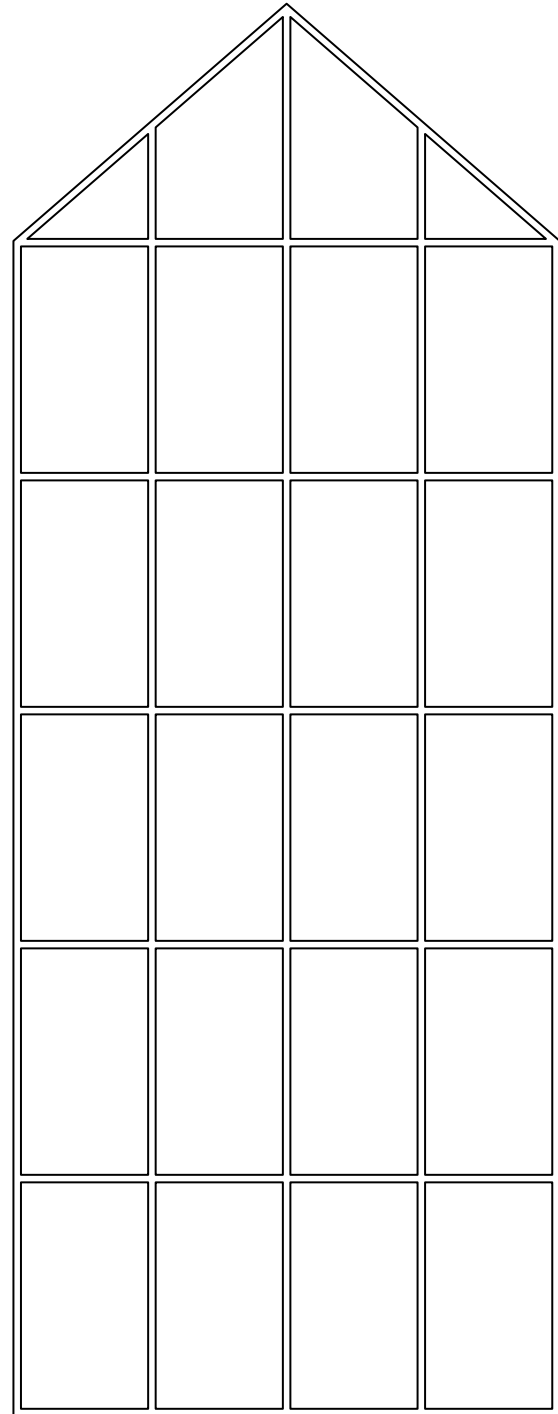


Stained glass

Many churches are decorated with stained glass windows. The windows are beautiful and the scenes on them help people worship.



Q1. Shade in some of the panes in this window to make a cross.

Q2. What are stained glass windows made from?

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Q3. What do stained glass windows let into the church?

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Q4. What do stained glass windows around an altar do?

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Q5. What scenes do stained glass windows show?

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Q6. Why were stained glass windows important to people who lived a long time ago?

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Answers

1. The two central panes should be shaded up to five panes up the window. All of the panes four panes up should be shaded in.
2. Painted or coloured glass.
3. Light and colour.
4. Bathe it in colours.
5. Scenes from the Bible and from Christian history.
6. They helped them to learn the stories from the Bible because the people could not read.

Lesson objectives

- ▶ To show the structure of stained glass windows.
- ▶ To explain the purposes of stained glass windows.

Lesson outcomes

- ▶ The children can see how stained glass is put together to make pictures.
- ▶ The children know the purposes of stained glass in a church.

Teaching notes

In the Middle Ages, light and the flashes of light from jewels were believed to have special properties which could heal or transform people. When stained glass was developed for windows in the early Middle Ages it was thought that the glass could have these properties too. People in the Middle Ages would stare at a window for some time. They liked to make time for seeing as much as they could in one place (i.e. looking at the window). Today people look at things in a different way - they try and see as much as possible of different things in a certain amount of time.

Windows in different parts of the church sometimes have different themes. Here is the traditional arrangement of the themes. The windows in the north wall may deal with stories from the Old testament, the windows in the East wall may deal with the crucifixion and the times leading up to it, and the windows in the south wall may deal with the new testament and feature the teachings of Christ and the work of saints and martyrs in spreading Christianity. The windows in the west wall may be concerned with the future and feature the last judgement.

Complementary work

The children can use secondary sources to find out how stained glass is made today.

Resources

Secondary sources about stained glass.