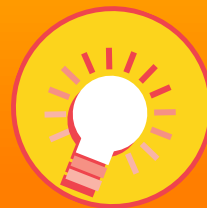


Comprehension Workbook 4

# Cathedral

(Medieval cathedrals)



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

CurriculumVisions

VisionMasters

Comprehension Workbook 4

# Cathedral

(Medieval cathedrals)



Lincoln Cathedral

Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

understand • key words • summarise • sequencing • AF2-3 • AF4-5 • AF6-7 • discuss • create



# Christian faith

Matches the requirements of the Literacy Strategy and designed to integrate with the study of world religions. (This material is independent of any specific text book and can be used alongside any publisher's books including our Christian Faith, Church, Christian art and writing and Christian holy days books.)

## Contents

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# Medieval cathedrals

In many ways, the cathedral was at its most spectacular in Medieval times. People had learned how to make tall buildings with lots of window space. They also chose to spend lavishly on cathedrals as a gateway to Heaven.

Medieval people thought of the cathedral as representing a heavenly Jerusalem on Earth. Many medieval cathedrals were built to look like the Roman cathedrals called Basilica.

In the Middle Ages, cathedrals were colourful, noisy places. Pilgrims would chat and share news in the central nave and the entire building would be decorated with carved stone and wood and colourfully-painted screens.

## Salisbury Cathedral

After the Battle of Hastings in 1066, William the Conqueror ordered a series of 20 cathedrals to be built in England and Wales. One of these was in southern England at Winchester.

The present cathedral was begun in 1220. It took 38 years to build, which was actually very quick for those times. It was made of seventy thousand tonnes of stone. The roof required three thousand tonnes of timber and 450 tonnes of lead. The 123m/404ft spire was added, in the early 1300s. It is the tallest medieval tower in England.





## St Paul's Cathedral, London

The first St Paul's was a wooden building built in 604. It was to be burnt down and rebuilt twice and finally rebuilt in stone. However, by 1660 it had become run down and people were just thinking of repairing it when it was destroyed by the Great Fire of London in 1666.

The St Paul's that we see today was designed by Sir Christopher Wren. Building began in 1675 and was completed in 1700. It cost £700,000 to build, which would be about £53 million in today's money – which would still be a bargain.



## Winchester Cathedral

Today's Winchester Cathedral began as a small Saxon church. Old Minster, as it became called, was the burial place for some of the earliest kings of Wessex, including King Alfred the Great and King Cnut.

By 1000, the cathedral also served as a monastery and contained a shrine holding the bones of St Swithun. All round this shrine, the walls were hung with the crutches of people he'd healed. As a result, pilgrims flocked to the cathedral.

William the Conqueror ordered Old Minster rebuilt. Over the centuries more sections were added. The building you see today was completed in the 16th century.





# Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

**a** Write a sentence in which you found the word 'medieval'.

**b** From that sentence, write what you think 'medieval' means.

**c** Write a new sentence using the word 'medieval'.

**d** Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'medieval'.

**e** Draw a picture of a 'medieval' scene.



# Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

Key word	Synonym (similar word)
Example: noisy	loud



# Summarising

(the gist of the story)

To summarise means to rewrite the story in a shorter version using as many of our key words from Task 2 as needed.

**1** Write a heading for your summary.

**2** Now write the main idea in one sentence.  
e.g. "This story tells us..."

**3** Now add some detail to the main idea by writing more sentences after it.

**Finally,  
can you rewrite your  
summary to make it better?**

- 1. Look out for errors such as using the same word too often – use alternatives.**
- 2. Make sure you have summarised the author's purpose in your OWN words.**
- 3. Make sure your summary is in a logical order.**
- 4. Is your summary informative AND interesting to others?**

**There is  
nothing wrong  
with rewriting; even  
the best authors  
rewrite their  
work.**



123  
4

# Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order. Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense.

Most medieval cathedrals started as small Saxon churches.

During the time of Henry VIII, from 1538, monasteries were destroyed and only the cathedral buildings remained.

During Medieval times many cathedrals also had monasteries.

The Normans, under the direction of William the Conqueror, rebuilt and enlarged most cathedrals.

Today cathedrals are used as places of tourism as well as for worship.

During Saxon times many cathedrals became centres of pilgrimage.

During the 13th to 16th centuries many cathedrals were enlarged.



# Get to the facts

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the facts of the story.



St Paul's London

Write a sentence to answer each of these questions:

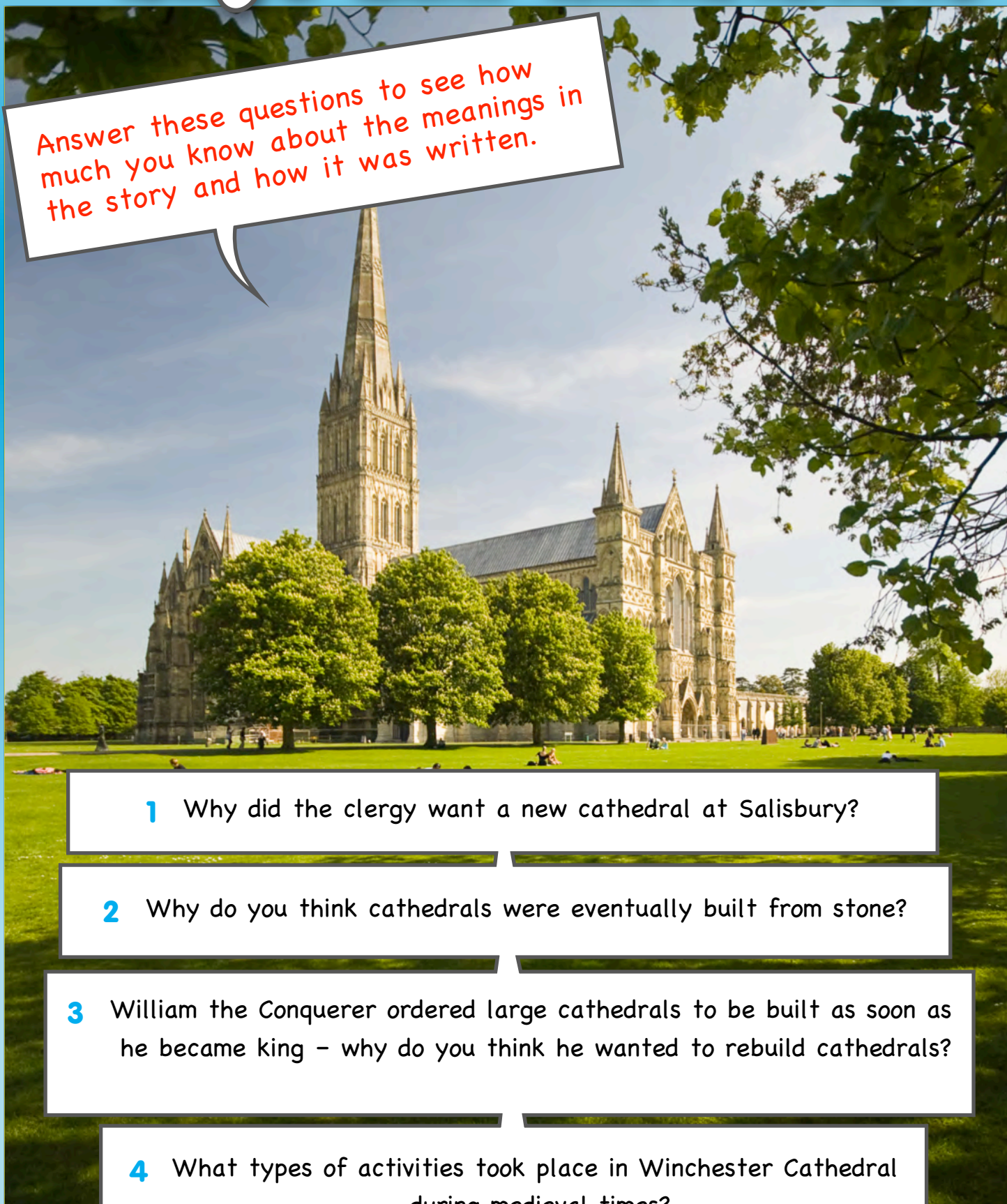
- (a) Which cathedral had the bones of St Swithun?
- (b) Why was St Paul's rebuilt after 1666?
- (c) Who designed the St Paul's that we see today?
- (d) Which cathedral has the tallest spire?
- (e) How many cathedrals did William the Conqueror have rebuilt?





# Whys and wherefores

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the meanings in the story and how it was written.



Salisbury Cathedral

1 Why did the clergy want a new cathedral at Salisbury?

2 Why do you think cathedrals were eventually built from stone?

3 William the Conqueror ordered large cathedrals to be built as soon as he became king – why do you think he wanted to rebuild cathedrals?

4 What types of activities took place in Winchester Cathedral during medieval times?



# Opinions matter

Answer these questions to give your views and to develop the story.



Liverpool RC Cathedral

- 1 Do you agree that medieval cathedrals were an important part of the community?
- 2 Would you support the building of a new cathedral today?
- 3 How do you think medieval people felt about Christianity when they saw an immense cathedral?
- 4 Would you think it was important to make a pilgrimage to a cathedral?
- 5 Why do you think we don't often build cathedrals today?

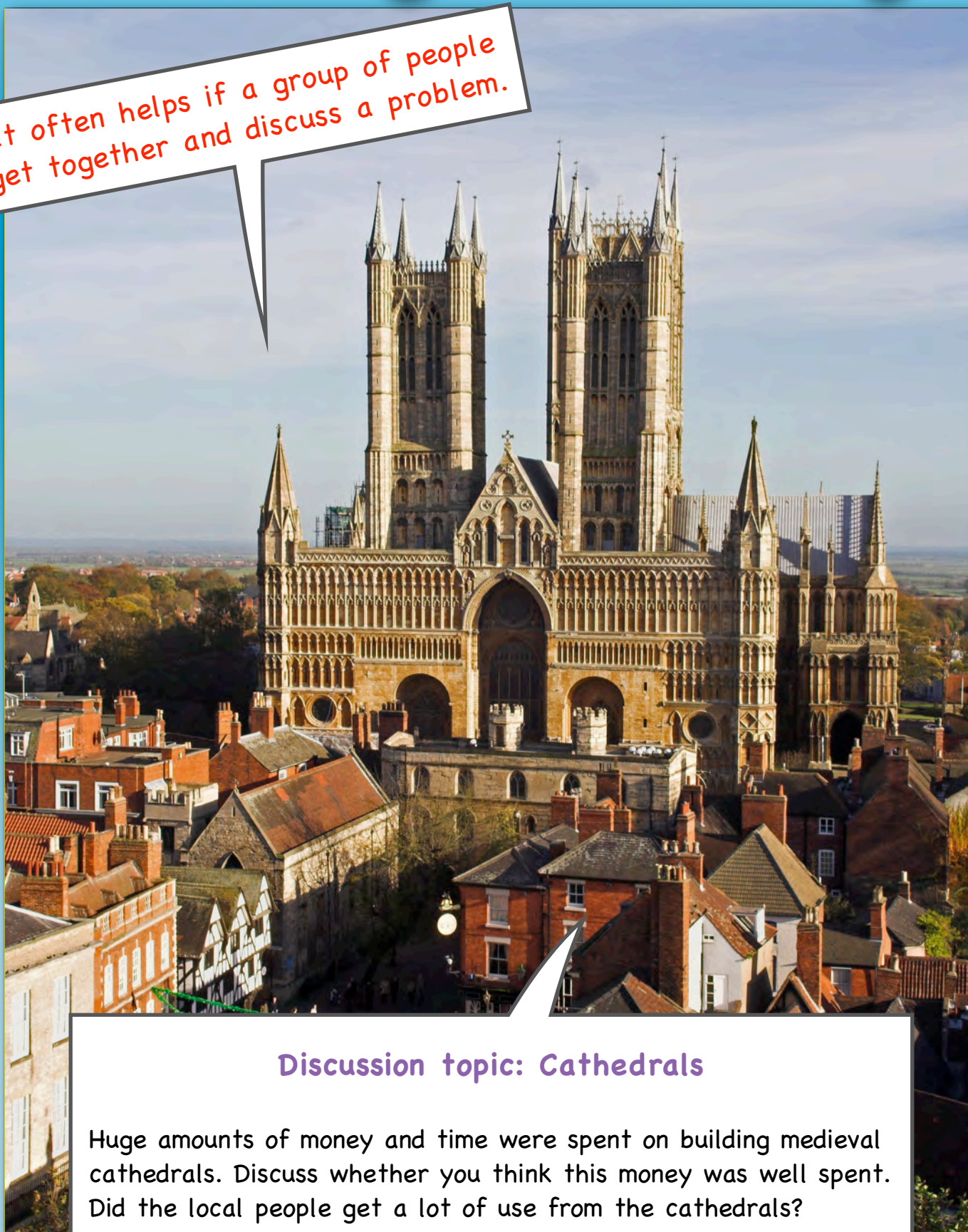




# Talking it through

It often helps if a group of people get together and discuss a problem.

Lincoln Cathedral



## Discussion topic: Cathedrals

Huge amounts of money and time were spent on building medieval cathedrals. Discuss whether you think this money was well spent. Did the local people get a lot of use from the cathedrals?





# Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.



Canterbury Cathedral

## Building a Cathedral

You are a medieval king or queen who has just been crowned. You are meeting with your advisors to discuss whether you should build a new cathedral and what it should look like.

(Now continue the story, telling whether you decide to build the cathedral and why or why not...)



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