

Developing a motif





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What is a motif?

A motif is a symbol or shape used in printmaking. A motif can be a simplified drawing of a more complex object such as a flower or shell.

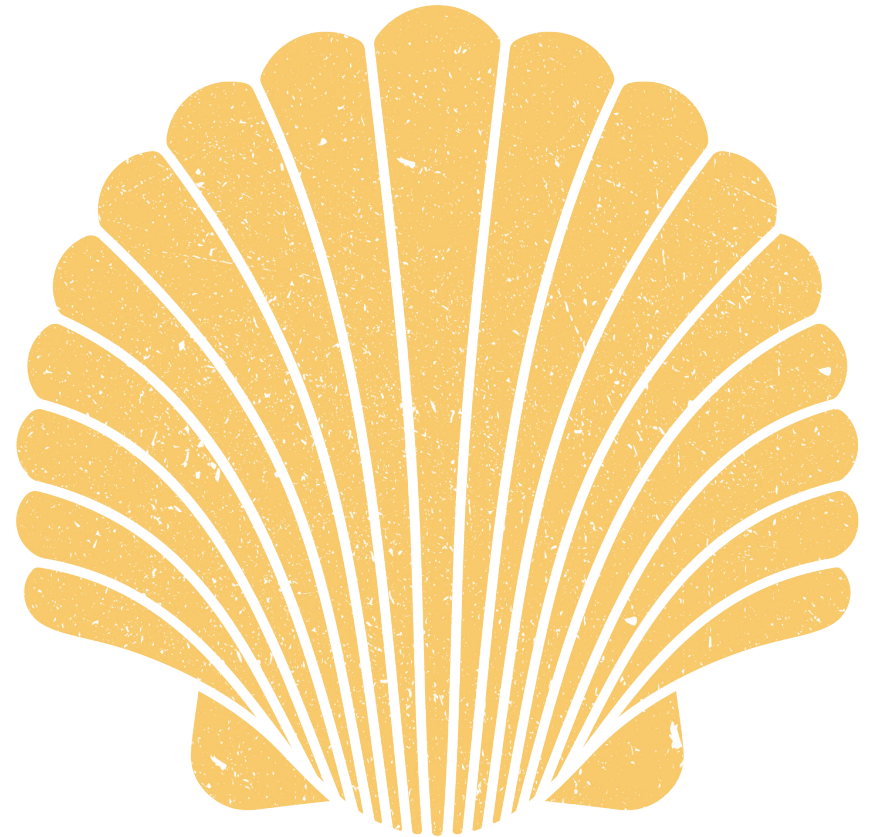
The photograph shows a man printing a motif multiple times to form a pattern.



Can you explain how the artist has simplified the shape and pattern of the shell to make this motif?



shell photograph



shell motif



Here are some other examples of motifs inspired by natural forms.



leaf photograph



leaf motif



orchid photograph



orchid motif



How would you simplify these natural forms to create a simple motif?



Here the artist has used lines to simplify the spiral shapes.



**Here is an example of a print motif inspired
by an ammonite fossil.**



ammonite photograph



ammonite motif

