

Art Appreciation



Gothic Architecture

*Cathedral of Saints Peter and Mary
Cologne, Germany (Began 1248)*

Today in Art Appreciation your child learned about Gothic Architecture, specifically cathedrals. We looked at three items in these buildings: arches, high ceilings, and stained glass windows. Then we covered what was important about these three topics.

- Why did the people want the cathedrals to be built so high? (It helped them feel closer to God.)
- What did the stained glass windows do to the light inside the cathedral? (Helped protect from weather, and allowed more natural light, giving it a feeling of “holy light”.)
- What are the two purposes of the gargoyles? (To scare off evil, and the practical use of being a rainspout/gutter to run the rain water away from the stone walls.)

Our project was to make our own stained glass window by using construction paper and colored tissue paper. We learned that by using different colors of glass, artists were able to create a “picture” in the stained glass window. By putting these windows together, people were told a story as they looked at the windows. This is especially important during a time in history when many people did not know how to read. They were able to learn by looking at the pictures within the windows and listening to the stories.