

XV Medieval art



1. Fromista's church, in Palencia, Spain.

**There are important works of art. Can you name some examples of Medieval Art?
We are going to test your previous knowledge in a word wall worksheet.**

Architecture	Sculpture	Painting

I Romanesque art

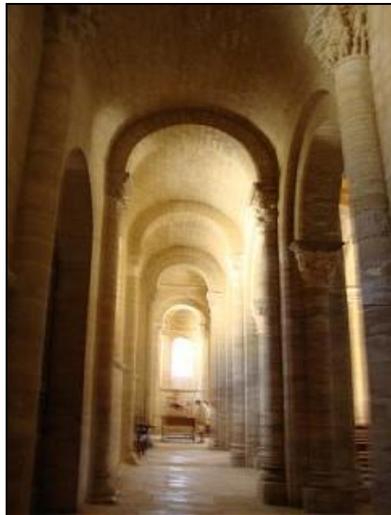
Romanesque art is a style characteristic of the first of two great international artistic eras that flourished in Europe during the Middle Ages. **Romanesque architecture** emerged about 1000 and lasted until about 1150, by which time it had developed into Gothic. The **Romanesque** was at its height between 1075 and 1125 in most western European lands.

Romanesque is a term relating to a style of architecture which prevailed in Europe c.900-1200, with massive **vaulting** and **round arches**.

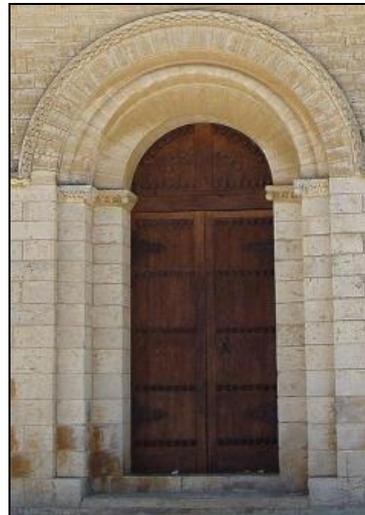
There are two types of vault in this period:

Barrel vault is a roof consisting of a series of semicylindrical arches.

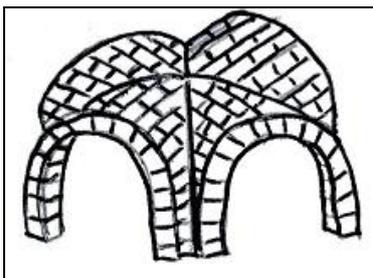
Groin (or cross) vault is formed by the perpendicular intersection of two barrel vaults.



1. Barrel vault. Fromista, Spain.



2. Circular or round arch. Fromista, Spain.



3. Groin or cross vault.

KEY WORDS

Arch:

Keystone
Voussoirs

Portal:

archivolts
jamb
column
capitals

Vault: a structural member consisting of an arrangement of arches, usually forming a ceiling or roof.

- **Look at picture number 2. Draw a round arch and write the parts of it. Use your notebook.**
- **Dictionary use. Look up in a dictionary or the Internet the KEY WORDS.**

The Romanesque style is called that because it is a little like Roman architecture, but it is made around 1000-1200 AD instead of during the Roman Empire.

By 1000 AD kings and queens were beginning to order important, stone buildings again, like St. Germain des Pres in Paris.

Mostly castles and churches were built in the Romanesque style. You can see Romanesque buildings all over France, England, Italy, and Germany, and in northern Spain (the part that was not taken over by the Umayyad).

Some examples of Romanesque buildings are the Women's Abbey and the Men's Abbey in Caen, France, both built around 1050 AD. Just a little later, you have the cathedral and baptistery of Pisa, Italy, built about 1060 and 1150 AD, the church of St. Sernin in Toulouse (1080 AD), and the baptistery of Florence, Italy, built around 1100 AD.

Romanesque buildings were made of stone, but often had wooden roofs because people were still not very good at building stone roofs yet. If they did have stone roofs, the walls had to be very thick in order to hold up the roofs, and there couldn't be very many windows either, so Romanesque buildings were often very heavy and dark inside.

They had round arches, like Roman buildings, and decorated column capitals like the Romans too; only Romanesque capitals often have carvings of people or animals on them instead of plants.

1. Read the text and circle the odd one out. Give a reason why it is the odd one out.

a) A church B castle C abbey D supermarket

The odd one out is _____ *because* _____

b) A spoon B stone C roofs D wood

c) A kings B monks C queens D rabbits

d) A dark B light C thick walls D heavy

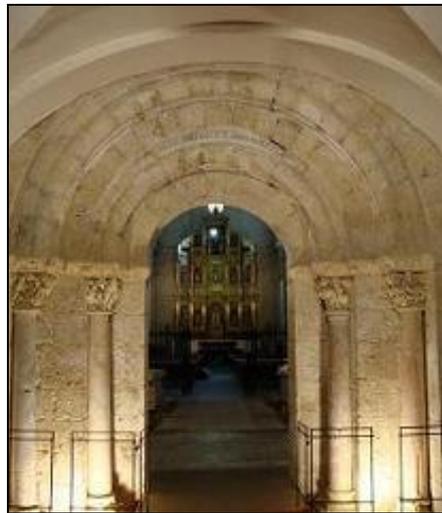
e) A architecture B Roman C work D Europe

f) A round arch B pyramids C capitals D columns

2. Complete the chart

Positive	Comparative	Superlative	Meaning
Thick			
		the heaviest	
	later		
Dark			
little (quantity)			
Good			

3. Parts of a Romanesque Portal. ¹ Look at the picture and read the text.



4.Church in Carrion de los Condes.

- a) **Tympanum:** a space over a door between the lintel and the arch: a carving on this space.
- b) **Archivolt:** a band of mouldings (or arches framing the tympanum of a portal) round the curve of an arch.
- c) **Lintel:** a horizontal piece – in stone or timber- across a door or window.
- d) **Trumeau:** a pillar dividing a large doorway.
- e) **Jamb:** a side of a doorway or window.

- **Now draw a Romanesque portal and write names of the parts (Use your notebook)**

1. Romanesque art Word Search with hidden message

¹ Medieval art glossary from *Medieval Art and Architecture*:
<http://www.pitt.edu/~medart/menuglossary/INDEX.HTM>

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(ARCHIVOLT, CAPITAL, COLUMN, JAMB, KEYSTONE, LINTEL, PORTAL,
TRUMEAU, TYMPANUM, VAULT, VOUSOIR, ARCH)

N U D U R I N G T H E M V I D
D M A L M U N A P M Y T O L E
A G U E E S R O M A A N U A E
S Q U L M E A N D R G O S T T
H K I C O U C W C E R E S R T
H E E M A C R H A I N A O O R
T M O Y V P I T E M E N I P T
S U J P S V I H V K G I R X T
W Y C V O T J T P L Z Y H Y R
K M X L A K O K A F X E G O M
S C T E R U J N P L H Z G Z B
L T W I V H L A E N X R X H Y
U D H L F P A T M E P F I W R
J Q L E T N I L R B I M J Q L
R Q Q G W F Q D A V X C Q L X

The Tower of Pisa

TEXT STUDENT A

The Tower of Pisa, Italy, is a world famous building because it is not straight – it leans to one side. It is also an outstanding example of Italian Romanesque architecture. In the 12th century a well-off widow called Berta di Bernado, left money in her will to start the construction of the Tower. Although the name of the builder is not known, the construction began in 1173. This Tower of Pisa is a bell tower which is close to a cathedral and a baptistery. Because of long wars which involved Pisa, the *campanile* building was not completely finished until 1350. Not many years after work began the Tower started to lean. The cause of it leaning is that is built on unsuitable ground next to a riverbed.

This exceptional bell tower is circular and it has eight floors. It is made from limestone and mortar. The whole exterior is covered in white marble. Every level has arches and columns. The bells are found on the top floor.



1. Italy's map.



2. Tower of Pisa (Italy)

TEXT STUDENT B

There are several factors that have prevented the Tower from falling; firstly, it took a long time to build it, secondly materials settled down and a third reason is due to the foundations that became stronger. Yet the last and most important reason is the material that was used: not only limestone but also mortar which bends so it doesn't crack.

Quite a few projects have been endeavoured to prevent the Tower from leaning without succeeding. The worst one was attempted by an Italian engineer in 1934 who instead of correcting the Tower bent it more. During the 1990s they tried and tried again. Finally, when everybody was about to give up, a British Professor of engineering had a plan. His brilliant idea consisted of removing ground from the high side of the Tower instead of adding ground to the low side. In 1999 the work began, and although it was very slow, it was finished by mid 2001. Now the tower is safe and it won't fall.

Now you may ask yourself 'Why didn't they straighten it up?' The answer is in the tower's name!

Student worksheet

Activity 1 Answer true or false

- When the work started the Tower began to lean.
- The Tower of Pisa is near the baptistery and the cathedral.
- The building was sponsored by a nobleman.
- The most important factor in preventing the Tower from falling is the material that it is made from.
- Only a plan has been made to straighten the Tower up.
- An Italian professor succeeded in correcting the Tower of Pisa.

Rewrite the false sentences

Activity 2 What is the significance of these words/dates/events?

- 1173 _____
- Berta di Bernardo _____
- Campanile _____
- Pisa _____
- 1350 _____
- Italy _____
- Romanesque _____
- 2001 _____
- 1934 _____

Activity 3 Use the text to answer the questions.

1. How long did the construction of the Tower of Pisa take? _____
2. In which century did a widow leave money to construct a bell in the Tower of Pisa? _____

3. In what year was the tower finished? _____
4. Why did it take so long to build it? _____
5. What is the name of the country in which the Tower stands? _____
6. What was the name of the person who sponsored the building of the Tower? _____

7. Why was everybody about to give up trying to correct the bend in the Tower of Pisa? _____

8. How many years did they spend restoring the Tower in the 1990s? _____

Tapestry of Creation (Gerona)



1. Tapestry of Creation. 12th century (Gerona Cathedral, Spain).
month of April.



2. Detail of Personification of the month of April.

Notice that...

The Tapestry of Creation in Gerona is not a tapestry (which is woven), but an embroidery (which is sewn).

Tapestry: **a thick fabric in which threads are woven to form pictures or designs.**
Embroidery: **the art of decorating a cloth with needlework (sewn).**

weave wove woven **teixir / tejer** sew sewed sewn **cosir / coser**

What is the Tapestry of Creation about?

The Tapestry of Creation or The Gerona Tapestry tells the Creation myths of the Bible and contains some images showing the world of nature. It also has historical references and personifications of the months of the year. Every month illustrates a farming activity as you can see in picture number 2 where a peasant is pulling a plough.

Why is it called The Gerona Tapestry?

It is called the Gerona Tapestry because it has been kept in Gerona in Spain, probably ever since it was made.

Who ordered the tapestry to be made?

This work, unique to its genre in Europe, was made in the 12th century and was probably ordered by a member of the church.

Who made the Gerona Tapestry?

An illuminator was the person who designed tapestries or manuscripts. During the Middle Ages women also worked in the workshops.

How big is the Gerona Tapestry?

The remaining tapestry measures exactly 3.65m tall and 4.70m long.

Where was the Gerona Tapestry made?

It is thought that the tapestry was made in the local area, close to Gerona, where from the 10th century there were illuminators in the nearby monasteries of Vich and Ripoll.

What colours were used to make the Tapestry?

The three main colours are, green, beige and red. There are also places where other colours such as dark green and yellow have been used.

Where is the Gerona Tapestry?

The Gerona Tapestry is now displayed in the Cathedral Museum of Gerona, in Spain.

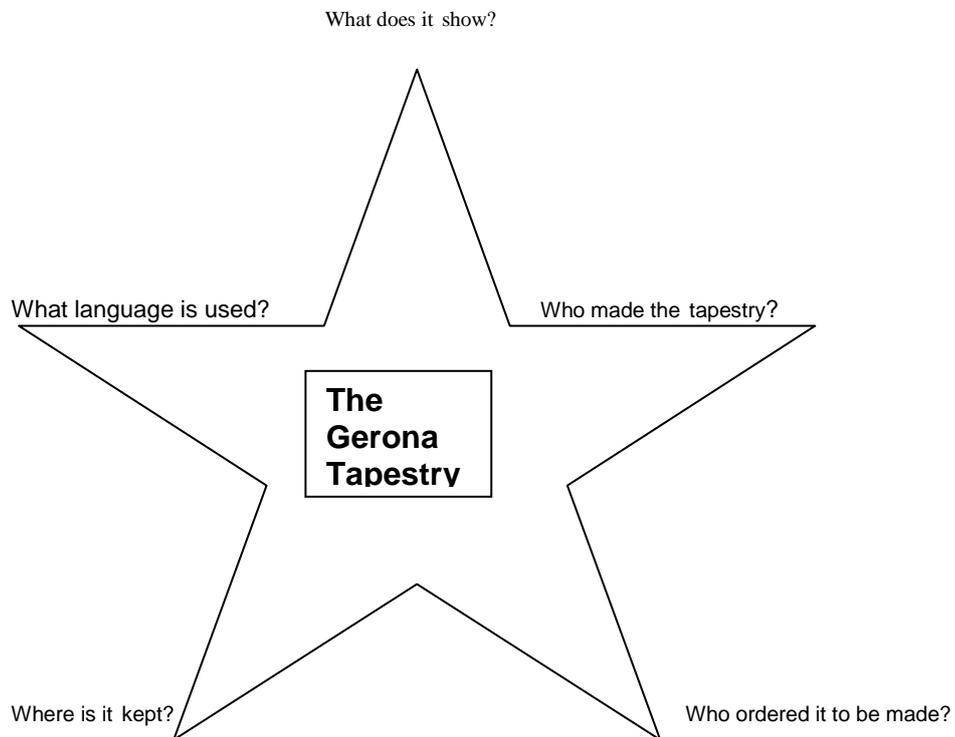
What language is used on the Gerona Tapestry?

The writing on the tapestry is Latin. This is probably because Latin was the main language used in written documents during the Middle Ages.

1. Dictionary work. Try to match the words in the first line with the second line.

1 thread	2 embroidery	3 textile	4 woven
___ sewn	___ fibres	___ tapestry	___ fabric

2. Fill in the star by answering the questions



6. In pairs, write a Wh-question for every word that you unscramble.

7. Re-arrange the words to make a new word connected with the Gerona Tapestry.

ANAGRAMS

An **anagram** is the rearrangement of the letters of a word, name, phrase, sentence or title into another word or sentence. ALL the letters of the name or sentence must be used only ONCE.

reaction	
striptease	
orange	
Pains	
to a mill ruin	
at Nil	

II Gothic Art



1. Leon's cathedral (Spain).

Gothic art evolved from **Romanesque art** and lasted from the mid-12th century to as late as the end of the 16th century in some areas.

Architecture

In Spain new **gothic** architectural ideas were slow to arrive from France. The **Cistercians** introduced a variety of gothic features to Spanish architecture such as the use of the **pointed arch**. However like in Germany, many buildings of the early thirteen century still possessed a Romanesque appearance, Lleida is an example of this. The first churches in Spain to imitate French gothic cathedrals were the cathedrals of Burgos and Toledo. The cathedral which was most similar to the French style was in Leon. The Spanish clung to the Bourges- Le-Mans cathedral type. For example Barcelona, Palma de Majorca and Seville all conform to this style.²

Where did gothic ideas originate from? _____

In what century? _____

Which cathedral was most similar to the French style? _____

What style do the building in picture 1 follow? _____

² Visit these sites: <http://www.mcah.columbia.edu/ha/html/medieval.html>
<http://www.leon.es/leonmedieval/swf/main.html?en>

How to build arches: http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/launch_ani_build_arch.shtml

When did Spain begin to follow French trends in sculpture? _____

What is an important example of this? _____

What kind of arch was used? _____

Ferrer Bassa, a Catalan painter.

During this period Italian painting was very important. Between 1320 and 1350, a painter from Barcelona called **Ferrer Bassa** was commissioned to paint a series of **fresco** paintings in a chapel near Barcelona (now in Barcelona) in Sant Miguel de Pedralbes. These frescoes follow the Italian style. However, all of Bassa's work is in Spain and we do not know anything about whether he travelled or not. What we do know is that he must have studied the major Italian **masterpieces** as you can see a similar style in his paintings. Italian painters continued to influence Spanish painting throughout the fourteenth century.



1. Answer the following questions.

- 1) In what century did Ferrer Bassa live? _____
- 2) What style did Ferrer Bassa follow? _____
- 3) Where is all of Bassa's work? _____
- 4) Was this influence normal in Spanish painting at this time? _____

2. Work the vocabulary

Cistercian _____

Gothic _____

Fresco _____

Masterpieces _____

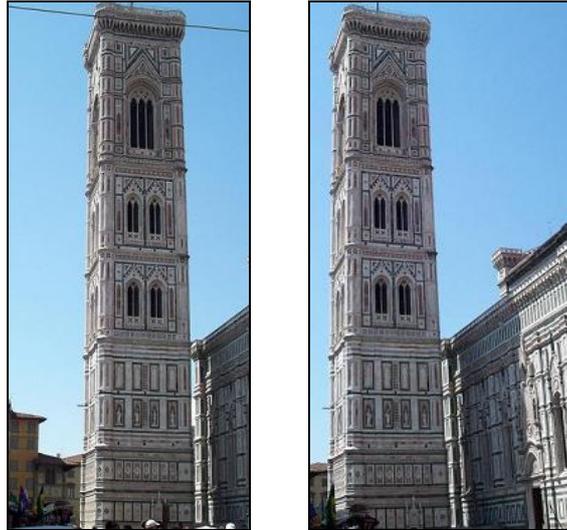
Pointed arch _____

Giotto, an Italian painter

Giotto (c. 1267 - 1337) was a Florentine painter and architect. His full name was Giotto di Bondone. He was born in about 1266 near Florence. His father was a farmer. There are different ideas of how he became a painter. The writer Giorgio Vasari tells of how Cimabue (a famous painter) met him when Giotto was only 12-years-old and convinced his father that he should paint. Another version is that Giotto was first an apprentice in wool merchant's in Florence and he frequently visited Cimabue's workshop and then he became a painter.

Giotto worked in several Italian cities such as Rome, Naples and Florence and worked as a **fresco** painter. In Florence he also worked as an architect and built the campanile (bell tower) in the city's Cathedral.³

³ For further information visit these sites.



8 and 9. Il campanile, in Florence's Cathedral.

1. Giotto's quiz

a) When did Giotto meet Cimabue?

- Giotto met Cimabue when he was 12 years-old and started painting
- Giotto worked with a wool merchant and never met Cimabue.
- Giotto worked as a carpenter.

b) What was Giotto's father job?

- He was a painter.
- He was a farmer.
- He was a wool merchant.

c) Why is Giotto famous?

- Because he was a painter.
- Because he was a painter and an architect.
- Because he was a wool apprentice.

d) In which cities did Giotto work?

- He worked in Florence.
- He worked in Rome, Naples and Florence.
- He worked only in Naples.

What building did Giotto build?

- Florence's Cathedral.
- A bell tower in the outskirts of Florence.
- Florence's Cathedral campanile.

Gothic cathedral tour http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/interactive/games/church_floorplan/index.shtml

Paint wells cathedral :

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/trail/church_state/pre_reformation/act_paint_entry.shtml

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/trail/church_state/modern/stained_glass_01.shtml

Gothic cathedral quiz http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/trail/church_state/

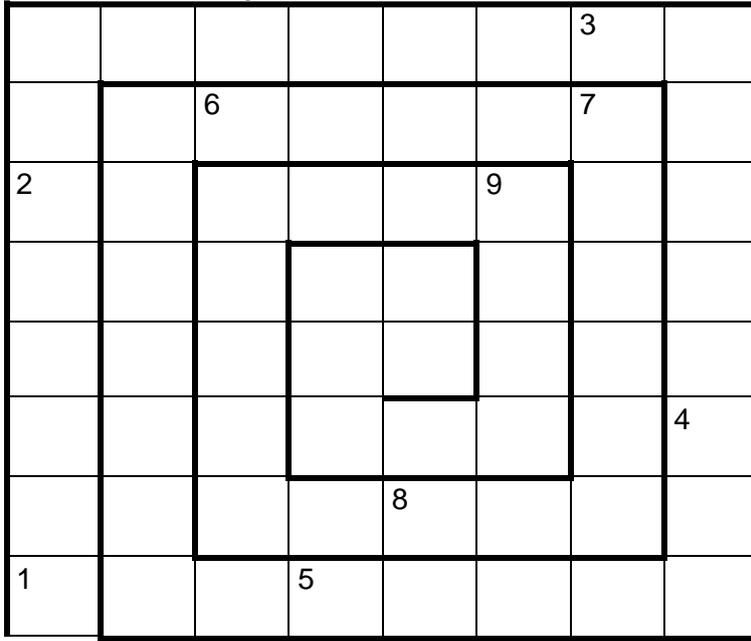
Early church quiz

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/trail/church_state/pre_reformation/quiz_early_church_entry.shtml

Church Quiz http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/trail/church_state/architecture/quiz_architecture_entry.shtml

Make a vertical timeline http://www.teach-nology.com/web_tools/materials/timelines/

2. Medieval art spiral



- 1. An arched structure of masonry, forming a ceiling.
- 2. The central stone of an arch.
- 3. Doorway or entrance especially one that is large and imposing (e.g. church).
- 4. A kind of pillar; a cylindrical or polygonal support for a roof, ceiling, statue, etc., somewhat ornamented, and usually composed of base, shaft, and capital.
- 5. The architectural element surrounding the curved opening of an arch.

- 6. The vertical side of any opening, as a door.
- 7. The head or uppermost member of a column, pilaster, etc.
- 8. The principal church in a diocese, so called because the bishop has his official chair (Cathedra) or throne in it.
- 9. Applied to the architecture prevailing from the 9th century to the 12th.

3. Sort the items from the box into the appropriate column.

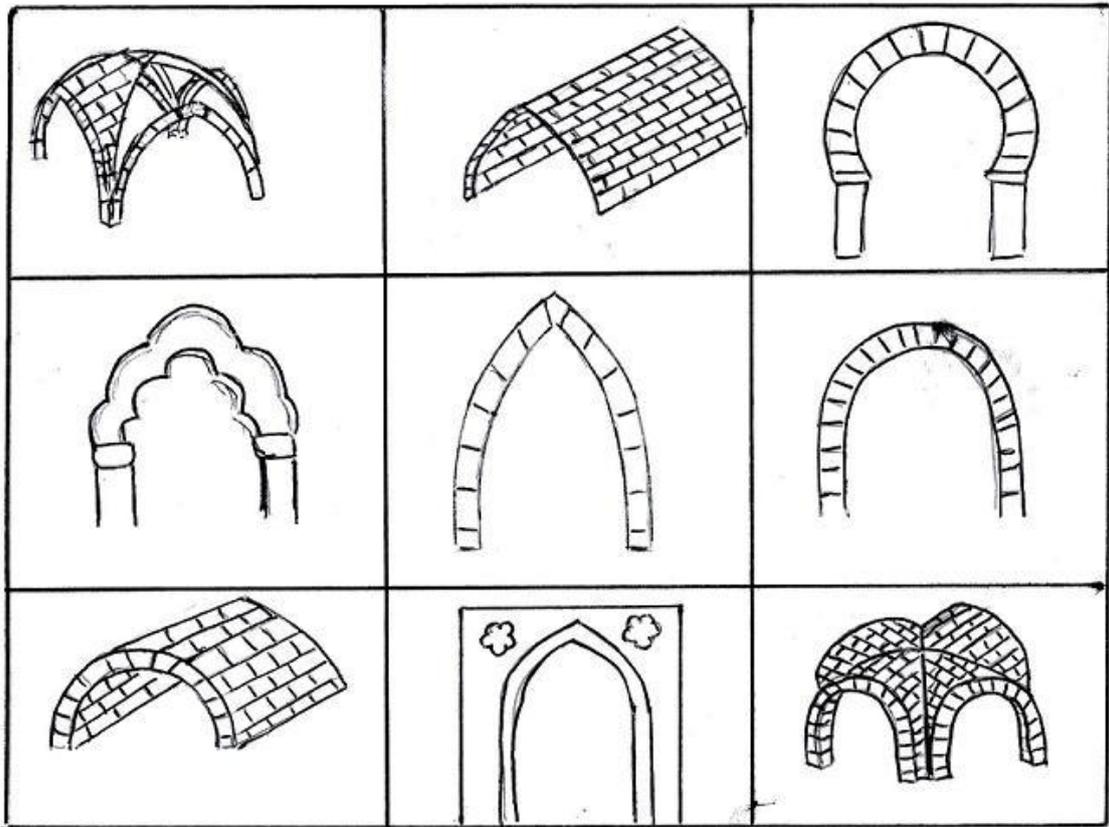
Romanesque	Gothic
-	-

round arch Cistercian barrel vault pointed or gothic arch pointed vault
 cathedral groin vault ribbed vault church

Medieval Art activity

4. Look at the graphics bellow. Cut them and put them to the correct column. Try to work out the reason.

	Islamic art		Romanesque	Gothic
Arches		arches		
	Horseshoe arch		Round or Roman arch	Pointed or gothic arch
Arches		vaults		
	Pointed arch		Barrel vault	Pointed vault
Arches		vaults		
	Scalloped Arch		Groin vault	Gothic ribbed vault



Muslim art

❖ In pairs answer the following questions. Use the words in the word bank.

1. Did you know that the Giralda in Seville used to be a Muslim minaret? _____
2. Do you know the name of the place of worship in the Islamic religion? _____
3. Can you name a famous mosque in Spain? _____
4. Can you name another mosque somewhere else? _____
5. Do you know if the mosque was used for other purposes? _____
6. Apart from the mosque the Muslims can pray in other places. Can you say where? _____

7. How many times must a Muslim pray every day? _____
8. If you were a Muslim what things would you not be allowed to do? _____

9. What things would you be allowed to do? _____

WORD BANK

mosque / drink alcohol / marry several women / play gambling games / eat pork/ at home / law court / hospital / pray five times per day / in the desert/ lodging for travellers / Cordova / Jerusalem / Kairouan or Qairouan / private mosques / school / Mecca

I Giralda of Seville (Spain)

1. Read the text about the Giralda.

The Giralda of Seville is now a bell tower. In the past it was a **minaret** of a Muslim **mosque**. The lower part of the Giralda was built by the Muslims. Its construction began in 1184. To build the minaret, they reused stones from ancient Roman buildings. There are two walls inside the tower. Between the two walls a ramp goes up to the terrace. In the past, the **muezzins** went up the tower on a horse. The minaret was finished in 1196.

When the Christians conquered Seville in 1248 the mosque became a cathedral and in 1433 the building was demolished to build a real Christian cathedral. The new cathedral was inaugurated in 1507 and the Giralda was used as the bell tower of the cathedral. Later, some work was done to the top of it. The Giralda is a hundred metres tall.

1.1. Text comprehension. Work in pairs and write down your findings in your notebook.

- a) What is the difference between a bell tower and a minaret. _____
- b) When was the minaret finished? In what century was it built? _____
- c) What are muezzins? _____
- d) How did the muezzins go up the minaret in Seville? _____
- e) When did the Muslim mosque become a cathedral? _____
- f) In what year did Christians demolish the mosque? _____
- g) What height is the Giralda now? _____

2. Define the following words using the word bank.

man tall tower/bell tower building Muslims pray people

Muezzin _____

Minaret _____

Mosque _____

3. Make a timeline with the dates of the Giralda.⁴

- 1184 The beginning of the construction of the minaret.
- 1196 The end of the minaret's construction.
- 1248 The Christians conquered Seville. The mosque became a cathedral.
- 1433 The mosque was demolished.
- 1507 The Catholic Cathedral was inaugurated.

Did you know the **muezzin** climbed up the steps inside the **minaret** five times every day? He sang out the call all the people in the town or city to pray, so that they knew when it was time to pray. In those times there weren't any clocks!

4. Look at a map of Islamic Spain and make questions. Here you have the answers.

- a) _____ It's next to the river Guadalquivir and near the sea.
- b) _____ It is the capital of Al-Andalus.
- c) _____ It is in the North of Spain.
- d) _____ It is in the South of Spain.
- e) _____ It is in the North east of Spain.

The **horseshoe arch** is a curved arch often used in Spanish medieval architecture.

⁴ http://www.teach-nology.com/web_tools/materials/timeline/

II Cordoba mosque

The **mosque** at **Cordoba** occupies a huge space. The original structure was built by 'Abd ar-Rahman I in 784–786, the **Umayyad** ruler. In the 9th and 10th centuries the building doubled its size, making the mosque one of the largest religious buildings in the Islamic world.

Its interior, a real "forest of columns", is decorated with red and white **horseshoe** shaped arches. The plan is a traditional Muslim one. It has a rectangular court with a fountain for ritual ablution, a covered gallery and a hall for prayer. The *qibla* is hollowed out in one place in the form of a sacred niche or mihrab. Overlooking the courtyard is the **minaret**, the tower from which the muezzin called the faithful to pray five times a day.

The mosque was built in just a year, partly because it was built reusing Roman marble columns. On top of the columns, two rows of horseshoe arches made the oration room a unique architectural invention. This arrangement of the arches added height and space. This style was maintained when the mosque was enlarged in 848, 961 and 987. During the times of El Hakam II (961), the **Caliph** aware of the capital's prestige, granted the building with a mihrab, preceded by the maksourah, a closed space reserved only for the Caliph. The dome in the mihrab, decorated with mosaics, is one of the most beautiful parts of the mosque at Cordoba. The Islamic faith did not permit figurative representations of Allah or his prophets and these mosaics, like most Islamic art, are stylized. Islamic religious buildings are not allowed to represent any living being; only the words of the Koran could be used to adorn the walls.

So, **Kufic**⁵ script and geometrical designs became the main and the most important decoration on mosques, secular buildings and even any kind of objects in metal, clay and textiles.

1. Read the text and fill in the blanks.

- 1) The _____ is the ruler of the Muslim community.
- 2) _____ script is a luxurious calligraphic lettering in Arabic.
- 3) The _____ is the tower from which the muezzin called the faithful to pray.
- 4) The _____ is an arch often used in Spanish medieval architecture.
- 5) The _____ is the typical Islamic place of worship.
- 6) The _____ faith forbade figurative representations of Allah or his prophets.
- 7) The closed space for the Caliph in the mosque was called _____.
- 8) The sacred book of Muslims is the _____.
- 9) The Islamic faith did not permit figurative representations of _____ or his prophets.

⁵ Kufic is a luxurious calligraphic version of Arabic lettering.

10) The _____ is a sacred part of the mosque and it is decorated with mosaics.

2. Islamic culture word search

2.1. Unscramble the words below:

1. MBIRAH _____ 2. ABQIL _____

3. MEUQSO _____ 4. EARITNM _____

5. OAOVCDR _____ 6. MAHMADUM _____

7. LAALH _____ 8. CEMAC _____

9. IEMNAD _____ 10. ISLMA _____

11. FTHAI _____ 12. AABKA _____

13. NZUEIZM _____ 14. HRAEGI _____

15. NROKA _____

2.2. Word search

I L V H I J N P V X Q B K A L U L O X I
Y C G E U U R A O K A I Y P T O V I H K
F U D F K R W S I O J W B U Y G U F Y I
M U H A M M A D K E V X D L D I K K K M
G I M A J X O M X H O A L L A H U W M Z
F K B R E N A X I U M E D I N A P B L W
T W K Q A X K E J N A G D I R U Y F V O
M C L R Y I S L A M A I Q O W H E V D N
X T O U Q E N F Q H R R F W A K N W L X
I K W T E E L F A I T H E B M O S Q U E
P L Q S Y P N A V Y Z S N T F U N V I X
Z C O R D O V A P O M S W R Q Z J I W E
O Y T M B C D R L D U S C L I F S G F E
L A A I R P U P M G E G J R K A A Q F Y
O S M G J A Q X I N Z F R Y W W V E N F
K L H E G I R A H X Z U Q S U R D L Q R
U A M C C Z A L R C I U X E K L B H G X
T C A N Z C R F A D N C D O U P H Y R I
H U Z B O L A H B D A T J O N P G U N F
I I K J A P Z J P B T O R P W Q X K C M

2.3. Classify the words into:

Cities: _____

Parts of a mosque: _____

Buildings _____

Religion: _____

3. Make your own word search about Islam ⁶

⁶ Students can use crosswords makers. There are free cross makers in Internet.