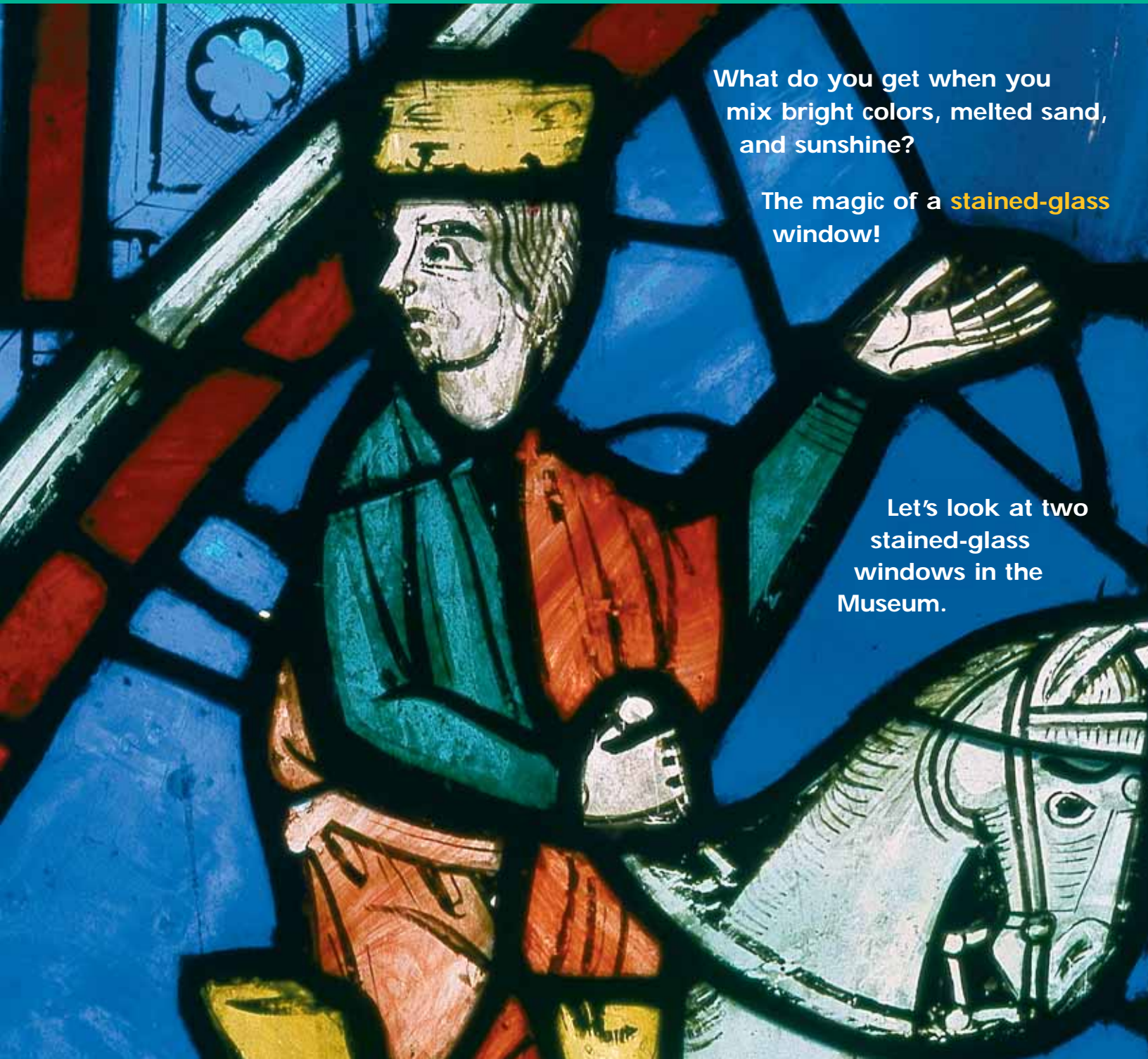


The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Family
Guide

Let's look at
Stained Glass



What do you get when you mix bright colors, melted sand, and sunshine?

The magic of a **stained-glass** window!

Let's look at two stained-glass windows in the Museum.

MEDIEVAL ART GALLERIES

Stained-glass windows can tell stories or be decorative. They can be in public buildings or private homes. Sunshine from outside makes them sparkle inside, showing off their brilliant colors.

First, stand several yards away from the window.

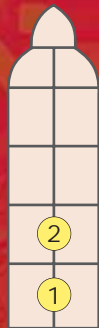
Most vertical windows of the European Middle Ages (300–1530 A.D.) are read from bottom to top. Like a comic book, people and objects in the story are often repeated.

This window is pieced together from two different ones made for the same chapel. The windows illustrated Saint Vincent's life and the history of his relics. The main story in this window is about the Roman Governor Dacian ordering two henchmen to capture and torture Saint Vincent.

Start at the bottom:

1 Can you find Dacian with his sword? What are the henchman carrying with which to capture Saint Vincent?

2 Can you find Saint Vincent? Hint: he is wearing a blue robe and has a halo.



Where else in the window do you see Saint Vincent, Dacian, and the henchmen?



This window is in the Medieval Art galleries on the first floor of the Museum. It tells a story and was made for a monks' chapel in France over 800 years ago.

Now, move closer to the window so you can see the details.

- The bold blue, a very popular medieval color, was made with cobalt.
- To create the horses' manes, facial features, and folds in clothing the medieval artist painted on top of the glass.
- To make the deep red the artist mixed copper into the liquid glass.
- Notice that each figure and object in the picture is perfectly outlined with a lead strip called a came.

Did you know?

Sand has to be heated to around 1,650 degrees F to make glass.

Scenes from the Passion of Saint Vincent of Saragossa and the History of His Relics, 1244–1247; made in Paris, France; pot-metal glass with vitreous paint, 147 x 43 1/2 in.; Gift of George D. Pratt, 1924 (24.167a-k)

THE AMERICAN WING

You will find this window in The Charles Engelhard Court of The American Wing, also on the first floor.

This window was designed over 80 years ago to decorate a home near Boston, Massachusetts.

First, stand several yards away from the window.

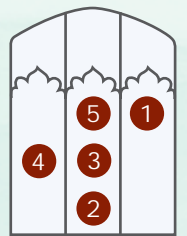
- What season and time of day are captured in this scene?
- What did the artist do to make it look like sunlight is filtering through the leaves?
- Does the water look like it is moving?

Louis Comfort Tiffany, (American 1848–1933), **Autumn Landscape**, 1923–1924; Tiffany Studios (1902–1938); leaded Favrite-glass window; 11 ft. x 8 ft. 6 in.; Gift of Robert W. de Forest, 1925 (25.173)



Did you know?

More than 1,500 pieces of glass were used to make this window!



Now, move closer to the window. The artist Louis Comfort Tiffany used five different techniques to make this window. Can you find them? (The diagram will help you.) Match the numbers and letters.

- Which technique makes it look like sunlight is filtering through the leaves? 1
- Which makes the meandering stream look like it is moving? 2
- Which makes the look of dappled light on the large boulders? 3
- Which makes the bark on the green tree look so rough? 4
- Which technique creates the appearance of distant mountains? 5

- A Ripple: a sheet of glass with a rippled surface was layered over colored glass.
- B Confetti: tiny paper-thin flakes of different colored glass were dropped onto sheets of glass as they cooled.
- C Marbleized: dark glass was slightly blended with white glass.
- D Plating: up to four additional layers of glass were attached to the back of the window.
- E Textured: a roller with a textured surface was rolled over a sheet of soft glass leaving an imprinted bumpy surface.

How do you make a **stained-glass** window?



1 melt sand and plant ash



2 mix in a powdered oxide to add color



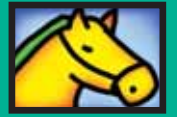
3 make a cartoon (drawing) to plan how the window will look



4 cut pieces from whole glass



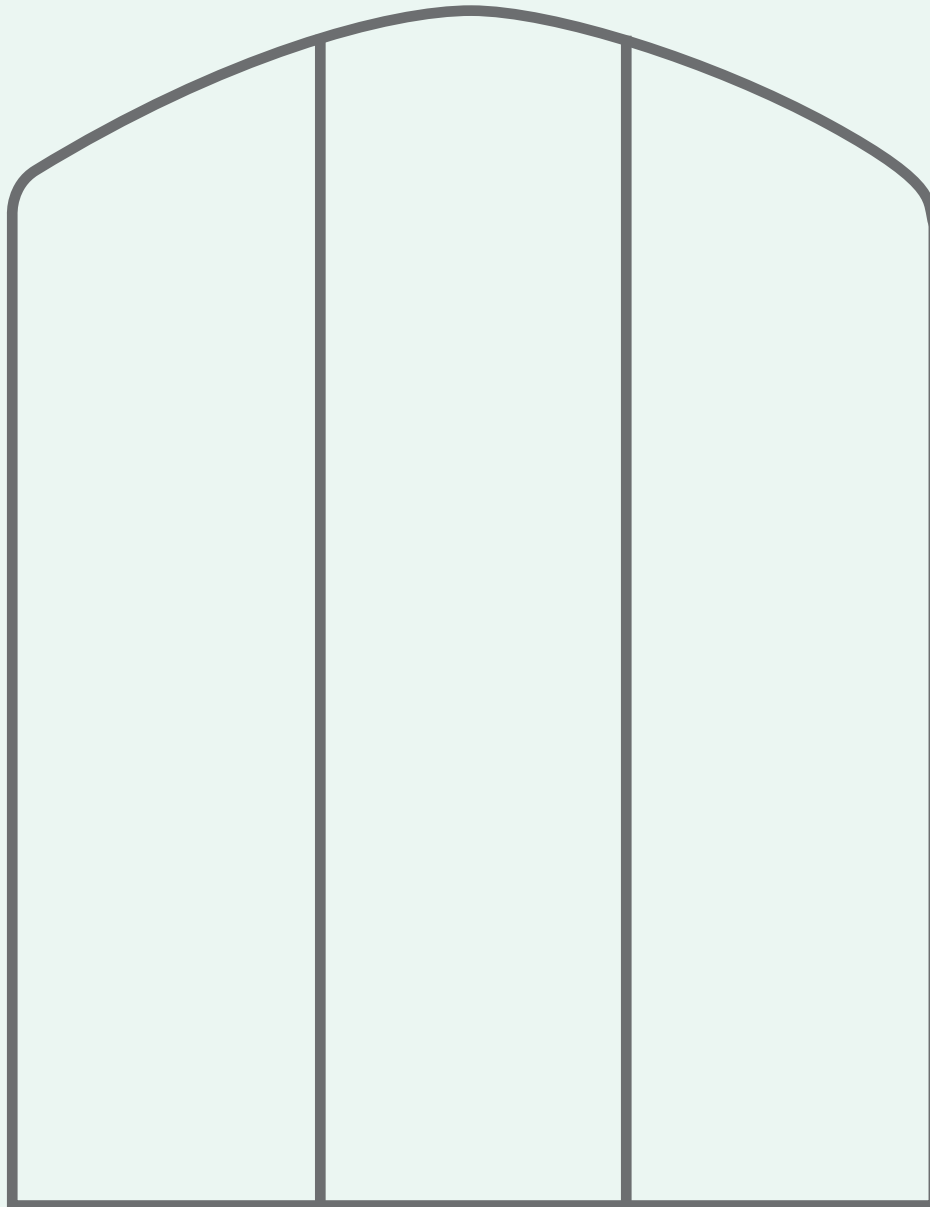
5 edge glass with came and fasten together



6 set into frame

You're the artist:
Make your own cartoon!

In the frame below create your own window cartoon. You may want to use colored pencil, watercolor, craypas, or crayon. Design a story or a decorative scene.



Education
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