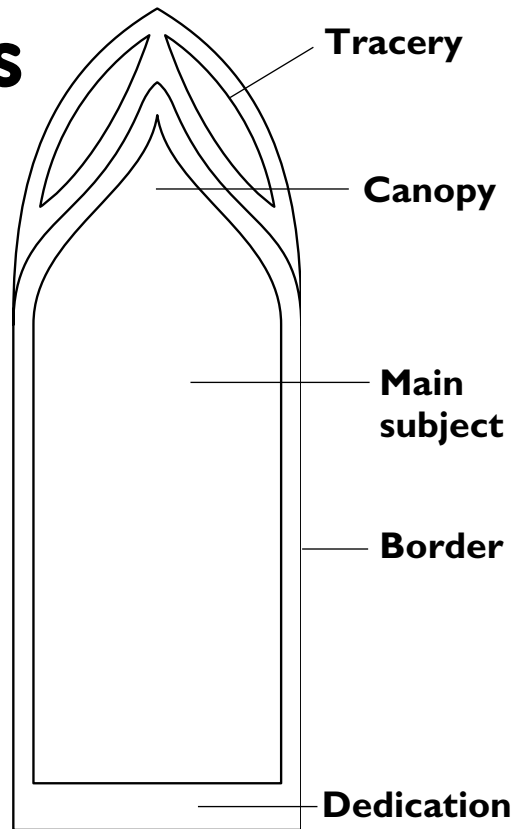


Stained glass windows

1. Here are some features that are found in stained glass windows. Use this picture to examine a real stained glass window.



2. Features in a real window. Write down descriptions in the spaces.

Objects seen in tracery.

.....

.....

Objects seen in canopy.

.....

.....

The main subject.

.....

.....

The objects or pattern in the border.

.....

The person to whom the window is dedicated.

.....

The colours seen in the window.

.....

Activity objectives

- ▶ To look at a stained glass window and identify its features.

Preparation and resources

Make a preliminary visit to a church to examine the stained glass windows. Seek permission to use a digital camera and take some pictures. Organise a visit to the church in accordance with school policy. Sheets of transparent coloured paper or plastic.

Introducing the activity

Tell the children that you have taken some pictures of stained glass windows and show them your collection. Tell the children that photographs cannot really do justice to the appearance of the window because during the course of the day the light streaming through the window changes and this can produce further pleasing effects. Tell the children that they are going on a visit to look at some real windows and see how the light passes through them.

Teaching notes

You may like to use the photographs with less able students to see if they can identify the windows in the photographs instead of doing the work on the worksheet.

Windows made between 1100 - 1300 have very small pieces of glass joined together like a mosaic. They have deep reds, blues and greens with golden yellows and few clear pieces of glass. Faces are brown or pink. Between 1300 and 1500 a pale yellow was introduced, larger pieces of glass were used and more colour and white faces were introduced. In the following centuries large amounts of stained glass was broken during the reformation and by the practise of simply replacing old windows with new ones. Large amounts of stained glass today comes from Victorian times.

Concluding the activity

The children could make a list of all the people seen in the windows or the benefactors who paid for the windows. They could design a pattern for a border to make out of transparent paper or plastic and make the border for a classroom window.

Activity outcomes

- ▶ The children can identify the features in a stained glass window.

Complementary work

If the children are familiar with the contents of the Bible you may like them to look at the windows in different walls of the church and see if they follow the traditional arrangement of themes as stated in the notes on page 45.

Resources

All the stained glass windows in the church.