Stained Glass: Painting With Sunlight

Sunlight streams through colored glass and makes patterns on the walls and the floor. Reds, blues, and yellows seem to paint with the sun’s light. This beautiful art form is called stained glass.

Stained glass is an old form of art. Writers described colored glass that was made as early as the year 300! No one has found glass that old, though.

Some time later, writers described stained glass that was used to tell stories in churches. Most people couldn’t read at that time, so the stories helped them learn about their religion.

The earliest stained glass window found dates to the 1100s. It was found in Lorsch, a town in present-day Germany. In fact, many artists made stained glass in France and Germany at this time.

One of the main ingredients in glass is sand. The sand is heated to such a high temperature that it becomes liquid. To make glass colorful, minerals, oxides, and other ingredients are added to the sand. For example, copper salts make glass red.

Early artists created drawings that showed the color and the shape of each piece. Then the colored glass was made and cut into pieces. It takes a lot of skill to cut glass. Cutters used very sharp tools, being careful the glass didn’t break. Finally, they placed the glass shapes into a frame. Sometimes artists also painted on the glass.

Stained glass is still made today, although new tools and technology have changed the process. It can be made more safely and easily now than it was in the 1100s. Today, in fact, many people make stained glass art to use in their homes. They make objects that can hang in their windows or place on tables. Like the people many years ago, they love the way they can use the sun’s light to paint their walls and floors.
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Write all these words in the right places to complete this puzzle, which tells some things you learned about stained glass. You can reread the article before you begin, but don’t look back at it while you are working. After you’ve completed the puzzle, read it to someone.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>church</th>
<th>colors</th>
<th>cut</th>
<th>light</th>
<th>objects</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sand</td>
<td>shape</td>
<td>stories</td>
<td>temperature</td>
<td>together</td>
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Stained glass is an art form that uses the sun’s __________________________ to make pictures. Stained glass can often be seen in the windows of ____________________________, where people go to pray. Sometimes, the pictures in these windows tell __________________________ about that church’s religion.

The glass in stained glass is made from __________________________. The sand, which is heated to a very high __________________________, turns into a liquid. Minerals, oxides, and other ingredients are then added to the liquid to create many different __________________________.

To make stained glass, artists first draw a picture to show the ________________ and color of each piece. Next, they __________________________ the glass into different shapes. Finally, they put these pieces into a frame that holds them __________________________. Today, stained glass can be made more easily and safely, so many people have stained glass __________________________ in their homes.
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Write keywords or phrases that will help you remember what you learned.