Investigating Block Printing:

Techniques & materials worksheet

Key Stage 3 and 4

Galleries 2, 3 and 4

1) Go to Gallery 4. Look at the carved wooden blocks which Morris & Co used to print their designs.

What sort of wood are the blocks usually made out of? ………………………………………………………………….

Which parts of the blocks print?   …………………………. Which don't?..

2) Look at the film to see block printing by hand undertaken today.

What difficulties do you think the block printer faces in getting the design to print correctly?
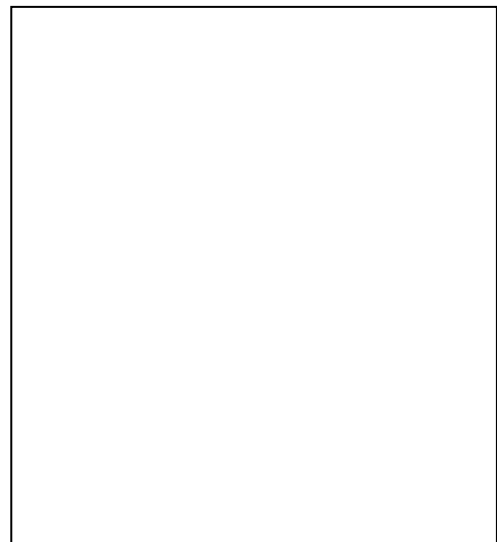
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3) Find the section on *Indigo* – Here you will see an original Morris

design for *Medway* fabric, partly in pencil, partly coloured.

Beneath this is a smaller drawing made to instruct the woodblock

 carver. Draw a detail of the tulip flower in the box here.

How and why is this drawing different from the first

design drawing ? …………………………………………………………………

………………………………………………………………………………………………

4) Trellis

This is Morris' earliest design for block-printed wallpaper made in 1862. In the middle of the room is a modern reconstruction of the printing process. Each colour or shade would require a new block

Can you work out how many different blocks would have been needed to create the final stage? ……………………..

In gallery 2, find Morris's original design. This shows one complete block or repeat unit within the design.

Where can you see evidence of him changing his mind about the arrangement of the design? …………………………..

What different colour ways did he try out for the background? …………………………………………………………………

Why do you think he made the final choice he did? …………………………………………………………………………………

5) Finding block-printed patterns

Look round the lower floor of the gallery for four examples of block-printed pattern which you like and draw a detail from each on this sheet.

These could be printed on paper or fabric. However beware, don't choose patterns created by **woven fabric!** Note down the title of the design and see if you can identify the repeat unit in each pattern.

Name of design: Paper/fabric? Why I liked it:	Name of design: Paper/fabric? Why I liked it:
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