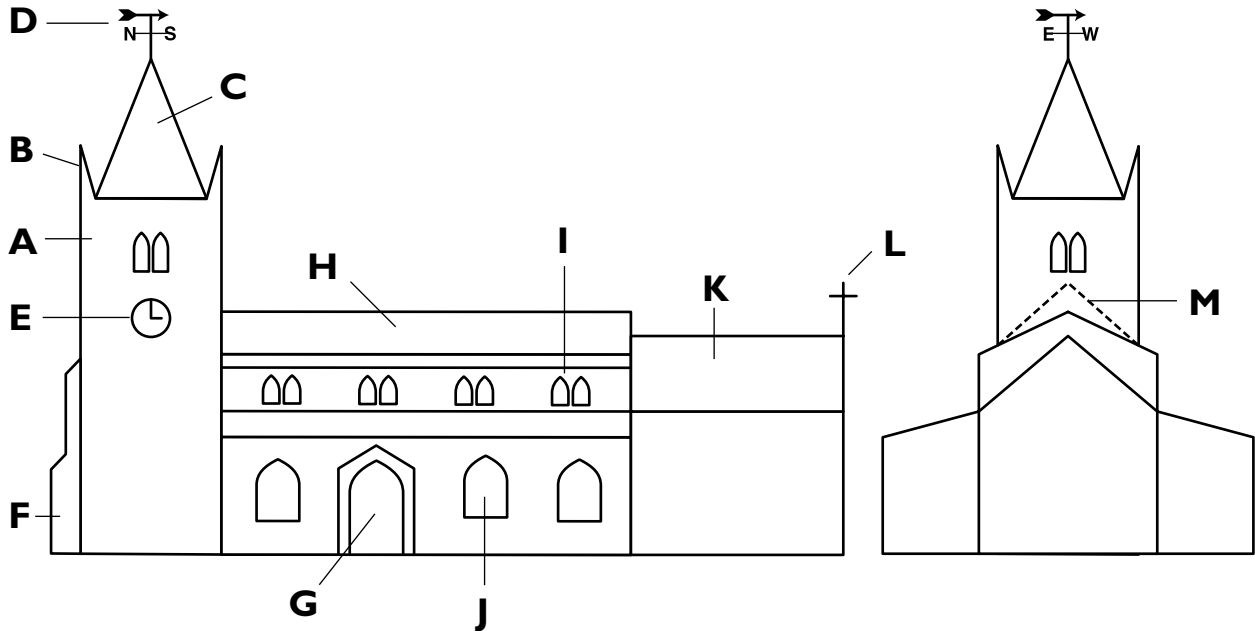


The outside of a church

1. These two diagrams show the features on the outside of a church.



- A** = tower
- B** = pinnacle
- C** = spire
- D** = weather vane
- E** = clock
- F** = buttress
- G** = porch
- H** = nave
- I** = clerestory windows
- J** = nave windows
- K** = chancel
- L** = cross
- M** = trace of earlier roof

2. Look at the church you are visiting and tick the appropriate boxes in the table.

Feature	present	absent
A tower		
B pinnacle		
C spire		
D weather vane		
E clock		
F buttress		
G porch		

Feature	present	absent
H nave		
I clerestory windows		
J nave windows		
K chancel		
L cross		
M trace of earlier roof		

3. Make a labelled drawing of the outside of the church you are visiting on a separate sheet of paper.



Activity objectives

- ▶ To identify the features on the outside of a church.
- ▶ To show how churches are built to make them special.

Preparation and resources

Liaising with the church authorities about the visit. Making sure the visit is carried out in accordance with the school policy.

Introducing the activity

If the church is a local one that the children pass frequently, you may ask them to describe it and construct a drawing of it on the board. Focus on features, which children seem to disagree on, and tell them that the best way to make sure about the church is to visit it and examine it in detail.

Teaching notes

Many parish churches have a tower at the west end, a large hall called the nave to the east of the tower and smaller hall called a chancel to the east of the nave. The children can look out for windows in the tower which can show the position of the staircase. The purpose of the buttress is to support the tower. Other parts of the church may have buttresses. The children can also see if the clock has the name of a benefactor on it. The first naves were a similar width to the tower but as the congregation increased the nave may have been widened and a second set of windows put in close to the roof. When the nave has been changed in this way you may see a scar on the tower which shows the pitch of the roof of the first nave. The chancel may have a square end or a rounded end. The rounded end of a church is called an apse.

Concluding the activity

The children could look for gargoyles. These are water shutes carved as animals or ugly faces sticking out from the roof. They may also find grotesques which are strange faces carved in places on the outside of the church (some may be found inside too).

Activity outcomes

- ▶ The children can identify the features on the outside of a church.
- ▶ The children can see how churches are built to make them special.

Complementary work

The children could find the approximate height of the tower in the following way. First, they could put a long pole of known length next to the tower. Second, they could stand back until a pencil held at arms length seems to cover the pole. Third, they could look at the tower and measure its height in pencil lengths. Fourth they can multiply the length of the pole by the number of pencil lengths to find an approximate height of the tower.

Resources

A long pole of known length.