



ART APPRECIATION

Today your child learned about Gothic Architecture and specifically we looked at the Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Mary in Cologne, Germany. Construction on this Roman Catholic Cathedral started in 1248 and was left unfinished in 1473. Building recommenced in 1842 and was completed in 1880. (632 years later!) It is the largest Gothic church in Northern Europe and one of Germany's most visited landmarks.

Some of the concepts we discussed about Gothic Architecture were:

Height : By combining unique structural elements the builders were able to achieve more height in the building, creating a feeling of be closer to God.

Pointed Arch : The most defining characteristic element of Gothic Architecture.

Flying Buttress : Carried the load, externally, of the very high vaulted ceilings.

Light : The skeletal structure of the building allowed for walls to be filled with glass and stained glass windows. The windows helped tell stories as well as provide beautiful light to the interiors.

