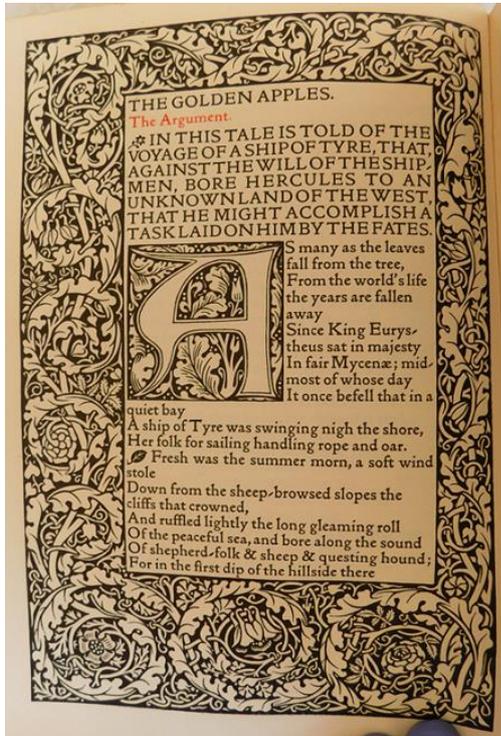


# Let's Learn to Illustrate a Page Border!



William Morris created the most beautiful books. Our current exhibition “The Ideal Book” celebrates William Morris and the Kelmscott Press.

This is a page from: Child Christopher and Goldlind the Fair Vol. 1

Look at the wonderful border. What can you see?

Do plants grow outside like this? What has William Morris changed?

Are the lines straight or wavy or curvy? Why do you think they are not straight?

William Morris was a very clever man. Although he was inspired by nature, he realised that most plants grow in clumps so it is difficult to see individual stems and leaves. He also knew from his many years of

experience in making wallpapers and fabrics that curved and climbing stems make excellent patterns.

Some of his borders are of a vine with grapes and vine leaves, some are of roses with leaves and thorns. The roses are not all the same and face in different directions. The borders all have curving stems. A beautiful border can make a letter to a favourite person or a hand-made book very special.

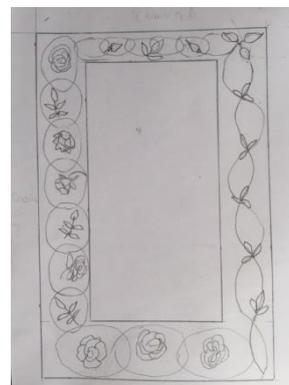
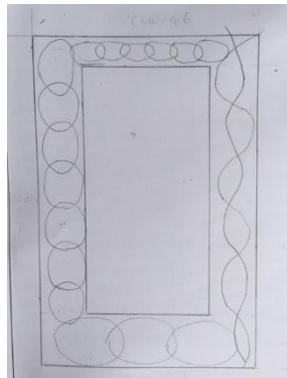
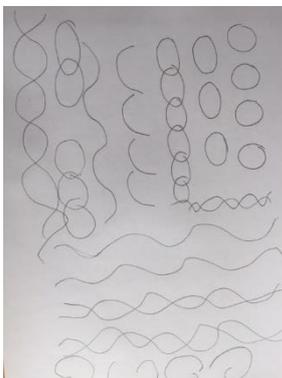
Let's design our very own border inspired by William Morris !

We need:

1. A rough sheet of paper
2. A sheet of paper with a frame drawn or printed from the last page of this worksheet
3. Real roses or photographs of roses
4. Pencil
5. Rubber
6. Ruler (if you want to draw a frame)
7. Coloured pencils or felt tips

## Let's start:

1. On a rough sheet of paper, use a pencil to practise drawing circles, ovals, chains, loops and wavy lines.
2. Print out (or draw) a frame for the border (last page).
3. Get ready to draw within the frame. Use a pencil because you will need to rub out your initial drawing and do not press too hard.
4. Draw a chain of three large ovals at the bottom of the border; a chain of seven circles on the left; a small chain of six ovals at the top and two overlapping wavy lines on the right.
5. Draw a rose or leaf inside each circle and oval on the bottom and left hand side. It is best if they are not all the same. Use the photographs of roses to help you on the next page.



6. Draw a leaf at each junction of the two sides of the wavy stem on the right.
7. Draw small leaves and rosebuds on the top border.
8. When you are happy with your drawings in pencil, join up the stems with green pencil or felt tip. Draw a curly little stem to each flower and leaf. Colour in the leaves and flowers. Rub out any pencil marks you do not want any more.
9. Add a few extra leaves and some thorns to the stem. Draw the leaves in ordinary pencil first and join them to the main stems with a little stem as before.

Your border of roses is finished! You could use it for a fairy tale! Can you make a different border of a climbing plant?

