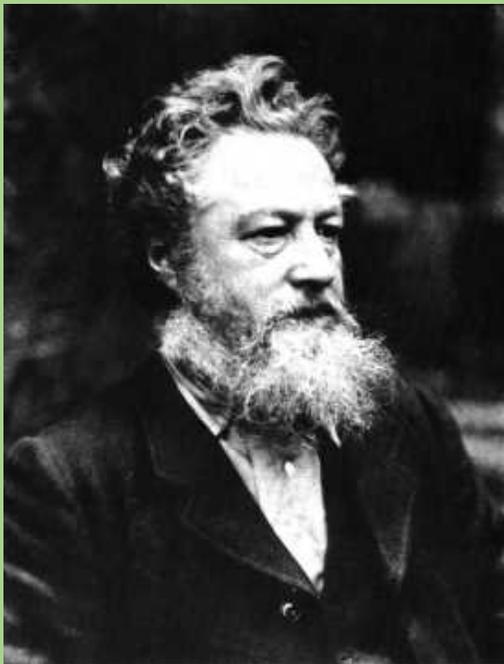
William Morris - Designer



'Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful, or believe to be beautiful.'

- William Morris

Who was William Morris?



William Morris was born on 24th March, 1834.

He was the son of a wealthy business man.

He originally was going to become a priest but decided to devote his life to art instead.

He became a poet, artist and manufacturer.

He had lots of friends who were writers, poets and artists.

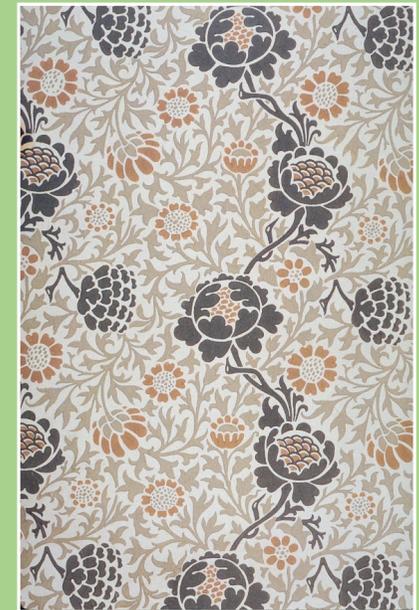
His career in designing started when he decorated his own house in London.



Can you find out anymore information about him?

Who was William Morris?

He made stained glass windows, tapestries and patterned wallpaper.



We are going to focus on his wallpaper designs.

William Morris is very famous for his wallpaper designs. He created some beautiful designs, the likes of which had never been used before. In fact, wallpaper before his day was quite plain.



William Morris, who was also an environmental campaigner, created designs of floral patterns (patterns inspired by flowers and plants) which were repeated many times by block printing.

The Victorian era was the era of industrialisation; factories were being built in the cities in Britain, especially London. People flocked to the cities to work in these factories or run them, and the cities grew bigger and bigger. As a result, people led more urban lifestyles and grew to miss the countryside. Wealthier people did have gardens, but still, it was desirable to feel closer to nature.



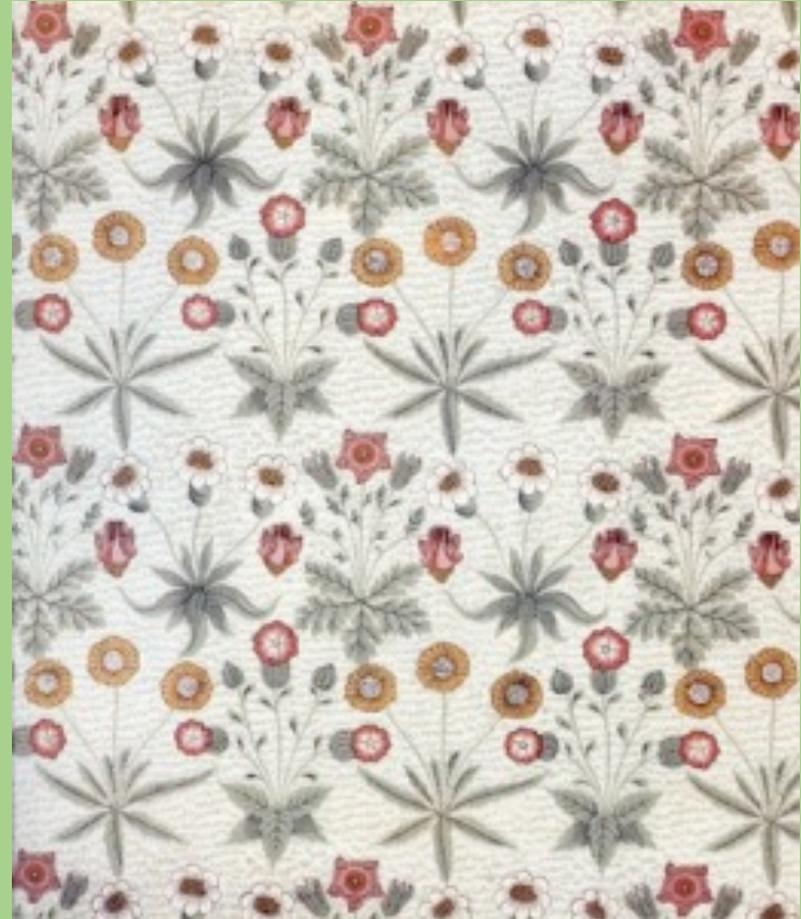
Let's look at some examples.....

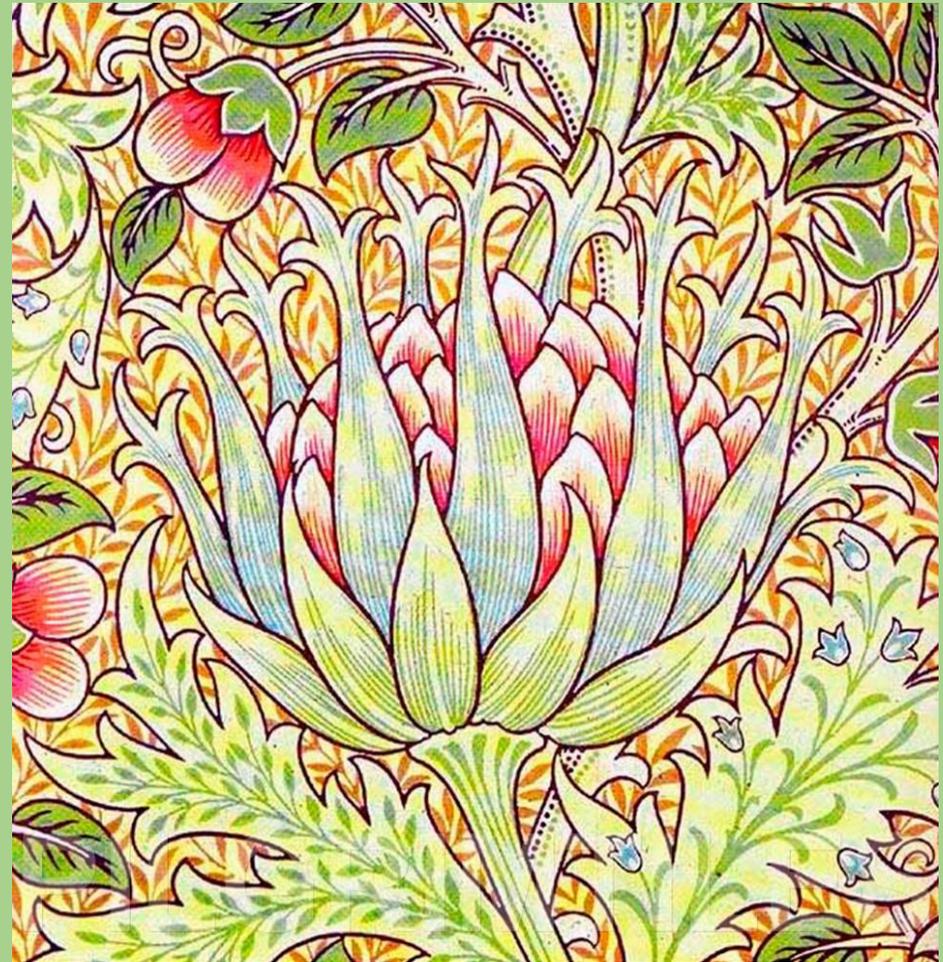
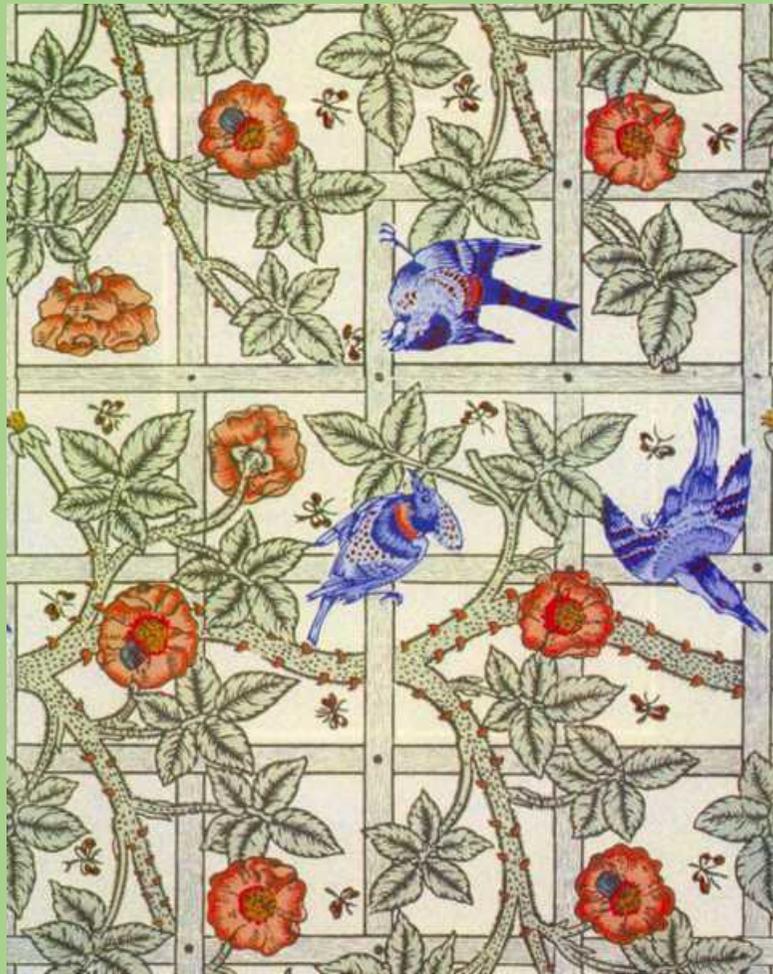
















You can see that although William Morris always created patterns with plants and sometimes animals, he used a variety of styles. He uses different ranges of colours, some patterns are more complicated and have more plants inter-twined in the background, some are simpler.

Some plants are drawn boldly and flat, some plants have shading and look more solid.

Can you make your own floral design for wallpaper as he did?

- Look at the images of William Morris designs. What can you see? Is it lifelike or transformed somehow to make it a pattern? What do you think about the details? What do you think about the patterns?
- Copy a section of a William Morris design and colour it with coloured pencils.
- Create your own floral design. Look at a flower or plant and see how you can transform it into a pattern. Colour your design with coloured pencils, felt tips or paint.