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If we were to walk along the south aisle of Troyes Cathedral (in France), we would see a 13th-Century stained-glass window. This image, by Vassil, shows that window. Public Domain.

*Nobody knows the names of the men who made it.
To make something as exquisite as this
without wanting to smash your ... name all over it.
All you hear about nowadays is people making names, not things.*

Albert Finney's Character
Commenting on [the Cathedral at Chartres](#)
Two for the Road

Even the name of the architect who designed the [great cathedral at Chartres](#) (which contains some of Europe's most priceless [stained-glass windows](#)) is lost to history. The oldest part of the church is its crypt (c.1024) and the next-oldest is [the west facade](#) (built about 1155). Those sections survived a devastating fire (after lightning struck the North Tower in 1194), as did these four windows:

- [The Blue Virgin](#) (1170), also known as the Virgin in Majesty ([La Belle Verriere](#)); and
- [Three West Lancet windows](#) (1140-1150) depicting the life and genealogy of Christ: Passion and Resurrection Window (left), [Incarnation Window](#) (center) and a Jesse Tree Window (right).

The present church, properly known as [Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Chartres](#), has 176 stained-glass windows totaling 26,900 square feet. Featured here are examples of brilliantly colored story windows:

- Top frame of the [Becket Window](#) (depicting the murder of [Saint Thomas Becket](#));
- Third section of the [Joseph Window](#) (showing his brothers in Egypt, requesting food);
- Story of [The Good Samaritan](#) (demonstrating the kindness of a passing stranger); and
- Story of Saint James (featuring the window's donors - the guild of [furriers](#) and [drapers](#)).

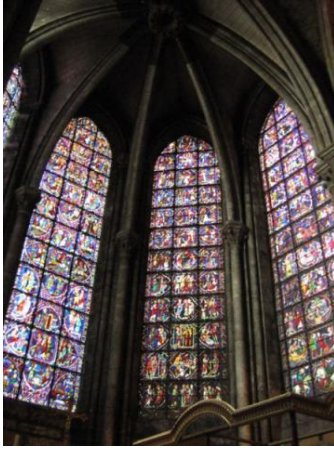
France boasts many more [cathedrals](#) with [gorgeous windows](#), such as [Notre Dame](#) and [Sainte-Chapelle](#) in Paris and the church of [Notre Dame in Reims](#). Our next stop, though, is Britain where we'll first investigate the windows at [Canterbury Cathedral](#).

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/STAINED-GLASS-in-FRANCE-Stained-Glass-Windows>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/STAINED-GLASS-in-FRANCE-Stained-Glass-Windows>



Chartres Cathedral - 13th Century Windows

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Chartres-Cathedral-13th-Century-Windows>



Chartres Cathedral, West Facade

Image online, courtesy nauterre.com website.

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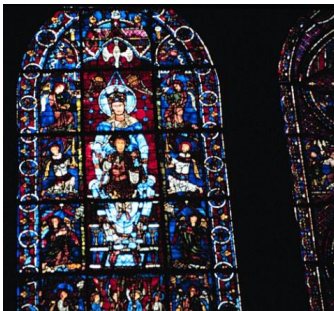


Blue Virgin - 1170 Window at Chartres

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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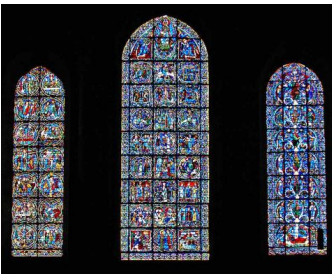


La Belle Verriere - Medieval Window at Chartres

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/La-Belle-Verriere-Medieval-Window-at-Chartres>

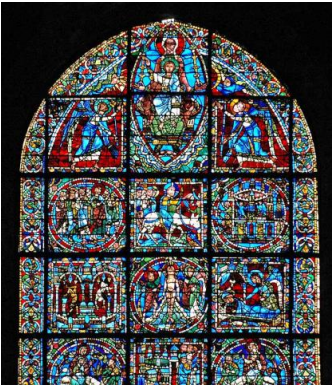


West Lancet Windows - Medieval Glass at Chartres

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Incarnation Window - 12th Century Glass at Chartres

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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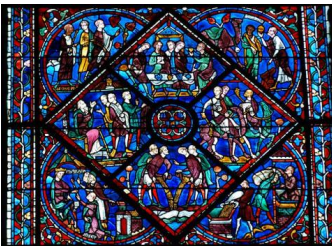


Murder Scene - Becket Window, Chartres

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Joseph Window, Chartres Cathedral

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons. License: CC BY-SA 3.0.

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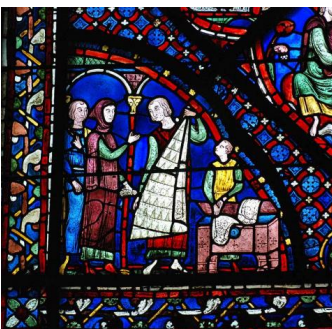


Good Samaritan Window - at Chartres Cathedral

Image online, courtesy the paradoxplace.com website.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Good-Samaritan-Window-at-Chartres-Cathedral>



Story of St. James - Sponsored Window at Chartres

Image online, courtesy the paradoxplace.com website.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Story-of-St.-James-Sponsored-Window-at-Chartres>

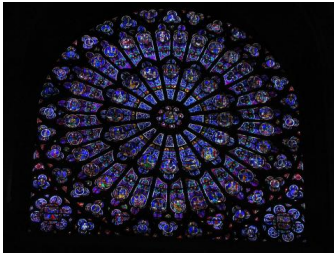


Drapers Scene - Sponsors of Window at Chartres

Image online, courtesy the ciaoadriano.com website.

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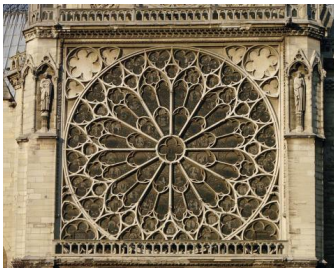


Notre Dame, Paris - Rose Window, South Transept

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Notre Dame, Paris - Rose Window, South Transept - Exterior

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Sainte Chapelle, Paris - Beautiful Interior Windows

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Reims Cathedral - Rose Windows, Nave, Looking West

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

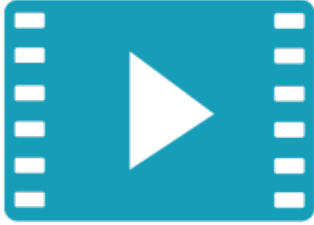
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STAINED GLASS in FRANCE

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Chartres Cathedral - How it Was Engineered

Clip from *Engineering the Impossible: The Chartres Cathedral* - online, courtesy National Geographic Channel at YouTube. Copyright, National Geographic, all rights reserved. Clip provided here as fair use for educational purposes and to acquaint new viewers with the program.

Directed by Mike Ibeji and Melisa Akdogan

Studio: National Geographic

DVD Release: 2 October 2007

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