

TALKING TEXTILES

A photograph of three children in a classroom setting, focused on a screen printing activity. In the foreground, a girl with blonde hair in a ponytail, wearing a white t-shirt with a colorful graphic, is using a squeegee to push ink through a screen. To her right, a girl with dark skin and braided hair, wearing a white collared shirt, is also working on the screen. In the background, another girl with dark skin and long hair is watching. They are working on a large piece of fabric with a vibrant, multi-colored pattern. The background is slightly blurred, showing other children and classroom furniture.

Teachers' Notes

Screen printing Workshop for Year 4-6
at the Wallace Collection

Talking Textiles

Teachers' Notes

Screen Printing Workshop for Year 4-6 at the Wallace Collection

These notes are designed to accompany the KS2 workshop, Talking Textiles, and to support the KS2 national curriculum targets for Art & Design, Design Technology and English.

During this fun day-long story-making and silk-screen printing workshop, pupils will listen to a story inspired by works of art in the galleries and the childhood of King Louis XV. They will complete an activity sheet which links the story with the objects and draw in the galleries. In the studio they will work as a group to turn their drawings into a screen-print story textile, which may be used as a basis for story-telling back at school.

This workshop involves messy materials and accompanying adults are expected to participate.. We do provide aprons, but students are encouraged to wear old clothes and to bring their own protective clothing, e.g. an old shirt.

Please divide your class into 5 groups prior to arrival. They will work in these groups for much of the session.

.

Large Drawing Room

Introduction and Story Telling

1. Brief introduction to the Wallace Collection, and to the day's activities.
2. Tell a story 'Sweet Little Wren' based on objects in the galleries, with participation from pupils (See end of notes)
3. Hand out activity sheets, divide class into 2 groups. With adult support, pupils look for objects then make their own drawings of outlines and patterns in preparation for screen-printing. An example can be seen to the right.
4. In the Billiard Room, look at and discuss the painting of 'Mme de Ventadour with Portraits of Louis XIV and his Heirs' French School, 1815-20, P122



© The Wallace Collection

[LEARN MORE](#)

STUDIO

A) Preparation of paper stencils

1. Show examples of silk-screen printing and how it is used, e.g. screen-printed t-shirts pupils may be wearing, a reproduction of 'Soup Can' silk-screen print by Andy Warhol
2. Show and explain screens, stencils and squeegees
3. Show how to use scalpel and scissors safely
4. Each group works at a table together, choosing 1 drawing each from which to cut a stencil
5. Each group arranges their cut stencils, perhaps to tell a story, on a sheet of paper the same size as the screen.



Example of a drawing of a Sevres vase, suitable for making into a stencil: an interesting outline, and a few areas to cut out from the main shape. Not too much small detail.

B) Silk- screen printing



1. Demo of silk-screen printing, with pupils' assistance
2. Each group takes 3 prints on a length of white cotton, ensuring that each pupil has a go at holding the screen, dispensing the ink and pulling the squeegee.
3. The 1st print is taken on the sugar paper on which the stencils were arranged. A mono-print (a one off print) can be taken from the ink which is left on the plastic table covers after printing on the cotton.
4. If there is time, pupils can draw a patterned frame (from drawings made in the galleries) around their prints with fabric pens

1. Once the finished prints are hanging in the studio, pupils can recall the story, and will be encouraged to make up their own story, inspired by their prints, once back at school.
2. Recap on the entire process, from story to completed prints
3. Discuss the finished prints, and use of colour and shape



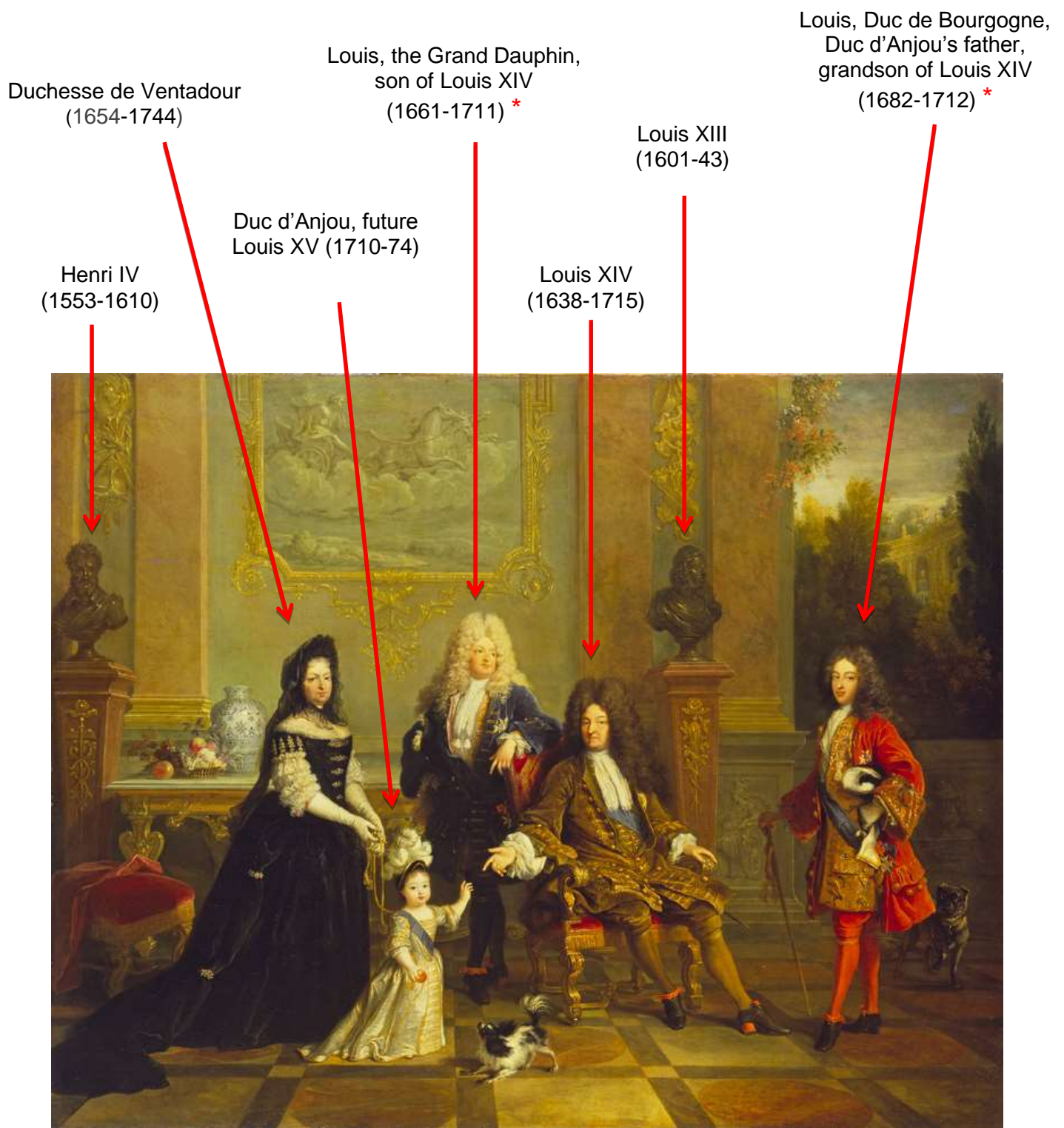
C) Plenary

Post Visit:

- Creative writing: write their own versions of the story using their screen print as inspiration
- Research artists who have used screen printing extensively, e.g. Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein
- Research and discuss how screen printing is done on a commercial scale

Background Information on King Louis XV (1710-1774):

- Louis XV was born at Versailles, France, on 15 February 1710. He was the great-grandson of King Louis XIV.
- During the measles epidemic of 1712, his nanny, Madame de Ventadour, saved his life and ensured the continuation of the Bourbon dynasty. His grandfather, mother, father and older brother all died because of the medical treatment they were given, which involved removing a lot of blood to reduce their fever. Madame de Ventadour prevented the doctors from treating Louis by locking herself in a room with him. He survived, and so unexpectedly became heir to the throne.
- When he was 5 years old, Louis succeeded his great-grandfather Louis XIV as king of France, but he did not have any power until 1723 when he came of age.
- In keeping with French royal tradition that princes should be placed in the care of men when they reached their seventh birthday, Louis was separated from Madame de Ventadour in February 1717, and placed in the care of a duke.
- He had an excellent education and was taught by renowned professors. He had an inquisitive and open-minded nature, and loved reading. Later in life, he advocated the creation of departments of Physics (1769) and Mechanics (1773) at the Collège de France.



* Died during measles epidemic

Talking Textiles: Sweet Little Wren



Fireplace, 1850

Large Drawing Room

- Can you find the little wren?
- What is it doing?
- Three of these materials have been used to make this fireplace. Tick the ones you think they are:

Marble ☐ Plastic ☐ Gilt bronze (bronze covered with gold) ☐
Cast iron ☐ Cement ☐



Writing table, 1777-8

Large Drawing Room

This grand table was made for a prince's palace in Brussels.

- Tick when you have found some oak leaves and acorns ☐



Augsburg Service
1757-73

West Room

These beautiful gold-covered objects were used by a rich person for getting ready in the morning, and for eating breakfast.

- Do you think the owner would have used these in private, or in front of others?
- Tick when you have found a:
Tray ☐ Cup and saucer ☐ Bowl ☐ Spoon ☐
Brush ☐ Mirror ☐



A Storm with a
Shipwreck, 1757-73
by Claude-Joseph Vernet

West Room

(Stand opposite the Augsburg Service and look at the painting above it.)

- Tick when you have found:
A castle ☐ People in a rowing boat ☐



Venice: The Bacino di
San Marco from the
Canale della Guidecca
c1735-1744
by Canaletto

West Gallery I

- What is special about Venice, the city shown in this painting?
- How many gondolas* can you spot? ☐

*Gondolas have a special metal shape at the front called a *ferro*.

