

Work Sheet: Design Registry, Patents and Copyright

Before you produce your designs you need to make sure that you are not BREAKING THE LAW!

Your designs may be very similar to someone else's designs and they may sue you if they feel you may have copied their idea. You must check that your designs are 'legal'.

You will also need to consider registering your design if you plan to manufacture your product and you don't want others to copy it earning profit from your work.

Your task:

Log onto the "Patent Office" web site



at www.patent.gov.uk

Produce '2' or '3' A3 sheets with the following full information. (You can cut and paste text and images):

1. What is Design (registration)?
2. Show the History of the Design Registry
3. Undertake a "Design Search" to establish if there are designs similar to yours already registered.
 - 'Click on' Search our records
 - 'Click on' Images
 - Main – select injections moulding or manufacturing
 - Sub – select type you think you must investigate
 - 'Click on' Search
4. Select an image (similar to yours if possible) and copy onto your sheet. Give the details of the owner (proprietor) of the design and details of the design/article number.
5. Explain what the "benefits" of design registration are.
6. What is a "Patent"?
7. Show the "History of the Patent Office".
8. What is a "Copyright"?
9. Show the "History of the Copyright".

Finally, what are the procedures you must follow in order to register you design with the Design Office? Explain using any information available on the Patent Office website.