

## How to make a stained-glass window



Until the end of the Middle Ages, only the rich could afford glass in their windows. The only buildings with glazed windows were royal palaces, churches, abbey chapels and mansions of wealthy merchants.

Lead lights or leaded windows consist of small sections of glass held together by strips of lead (comes). Leaded windows are ideal for fancy decorations with colourful figures.



**The technique** of creating stained-glass windows is very old. On the basis of a pattern or image, pieces of coloured or painted glass are cut to shape. The pieces of glass are then set into a lead frame and soldered together.

## Activity

Make a stained-glass window with paper and silk paper.



1. Draw a frame and make a drawing inside this frame.  
Keep the drawing simple. Leave out any details.
2. Draw double parallel lines. These lines represent the strips of lead in your stained-glass window. Make sure the line is wide enough. Also make sure that all lines are interconnected. Take a look at the butterfly on the previous page by way of illustration.
3. Hatch all sections you want to cut out or prick out. These sections will be replaced by coloured silk paper.
4. Cut out or prick out all sections. You will be left with the frame and the double lines (the comes of the stained-glass window).  
Tip: Do not cut through the frame, but first make a small hole in the section you want to remove.
5. Paint the frame and the double lines black.
6. Take some silk paper and paste a piece of silk paper behind each open section.  
Tip: Work on the reverse of the stained-glass window. Turn your stained-glass window over and draw the shape of the section on the silk paper (with a small edge). Then paste it onto the reverse of the stained-glass window.