

ARTS & CRAFTS WORKSHEET

STUDENT

CLASS

ITEM

TYPE OF CRAFT

DISCRIPTION



YOU CAN ADD YOUR PHOTO HERE

CHARACTERISTICS



Development

The Art's & Craft Movement was an aesthetic movement that developed in reaction to the low grade mass production of the 19th century Industrial Revolution. An Aesthetic Movement is defined as one which combines both intellectual and social-political themes in the areas of art, literature, architecture and music. Art's and Crafts began in Britain during the mid 1850s but was to later spread to Europe leading to the development of Art Nouveau. From the 1880s Craftsman Movement developed in America as an off shoot of the original. The decorative arts (crafts) had long been viewed as inferior to the production of Fine Art. Then in 1861 a small group, led by William Morris founded a firm of interior decorators and manufacturers named Morris, Marshall, Falkner & Co., later to be known after 1875 as Morris & Co. Morris was joined early on by Phillip Webb (an architect) and Ford Maddock Brown (an artist and later founding member be of The Pre Raphaelite Brotherhood) and Edward Burne-Jones (artist and writer) among others who produced designs for the craftsmen of wallpapers, furniture, textile's, metalwork and even jewellery. The group believed that the artist was integral to the design and the crafting of the work and that there was no real difference between the production of either fine art or decorative art and this was to become one of the founding principles of the Movement.

Characteristics

One of the main characteristics of the Movement was a holistic approach to design encompassing all disciplines; textile's, wallpapers, jewellery, furniture etc. All items were well crafted with attention to detail and suitable for purpose. The use of natural materials and dyes was encouraged with items handcrafted or produced on a small scale. Close contact between the designer and craftsman was key. The influence of nature and organic forms was integral to the work. There was also some medieval influence following on the Victorian Gothic Revival. The Medieval era was viewed as a somewhat simpler time and as such bought into the fundamental principles of the group. The Red House designed by Phillip Webb in the mid 19th century as a home for Morris and his wife was the embodiment of all these characteristics. The house was decorated and filled with wallpapers, furniture and even light fitting designed by the group. It was a masterpiece in Art's & Crafts.



Red House
courtesy of The National Trust

Kilkenny Castle



Although Kilkenny Castle would not be classed as a typical Arts & Crafts house there is a strong influence here in certain elements of the design and within the collection. We have used William Morris wallpaper in one of the bedrooms for instance. Our library carpets are particularly worth noting as well as the painted ceiling and carved fireplace in the gallery. You will also find some more subtle influence in other areas such as our stained glass and other textile's.

We invite you to use your worksheet to choose items which you think illustrate the principles and characteristics of Arts & Crafts. Within the building and the collection. Our staff are here to guide you and provide information if required. Use your mobile phone camera to record the items so you can add them later if you wish



Useful Links

Below are some articles and video links you might find useful

Education and Learning at V & A

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/articles/introducing-william-morris>

Life of William Morris

<https://youtu.be/pdHCEOzir1Q> your text

Open University online Art's & Crafts

<https://youtu.be/CBq73yxha0o>



*Art's & Crafts
Movement*

Kilkenny Castle