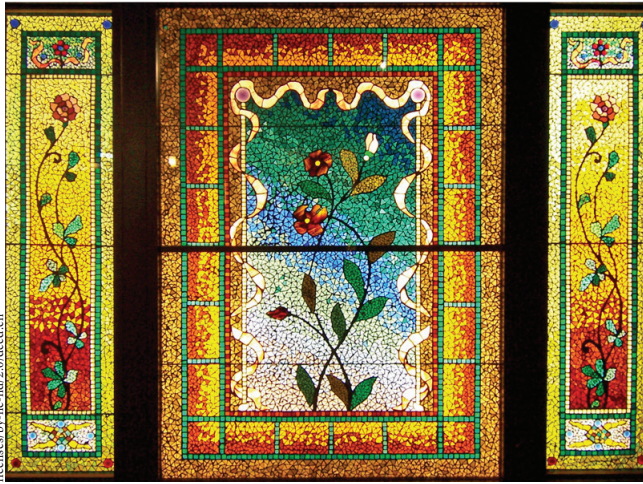


Stained Glass: Painting With Sunlight

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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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