

Activity ideas – St George Window

Visit the Rosslyn Chapel website for a virtual reality tour of the Chapel and look for the window www.rosslynchapel.com

Background info	Activity	What you will need	Curriculum
<p>Stained glass windows are not designed to let light into a room to see by, in the way that the windows of a house do. They are designed to control the light and make a visual effect.</p>	<p>Experiment by sticking different colours of tissue paper or gel on a window pane. Make observations: What is the effect on the light that shines through? Does the room inside look different? Does it change the colour of an object held up to the light?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coloured tissue or gels • Tac or sticky tape • Objects of different colours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science, • Observation of natural phenomena • Light and colour
<p>St George is the patron saint of England. The English flag is a red cross on a white background, representing his Christian origin, his red cloak and his white horse. 23rd April is St George's Day, a national celebration in England.</p>	<p>Research the patron saints of Scotland, Wales and Ireland. Who are they, what are their colours and what symbols are associated with them? When and how are they celebrated? Present your findings as data in a table.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer access and search engine • Encyclopaedia <p>Use the table on the following page as a template</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social science • Research
<p>Stained glass windows require a lot of design and forethought. The maker has to plan the design in advance on paper and then turn it into a glass structure.</p>	<p>Design your own window with paper and pencil and then turn it into 'stained glass' using coloured tissue or gel. Look on the internet for different styles of stained glass window to inspire you.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer access and search engine • Paper and pencil for initial design • Coloured tissue or gels, black card, scissors and glue 	<p>Art and design</p>
<p>The St George story illustrates a universal theme by turning it into a plot about two characters. The story works on two levels – an adventure yarn about a warrior fighting a dragon, and a statement about the triumph of good over evil.</p>	<p>Think about a theme that means something to you. It could be love, death, loss, hate, friendship, jealousy – anything. Then create a story with two or three characters and a plot that explores your chosen theme.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pen and paper or computer 	<p>Creative writing</p>

Patron Saints of the British Isles

Country	Saint	Colours, Flag, Symbols	Day	How do people celebrate?
England	George	Red and white Red cross on white background	23rd April	Parades and pageants in some towns. Campaign in parliament to make it a public holiday. Flags flown especially in pubs. Morris dancing and traditional English food. Feast day in churches.
Scotland				
Wales				
Ireland				



Small detail from another window at Rosslyn Chapel, also showing St George and the dragon. In this one he has the traditional lance not a sword, and his cloak is red, not orange and red like the main St George window.