

## Window Wonders: Shapes and Colors

Located at the Museum at Eldridge Street

This lesson plan engages young children in exploring the shapes and colors in stained glass windows located at the Museum at Eldridge Street.



Outside: Museum at Eldridge Street



Inside: Rose Window

### Look closely!

Share these ideas and questions with your students!

This building was designed as a special place for people to go and pray.

- What do you see that makes the building look special?
- How is it different from your school or apartment building?
- Let's count the doors and windows.
- What do you see in the stained glass window? What shapes, colors, or things?
- Imagine you are inside the building looking at the sun shining through the colorful window. How would it make you feel?
- If you were asked to design the window yourself, how would yours be different?

**Curricular connections:**  
Architecture/building study  
Color study

Counting skills  
Neighborhood study  
Pattern/shape study

### Did you know?

- ✓ The term *rose window* refers to circular windows, usually of stained glass.
- ✓ The large round window on the front of the building is the rose window. The other photo shows the *same* rose window from inside the building.
- ✓ If you hold up *colored tissue paper or cellophane* to a flashlight or a sunny window, you can imagine how stained glass looks in-person.

## Create your own Rose Window!

### Supplies:

- Paper with a circle outline (see attached worksheet)
- Crayons, markers, and colored pencils -OR-
- Pre-cut or torn shapes of colorful paper (or tissue paper) & glue

### Instructions:

- Distribute a sheet of paper with a circle traced on it (see attached worksheet) to each child (or have children trace their own circles from a coffee can or paper plate).
- Optional: cut the circle out
- Have children add colorful shapes and designs to the circle. Children may draw with crayons and markers, or paste on pre-cut or torn shapes of colored paper.
- Allow the children to express their own ideas and create a window that is uniquely theirs.
- Have students discuss where they would put their window if it were real glass, in their school, apartment, or other buildings?

Or, have students experiment with overlapping tissue paper or colored cellophane to make different colorful effects. Hold up to a sunny window to see the light shining through!

## Explore further!

### Visit the Museum at Eldridge Street

12 Eldridge Street (between Canal and Divison Streets)  
New York, NY 10002

[www.eldridgestreet.org](http://www.eldridgestreet.org)

Hours: Sunday-Thursday, 10:00a.m.- 5:00 p.m., last tour begins at 4:00 p.m.

Explore the Museum at Eldridge Street, one of NYC's most spectacular National Historic Landmarks, nestled in a unique part of the city where Chinatown meets the old Jewish Lower East Side. See the stained glass in-person!



### Look at windows throughout your school and neighborhood

Have children explore the windows that surround them. Compare the shapes and colors.

### Check out more stained glass...



#### ✓ ...in subway stations throughout NYC

*The Habitat for the Yellow Bird* by Takyo Noda. Sutter Avenue (L train) Brooklyn  
*My Coney Island Baby*, a 376-foot glass block wall. Stillwell Avenue (D, F, N, Q) Brooklyn  
*A Bronx Reflection* by Carol Sun. 167<sup>th</sup> Street station (4 train) in the Bronx  
*City of Light* by Romare Bearden. Westchester Square (6 train) in the Bronx  
*Magic Realism in Kingsbridge* by Felipe Galindo. 231st Street station (1 train) in the Bronx  
*The El* by Daniel Hauben. Freeman Street station (2 train) in the Bronx.

#### ✓ ...in these Cool Culture partner museums

The Queens Museum of Art has a large collection of stained glass lamps by Tiffany.  
The Cathedral of St. John the Divine has stained glass decorating the cathedral.  
The Morgan Library & Museum has stained glass in the old library of Pierrepont Morgan.  
The Brooklyn Museum has colorful windows on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor, near the historic rooms.

#### ✓ ...at your local library

Request books about stained glass. The illustrations in Richard Sabuda's picture book *Arthur and the Sword* are all photos of painted glass!

*Create your own Rose Window!*

