



Column Capital from St Edward the Confessor's Cloister, about 1100

Under 11 activity – Christianity in 10 objects

What do you see in these two pictures?

What do you think the objects might be?

What story do you think they might be telling?

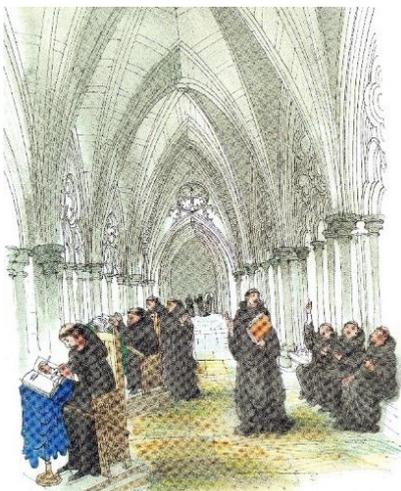
What does it make you wonder?



Churches were built as a place for Christians to pray and worship God and to show how much they love God. The buildings themselves told stories. They were decorated with images of stories from the Bible, the Christian holy book, which helped people to learn about Christianity.

For example, these images are of the top section of a column, called a column capital, that were part of St Edward the Confessor's Westminster Abbey. These column capitals tell the biblical story of the Judgment of Solomon. Each side of the capital shows an important moment from the story.

If you haven't already, you can listen to the Judgment of Solomon on the Column Capital webpage.



Hundreds of years ago, monks lived, worked and prayed in Westminster Abbey. The monks spent lots of their time learning and studying as well as playing games in the Abbey's cloisters.

Most people didn't have the same opportunities to learn as the monks. Many people during this time couldn't read or write and there were no TVs, films or audiobooks for people to discover stories. Instead, stories were often spoken or shared through images and symbols.

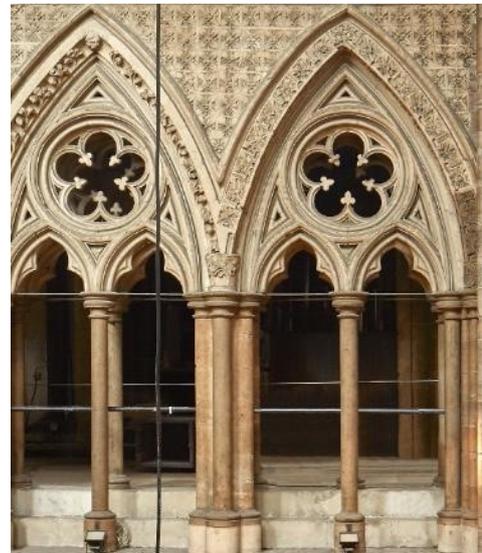
Talk to others

Buildings can be constructed in lots of different styles, using different shapes and materials. St Edward the Confessor's church was built in the Norman style with rounded arches and simple designs. When Westminster Abbey was rebuilt hundreds of years later, it was built in the Gothic style, which you can still see today when you visit the Abbey.

These images show Gothic and Norman building styles. What differences can you spot between the two styles?

You might want to think about:

- Shapes
- Light
- Decoration



Activity: Designing a still image or freeze frame

Create your own still image or freeze frame to tell one important moment in a story. You could do this by taking a photograph, drawing a picture or even cutting out images from magazines or newspapers.

Your moment could be from the story of the Judgement of Solomon, another Bible story or a different story you are familiar with.

Extension

Now that you have captured one important moment from a story, can you retell the whole story? Perhaps you could experiment in retelling different moments in different ways? Which was your favourite?

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