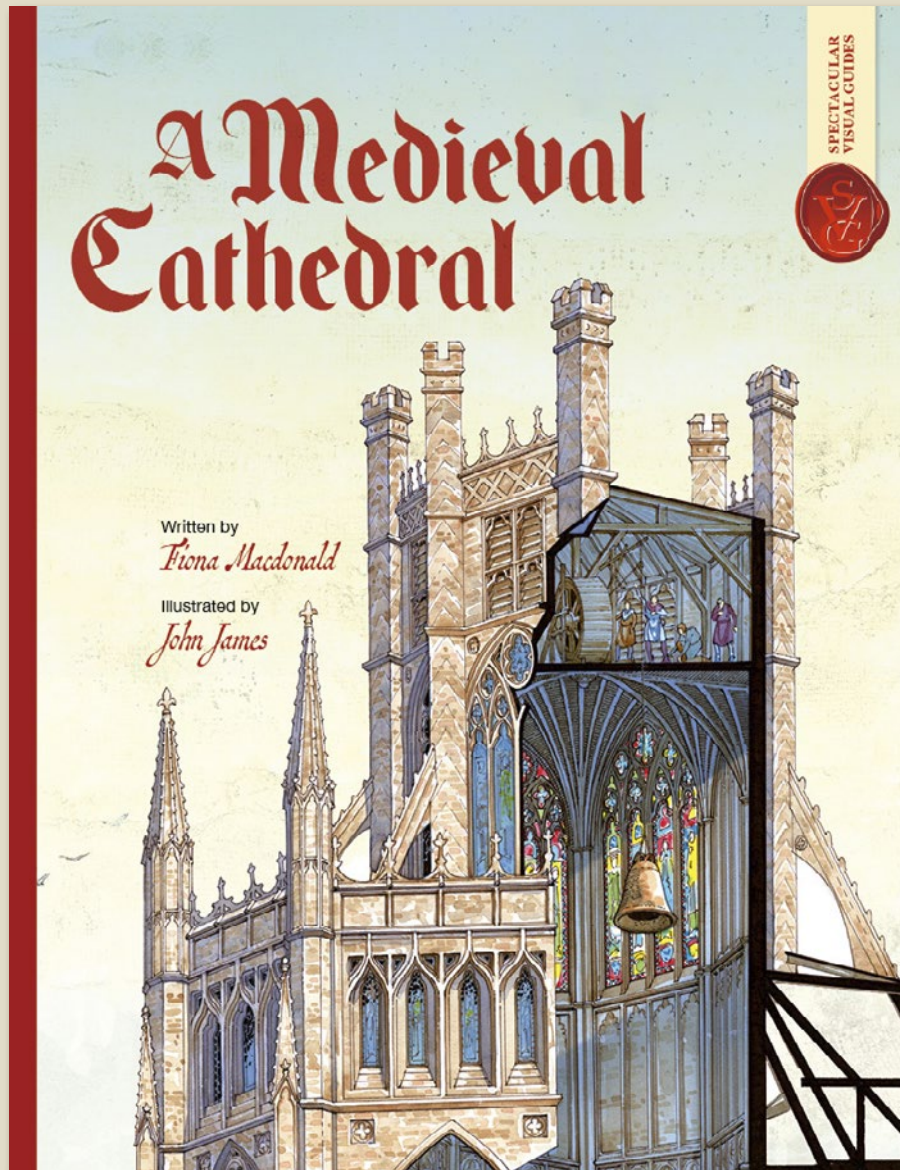


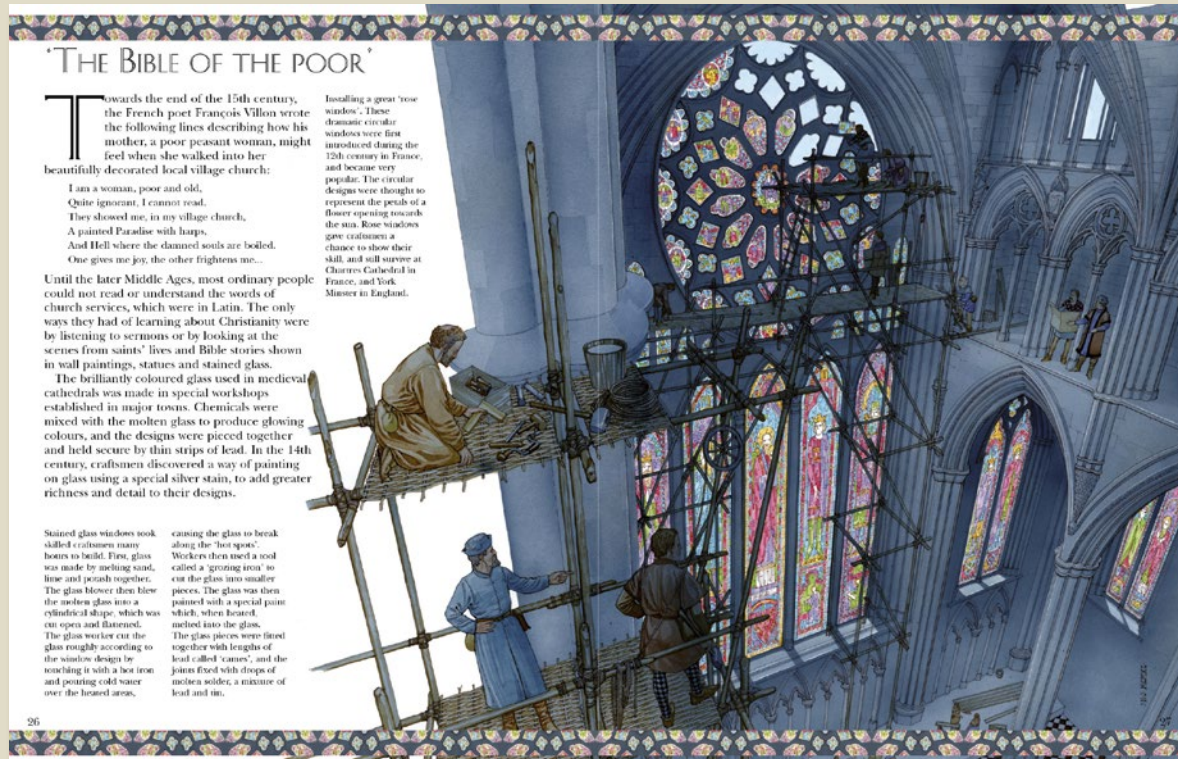
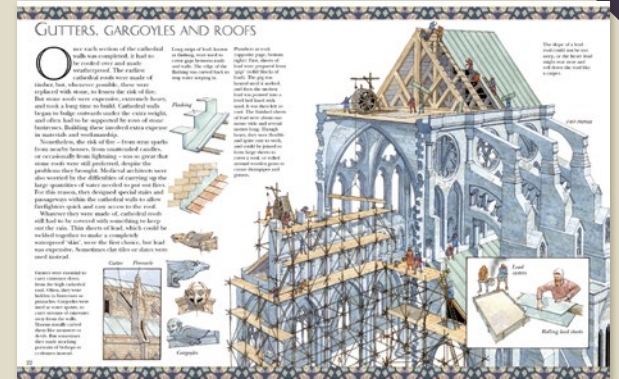
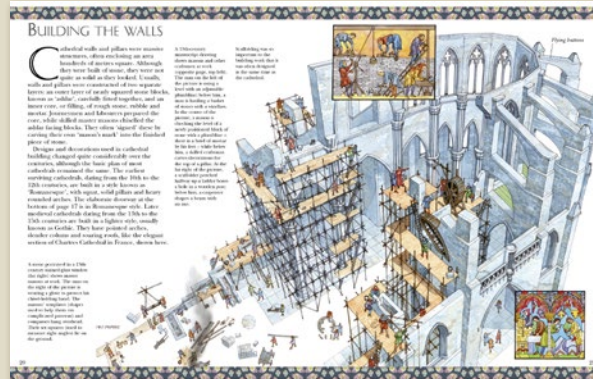
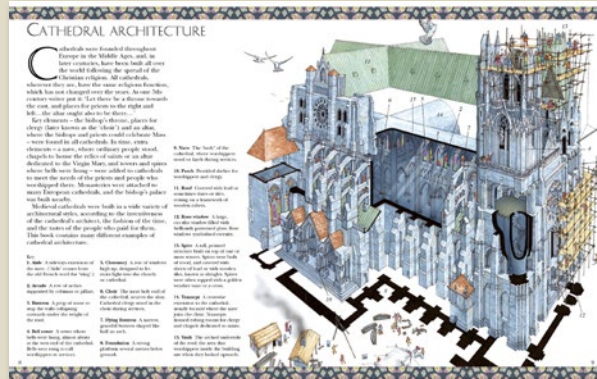
# Medieval Cathedral: Spectacular Visual Guides



**A beautiful, informative visual guide to the medieval period, featuring spectacular cutaway illustrations.**

- Perfect introductory guide to the Medieval world, and the architectural and technological advances made during this period - a great curriculum resource for history students, especially those learning about religion in the Middle Ages.
- Visually spectacular and packed with information, including a full glossary, maps, captions, and cutaway illustrations to engage readers.
- The perfect book to consolidate learning after a trip to the museum or a famous cathedral.

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## 'THE BIBLE OF THE POOR'

Towards the end of the 15th century, the French poet François Villon wrote the following lines describing how his mother, a poor peasant woman, might feel when she walked into her beautifully decorated local village church:

I am a woman, poor and old,  
Quite ignorant, I cannot read.  
They showed me, in my village church,  
A painted Paradise with harps,  
And Hell where the damned souls are boiled.  
One gives me joy, the other frightens me...

Until the later Middle Ages, most ordinary people could not read or understand the words of church services, which were in Latin. The only ways they had of learning about Christianity were by listening to sermons or by looking at the scenes from saints' lives and Bible stories shown in wall paintings, statues and stained glass.

The brilliantly coloured glass used in medieval cathedrals was made in special workshops established in major towns. Chemicals were mixed with the molten glass to produce glowing colours, and the designs were pieced together and held secure by thin strips of lead. In the 14th century, craftsmen discovered a way of painting on glass using a special silver stain, to add greater richness and detail to their designs.

Stained glass windows took skilled craftsmen many hours to build. First, glass was made by melting sand, lime and potash together. The glass blower then blew the molten glass into a cylindrical shape, which was cut open and flattened. The glass worker cut the glass roughly according to the window design by touching it with a hot iron and pouring cold water over the heated areas,

causing the glass to break along the 'hot spots'. Workers then used a tool called a 'grooming iron' to cut the glass into smaller pieces. The glass was then painted with a special paint which, when heated, melted into the glass. The glass pieces were fitted together with lengths of lead called 'cames', and the joints fixed with drops of molten solder, a mixture of lead and tin.

Installing a great 'rose window'. These dramatic circular windows were first introduced during the 13th century in France, and became very popular. The circular designs were thought to represent the petals of a flower opening towards the sun. Rose windows gave craftsmen a chance to show their skill, and still survive at Chartres Cathedral in France, and York Minster in England.

Pub Date	27/03/2025
Pub Price	£6.99
ISBN	9781835870129
H x W	280 x 215mm
Binding	Paperback
Age Range	9-11 years
Author	Fiona MacDonald
Extent	48pp
Freight On Board	26/12/2024
Rights Available	World