How was Blenheim designed?

1. Blenheim Palace was designed by **Baroque** architect Sir John Vanbrugh.

Here are buildings designed by **Sir John Vanbrugh.**



Seaton Delaval Hall



Castle Howard



Kings Weston House

Here are buildings designed by other **Baroque architects**.



St Peter's Basilica



St Paul's Cathedral



Christ Church Spitalfields

Buildings can de designed by one or many architects.
Find out the main architects for each of these buildings.

Describe what these buildings have in common with Blenheim Palace.

Shape

Colour

Pattern

Material

2. Baroque buildings were designed to be **symmetrical** to achieve balance and to promote a continuous flow of features.

Design a Baroque building. (Front View)

How was Blenheim built?

1. Blenheim Palace was built purely with human force.
   There was no mechanical / electrical / electronic help.

Can you associate the profession with the right job description?

Profession	Job description
	A person works with stone.
	A person works with wood.
	A person who works with metal.
	A person works with glass.

Carpenter **Glazier** **Mason** **Smith**

2. Blenheim Palace was built with natural resources.
   Look inside and outside the Palace.

What materials can you see?

Material	Object
Stone	
Metal	
Wood	
Glass	

3. Can you see other materials?

Material	Object

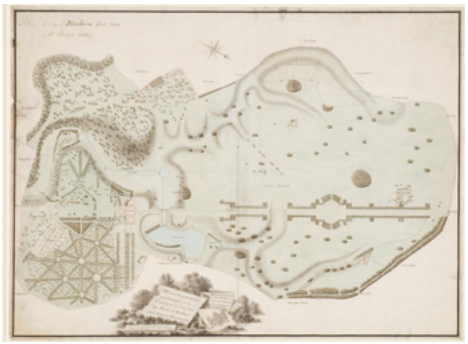
Famous artists

1. Art and design reflect the history of a nation.



Henry Wise (1653-1738) designed in a formal Franco-Dutch style.

He designed straight avenues bordered with trees.



Lancelot 'Capability' Brown (1716-1783) designed in a natural English romantic style.

He designed the lakes, the cascades and he planted a lot of trees.



Achille Duchêne (1866-1947) designed in a revival of formal French style.

He revived the French formal style of straight lines and geometric shapes.

2. Art and design contribute to the culture, creativity, and wealth of a nation.

If you were to design a garden, would you abide to one style, mix some styles or create a brand-new style?

How would you redesign the landscape around Blenheim Palace?

Lichen on the Palace Walls

Living things, such as lichens and mosses, are growing on the stonework. There is a large group of **lichens** on the stone walls at Blenheim.

A lichen is a **symbiont.** Like plants, lichens need water, light and a suitable temperature to grow. A lichen is made of fungi, algae and cyanobacteria. Fungi provide moisture (water) and shelter (habitat) for the **algae** and **cyanobacteria**. The algae or cyanobacteria provides food (nutrients) for the fungi.

Draw a picture to show a fungus and an alga or a fungus and a cyanobacteria being friends and so forming a lichen.

Lichens grow on the stonework at the palace. These lichens are known as saxicolous lichens. The stone walls act as their habitats and provide the things they need to grow.

Lichens play a very important role in our **ecosystems**. Lichens help turn **carbon dioxide into oxygen.**

Lichens have different colours. The number of colours can help us know how many types of lichen there are.

Can you count the colours?

How many types of Lichens might there be?

Choose one side of the palace and illustrate the stonework with saxicolous lichens that turn the carbon dioxide into oxygen.



☐ *Diploiscia canescens*



☐ *Caloplaca flavescens*

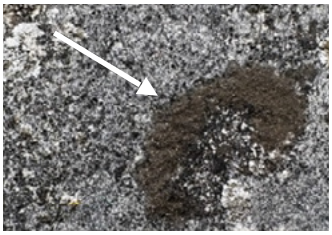
Can you spot these saxicolous lichens which can be found on the Palace walls?



☐ *Aspicilia calcarea*



☐ *Xanthoria calcicola*



☐ *Verrucaria macrostoma*

Words and photographs by Dr Nicholas Carter/ Blenheim Palace