FOCUS on the art and architecture of Westminster Abbey and discover more from some of the artists, architects, craftsmen, masons and sculptors that were involved in its creation.

This map will help guide you around the Abbey. The trail starts at number 1 near the Great West Door. Follow the blue dots in numerical order.
Find the chair that kings and queens sit on when they are crowned and then look at the painting next to this.

I painted this picture on wood using lots of gold and other rich colours. Gold is often used in Christian paintings to show light; it also tells us that the person in the painting is very important.

He is wearing a crown and holding the orb and sceptre but can you see the letter on his clothes that tells you it is King _______?  
*Fill in his name in the blank*

I painted it when this king was alive. This makes it the oldest known portrait of an English king - I am quite proud of that!

**FOCUS**

This King was only 10 years old when he was crowned!  
**Do you think the artist made him look?**

Old   Rich   Young   Mean   Poor   Kind   Important

*Circle the words you agree with*
Walk down the Nave to look at the stained glass windows of England’s kings along the north (left) side.

**ARCHITECT**
Sir Ninian Comper
1900s

I designed the stained glass windows showing kings that were important to Westminster Abbey. To make the windows look medieval I decided that the blue glass should be made in clay pots instead of the iron ones we usually use. Today I am buried near my windows.

**GLASSMAKERS**
Messrs Chance
1900s

To make the windows we heated silica (sand) until it was really really hot: over 2,000°C! We mixed cobalt with the silica to make blue glass. Lots of people think the colour blue stands for heaven.

**FOCUS**
See if you can spot Edward the Confessor and Henry III, two kings that were very important to the building of Westminster Abbey.
Design your own stained glass window, including someone who is important to you. Think about what colours you will use.
Stop just before the golden Quire Screen; please stand to one side.

MASTER MASONs
Henry of Reyns, John of Gloucester and Robert of Beverley
1240s

We masons rebuilt Westminster Abbey. Our King Henry III wanted a new church in honour of Saint Edward the Confessor whose body still lies here. We didn’t have electricity or computers as you do today.

What tools do you think we might have used?

Pickaxe Electric Drill Chisel Hammer Nail Gun Spirit Level Trowels

Circle from the list of tools

FOCUS
The high ceilings and arches all point upwards to make you think of heaven. Look up above the stone pillars. Can you see the join between two parts of the building?

When Henry died only one bay of the Nave was finished. The rest weren’t completed for over two hundred years! Although it was a lot later the masons continued Henry’s Gothic style.
As you walk through the golden Quire Screen, look up. At one time all of Westminster Abbey would have been covered in bright colours like this.

Stop in the Quire and look around at all the different colours and shapes.

ARCHITECT
Edward Blore
1830s

I redesigned the Quire when I was the Surveyor of the Abbey. A lot of people have worshipped here, from the monks a thousand years ago to the choir singing at services today. There is even a special seat for the Queen.

I was known for using detail. Can you spot any of the shapes I included?

FOCUS
All of the shapes below are Christian symbols. Draw lines to match the shape to its meaning.

The Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit
The Four Evangelists (they wrote the gospels)
God: this shape has no beginning or end
The five wounds of Jesus when he died
Continue to the middle of the Abbey. 
Look at the Cosmati Pavement in front of the High Altar.

FOCUS
The Cosmati Pavement is about 750 years old. Look carefully at all the different shapes and how they fit together. Write down or draw some of the shapes you can see.

CRAFTSMEN
Cosmati Family
1260s

We brought lots of materials over from Italy to make this pavement. We used pieces of precious stone, marble and coloured glass cut in all different sizes. It is in a very important place, in front of the High Altar and where kings and queens are crowned.
Continue round past the tombs of the medieval kings and go up the steps into the Lady Chapel.

Look up at this very special space. Write down some words to describe what you see.

FOCUS
Not all of the sculptures are still here today. Each figure carries something unique which helps people work out who they are. What items can you see them holding?

I worked with a team of sculptors to make a whopping 107 figures to go into the new Lady Chapel! King Henry VII chose which saints and prophets he wanted to be included.
Leave the Lady Chapel and continue until you reach Poets’ Corner.

Christ with St. Thomas and St. Christopher

I was cleaning behind some monuments when I discovered something amazing: two ancient wall paintings! Although they have faded, they remind us of the time when most people would have learnt about bible stories from pictures like these.

FOCUS
Can you work out what is happening in these paintings?
Now leave the main church building and go back to the Cloisters. If you can, please visit the Chapter House before you leave.

Look out for:

- Stained glass windows
- Wall paintings
- Shapes
- Sculpture
- Tiles

We hope that you enjoyed your visit to the Abbey today. Before you leave talk to your group about what you found most interesting.