

# FAUX STAINED GLASS

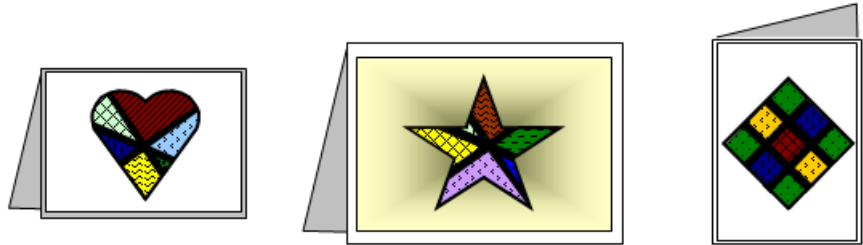
Foil shines in this art activity!

**Curriculum topics:**

- Art Techniques
- Decorative Arts
- Art History

**Subject:** Art

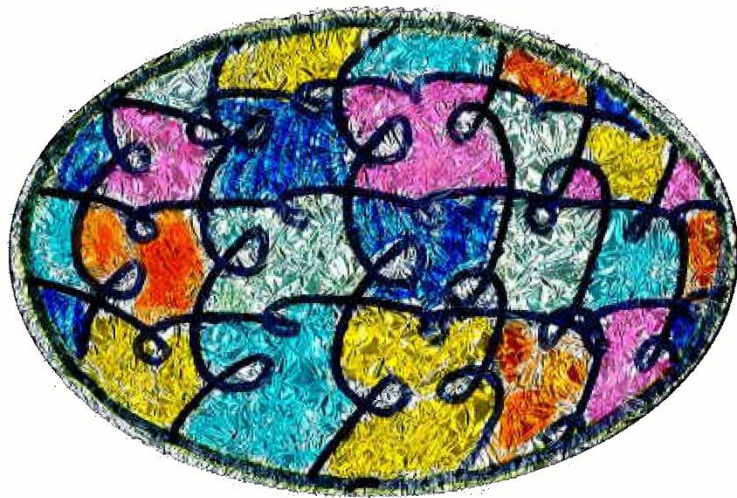
**Grade range:** K – 12



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:**

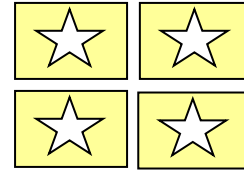
Resource Area for Teaching (RAFT) helps educators transform the learning experience by inspiring joy through hands-on learning.



For more ideas visit  
<https://raft.net>

# Materials required per student

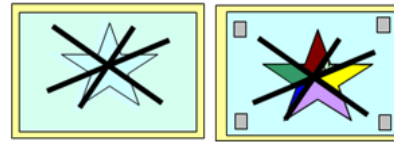
- White cardstock, 8.5" x 11" (x1)
- Colored cardstock equivalent to 4 1/4" x 5.5" (x1)
- Transparency, 4 1/4" x 5.5" (x1)
- Foil, shiny
- Double-stick tape or other tape (not included)
- Scissors (not included)
- Permanent marker, black (not included)
- Colored permanent markers (not included)



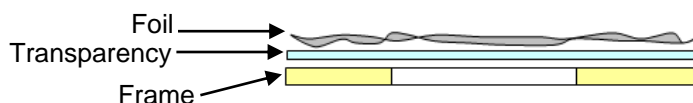
## Set-Up

- 1 Cut the cardstock into four frames and/or folded card. Hand cut an opening in each frame (see stars above).
- 2 Cut the transparency into four pieces with sharp scissors. Make the pieces large enough to cover the openings in the frames.

## To do and notice



- 1 Some transparencies are smooth on both sides while others have a smooth and a rough side. Place a piece of transparency **on top** of a frame. Make sure the **smooth** side of the transparency is **face-up**.
- 2 Use a black permanent marker to draw thick lines on the **smooth** side of the transparency (above left). Add your name or initials on this side, so if transparency falls you will know which side is black. Let the lines dry. The lines represent the "leaded" dividers in the stained glass. They can be parallel or intersecting. Simple curves or other designs can also be used.
- 3 Place the frame right side down. Place the transparency **black** side down on top of the frame. Attach the transparency to the frame with the double-stick tape (above right) or tape transparency edges to cardstock.
- 4 Color in the design on the rough side/back side of the transparency using colored permanent markers (above right). Tip: Using black on one side and colored markers on the back helps to keep your marker tips cleaner. Test markers on a scrap of transparency material to make sure they will work.
- 5 Foil has a dull side and a shiny side. Discover which side reflects more light. Lightly crumple a piece of foil slightly larger than the cut-out. Then carefully open and lightly flatten the foil without tearing it. It will be bumpy. Make sure the shiny side of the foil is facing the frame. Use double-stick tape to attach the foil to the back of the transparency, or tape foil edges down. The transparency will be sandwiched between the foil and frame (see below). Trim off any excess material extending beyond the end of the frame. Then flip the unit over and see the image shine!
- 6 Optional: Cut an 8.5" x 11" piece of cardstock in half. Cut and 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 title page).



## Content Standards:

### CA Visual Arts

Generate & conceptualize artistic ideas and work:

[K.VA:Cr1.1](#)

[2.VA:Cr1.1](#)

[6.VA:Cr1.1](#)

Organize & develop artistic ideas and work:

[3.VA:Cr2.1](#)

[5.VA:Cr2.1](#)

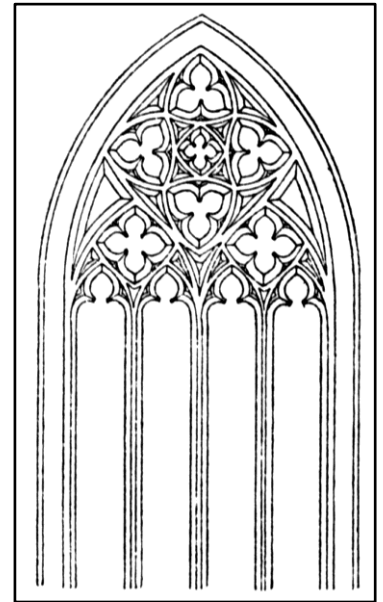
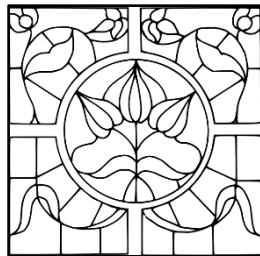
[8.VA:Cr2.1](#)

Develop & refine artistic techniques and work for presentation:

[PK.VA:Pr5](#)

# 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.



## Learn more

- Make a scaled replica of a well-known scene depicted using stained glass.
- Make a decorative award to give to a peer.
- Design geometric figures composed of smaller shapes (triangles, squares, etc.)
- Create an animated stained-glass project using several plastic overlays to form a picture.

Visit <https://raft.net> to view the following related activities!

Foiled Stencil Cards  
Glitter Frames and Cards  
RAFTY Repousse  
Repousse Ornaments  
Stencil Embossing  
Anamorphic Art  
Puzzling Frames

## Resources

- YouTube video (10:53), Stained-glass for beginners - <https://bit.ly/2RDb6g5>
- Various stained-glass images - <https://bit.ly/3cd3rwK>
- Famous stained-glass windows - <https://bit.ly/3cntRMf>