Squam Lakes Association

Nature Inspired Art

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Supplies needed:

- **Tracing paper** (printer paper can do in a pinch, but you may have to place a flat light beneath it, e.g. a glowing ipad screen, to see through it properly)
- **Pencils, markers, or colored pencils**
- Cardstock (optional)
- Scissors (optional)
- Ruler (optional)
- **Photos of motifs for people to reference or trace**
  - E.g., printouts or books with leaves, mushrooms, etc.
**What is Art Nouveau?**

*Art Nouveau* is a nature-inspired art style that became popular around the turn of the 20th century, influencing the manufacture of just about everything: textiles, architecture, and painting. It was termed “noodle art” in Belgium because of its characteristic long, flowing curves.

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Today, we’ll consider how it influenced two-dimensional art and wallpapers
Specifically, we’re going to focus on repeating-motif art nouveau. On the right is simple tiling piece by William Morris, a famous artist of this style. See how he combines two simple motifs into an alternating pattern?

We’ll be doing something similar!
All sorts of combinations work; pick a favorite, or mix and match!
William Morris

A few examples
Maurice Verneuil

A few more examples
Watch the accompanying video to find out how to make your own!
Can’t load the video? No problem! 
Just follow the steps below.

**Step 1:** Flip through your picture books and pick out the natural elements that you want to incorporate in your design. Using a pencil (if you want to avoid ink bleed-through), trace each one (just once) onto your sheet of paper.

**Step 2:** Now set your book aside and, working on top of cardboard or newspaper to catch excess bleed-through, give those tracings a bold ink outline in pen or marker. Now you have motifs that you can flip and move around at will!

**Step 3:** Take out a second sheet of tracing paper, or printer paper—this will be where your big design goes. Trace your motifs onto this sheet in whatever arrangement you want (use a pen if you like—bleed-through doesn’t matter now). Feel free to trace motifs in duplicate and play with symmetry!

**Step 4:** Add color! Use markers, pastels, or whatever you like.
CREDITS

- Presentation template by Slidesgo
- Icons by Flaticon
- Images created by Freepik