raft resource area for teaching
www.raft.net

Curriculum topics:

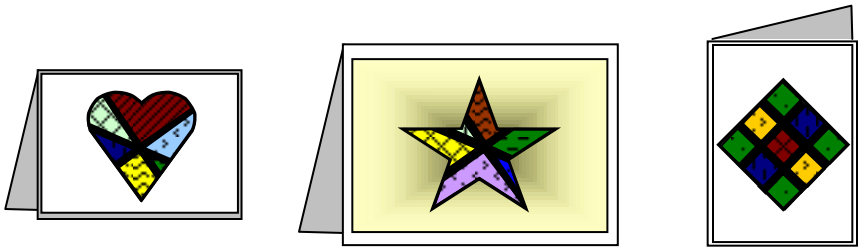
- Art Techniques
- Decorative Arts
- Art History

Subject: Art

Grade range: K – 12

FAUX STAINED GLASS

Foil shines in this art activity!



Student artists of all ability levels can use this flexible technique to create dramatic effects. Their creations will “shine from within”, adding a unique dimension to cards, bookmarks and other decorative objects.

Who we are:

Resource Area for Teaching (RAFT) helps educators transform the learning experience through affordable “hands-on” activities that engage students and inspire the joy and discovery of learning.

For more ideas and to see RAFT Locations

www.raft.net/visit-raft-locations

Materials required

- Cardstock, 8.5” x 11” (21.5 cm x 28 cm)
- **Ink jet** transparency, 8.5” x 11” (21.5 cm x 28 cm)
  Note: ink jet transparencies are preferred because highlighter ink will stick to them.
- Permanent marker, black
- Colored highlighters
- Foil, shiny
- Double-stick tape
- Scissors
- Optional: note card or white cardstock

How to build it

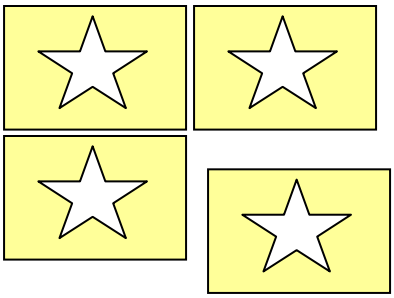
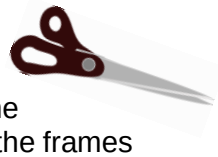


Figure 1

1 Cut the cardstock sheet into four frames. Hand cut (or die cut) an opening in each frame, as shown in figure 1.

> *Tip:* Find easy-to-use oval and rectangle frame templates at http://www.raft.net/raft-idea?isid=524. Other shapes such as a heart or star are also good alternatives.



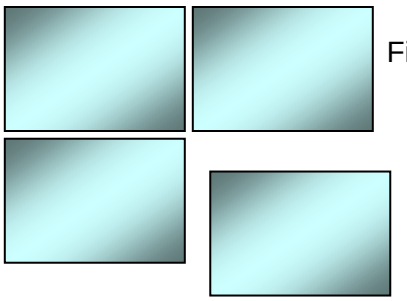


Figure 2

2 Cut the transparency into four pieces. Make the pieces large enough to cover the openings in the frames (figure 2).

> *Tip:* Use scissors that are fairly sharp; that will make it easier to cut the transparency.

3 Place a piece of transparency **on top** of a frame. Make sure the **smooth** side of the transparency is **face-up**.

> *Tip:* To determine which side of a transparency is smooth, slide / sweep / brush it across a smooth surface. The side that slides most easily is the smooth side; the side that resists sliding and feels sticky is the rough side.

Use the black permanent marker to draw thick lines on the **smooth** side of the transparency (figure 3). Let the lines dry. The lines will represent the “leaded” dividers in the stained glass. They can be parallel or intersecting. Simple curves or other designs can also be used (see illustrations on page 1).

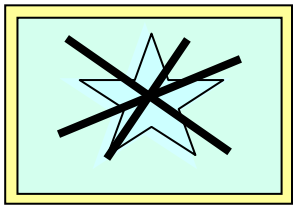


Figure 3

4 Place the frame right side down. Place the transparency **smooth** side down on top of the frame. Attach the transparency to the frame with the double-stick tape (figure 4).

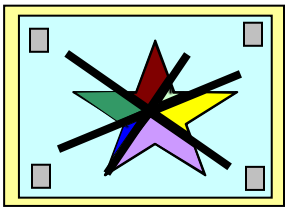


Figure 4

5 Color in the design on the rough side of the transparency using highlighters (figure 4). Test markers on a scrap of transparency material to make sure they will work.

> *Tip*: Go over the same area several times with the highlighters to deposit more color. The colors will look brighter later, when backed with foil.

6 Optional: Use a fine black permanent marker to draw patterns in the different-colored areas – try swirls, crisscrosses, hearts, circles, etc. (figure 5).

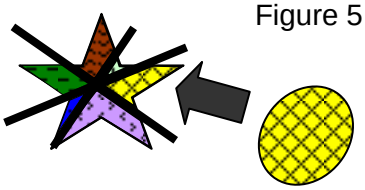


Figure 5

7 Lightly crumple a piece of shiny foil equal to the size of the cut-out. Then, carefully flatten the foil without tearing it. Use double-stick tape to attach the foil to the back of the transparency. Make sure the shiny or colored side is facing the frame. The transparency will sandwiched between the foil and frame as shown in figure 6. Trim off any excess material extending beyond the end of the frame. Then flip the unit over and see the image shine!

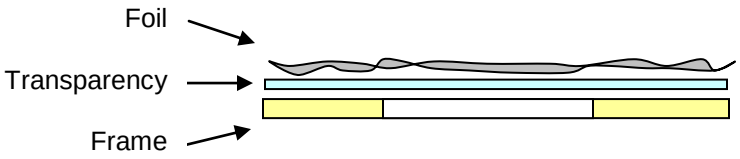


Figure 6

8 Optional: Cut an 8.5" x 11" piece of cardstock in half. Fold one half in half again to make a note card. Mount the finished artwork on the front of the card using double-stick tape. Decorate the frame if desired.

See other examples of finished cards on page 1.

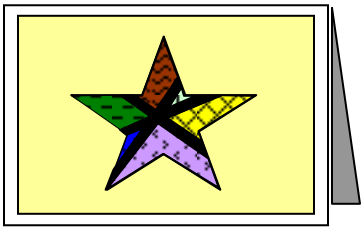
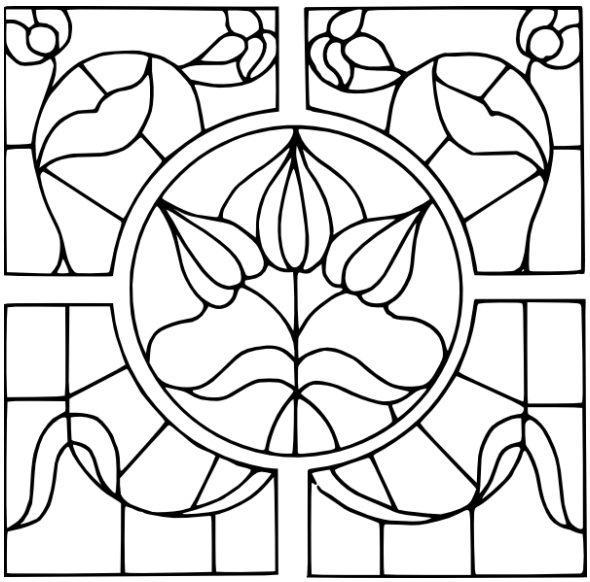
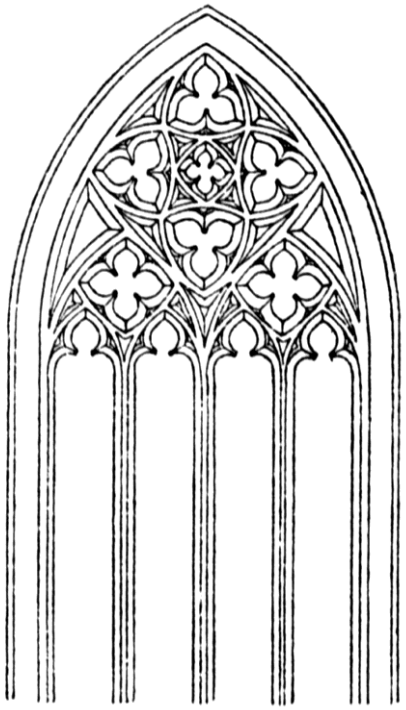


Figure 7

The content behind the activity

Stained glass has a rich history as an art form. Roman builders first used glass in windows in the first century AD, but it took a few more centuries for artists to refine techniques and develop glass-coloring methods. The oldest example of multiple pieces of colored glass used in a window dates from 686 AD, at St. Paul's Monastery, in England. The exquisite stained glass found in some medieval cathedrals often took decades, even centuries, to complete; and the artists' techniques were highly prized and kept secret. This art activity enables students to simulate the amazing color and intricate design of stained glass in a simple and dramatic way.





Curriculum Standards:

Experiment with forms, structures & materials (National Visual Arts Standards: Creating – Organize and develop artistic ideas and work, Grades K-12)

Creativity and innovative thinking (National Visual Arts Standards: Creating – Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work, Grades K-12)

Related activities: See RAFT Idea Sheets:
Variations on frames and cards.

File Folder Frames –
http://www.raft.net/ideas/File Folder Frames.pdf

Foil Art –
http://www.raft.net/ideas/Foil Art.pdf

Glitter Frames and Cards –
http://www.raft.net/ideas/Glitter Frames and Cards.pdf

Puzzling Frames –
http://www.raft.net/ideas/Puzzling Frames.pdf

RAFTy Repoussé –
http://www.raft.net/ideas/RAFTy Repousse.pdf

Refracted, absorbed, scattered, or reflected light.

Anamorphic Art –
http://www.raft.net/ideas/Anamorphic Art.pdf

Color Wheel Kaleidoscope –
http://www.raft.net/ideas/Color Wheel Kaleidoscope.pdf

Colorful Sun Painting –
http://www.raft.net/ideas/Colorful Sun Painting.pdf

Moire Patterns –
http://www.raft.net/ideas/Moire Patterns.pdf

The color of light striking an object affects how our eyes see it.

The Colors of Light –
http://www.raft.net/ideas/Colors of Light.pdf

Stencil Suncatchers –
http://www.raft.net/ideas/Stencil Suncatchers.pdf

The Light Color Wheel –
http://www.raft.net/ideas/Light Color Wheel.pdf

White light is a mixture of many wavelengths (colors).

Color in Seashells –
http://www.raft.net/ideas/Color in Seashells.pdf

Resources

Visit www.raft.net/raft-idea?isid=524 for “how-to” video demos & more ideas!
See these websites for more information on the history of stained glass:

- **A general history of stained glass, from The Art Glass Association –** www.artglassassociation.info/history.htm
- **Glass and stained glass history from ancient to art nouveau –** www.crystal-treasury.com/history.htm
- **Stained glass in medieval Europe –** www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/glas/hd_glas.htm
- **Medieval stained glass science slideshow –** www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/ancient/science-stained-glass.html

Acknowledgements:

Introduced to RAFT by Jean Suzuki.