

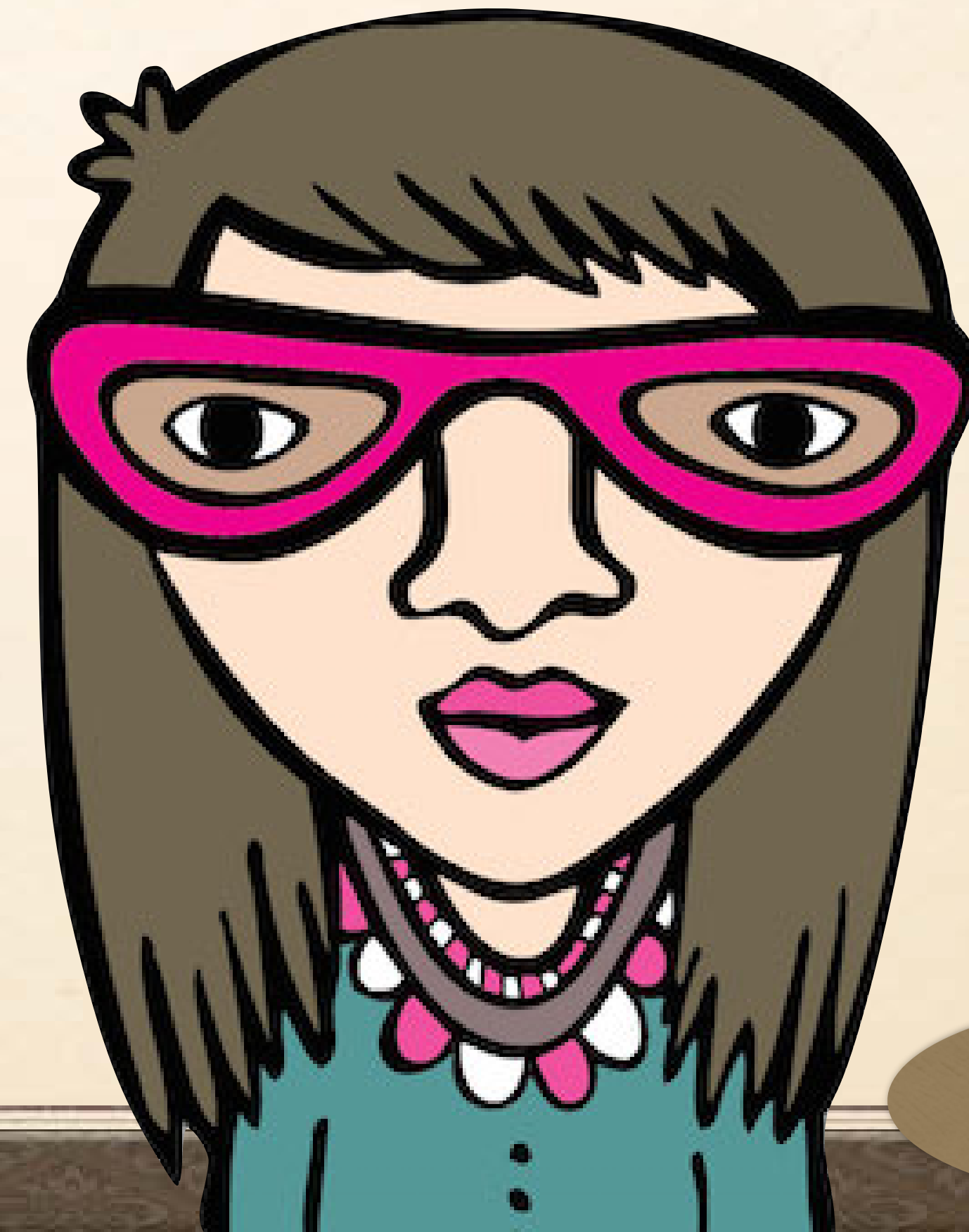
The Victorians

Learning Objective:

To find out about Victorian decoupage and to use decoupage to create a piece of artwork.

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Have you ever
heard of
decoupage? Do
you know what it
is?



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Decoupage is the art of decorating a surface with paper cutouts that are glued on in layers. Decoupage became very popular in Britain during the Victorian era although it had been used in other countries before this. People would cut pictures out of magazines or purpose-made prints and glue them to whichever surface they were decorating. A high gloss lacquer was then added in layers to make the surface shiny and look as though the cutout was part of the original design.



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The name decoupage come from the French word 'couper' meaning 'to cut'. Anything can be cut out for decoupage from wrapping paper to wallpaper and clipart to photographs. Any surface can be used too, such as vases, chairs, pots, photograph frames and book covers. The artistic possibilities with decoupage are endless...you just need some creative ideas!



A decoupage tray



A decoupage pot

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A decoupage screen



A decoupage book
cover



A decoupage bucket

Can you think of any other
surfaces that could be decorated with
decoupage?

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How to create a decoupage plate

You will
need:



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Choose a cutout and dab some glue into the centre. Stick it down gently leaving the edges unstuck. This is so you can tuck another cutout underneath if you need to.



Layer the images on top of each other. Try not to leave any space between the cutouts and think carefully about where you are placing each cutout.

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The tricky part is placing the cutouts on the edges. Use your finger to press the cutouts firmly into the curves and edges. Keep going until you have covered the whole area, including the outside edges.



When you have covered the whole plate, you then need to cover your decoupage with a layer of PVA or with a lacquer spray if you have it. This gives the decoupage its finished shiny look. Leave to dry.

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You now have
a beautiful
decoupage
plate!



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You do not have to use Victorian images for decoupage. This pot has used photographs of wild animals.



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You don't need to
cover a particular
surface either.
Decoupage posters
can be very effective.
You can use them
simply for decoration
or even turn them
into greetings cards.

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