Chapter Guide #13: Gothic Europe

**CONTEXT:**

The Gothic style first appeared in northern France around 1140. It was almost a century before other parts of Europe—England, Germany, and Italy—caught on to this new building style. The Gothic style architecture stayed within this region, while Islamic traditions and Byzantine styles were still popular.

* Paris becomes the intellectual center of Gothic Europe
* Growing importance of the Cult of the Virgin – churches built to “notre dame” (Our Lady)
* Growth of cities shifts patronage away from monasteries to urban bishops and clergy
* Political power of French kings is consolidates due to taxation, laws, government 🡪 stability
* Development of new building technology

**ART WORK CARDS: 3D (Yellow) 2D (Red) Architecture (Green)**

St. Denis, Paris (Architecture)

Chartes portals (Sculpture)

Laon Cathedral, Laon (Architecture)

Notre Dame, Paris (Architecture)

Notre Dame, Chartes (Architecture)

Notre Dame, Amiens (Architecture)

Notre Dame, Reims (Architecture)

Reims jamb statues (Sculpture)

Sainte Chapelle (Architecture)

The Virgin of Paris (Sculpture)

Psalter of Saint Louis (2D)

Belleville Breviary (2D)

Salisbury Cathedral, Salisbury (Architecture)

Rottgen Pieta (Sculpture)

Cologne Cathedral, Cologne (Architecture

## VOCABULARY:

pointed arch

lancet window

stained glass

mandorla

lintel

portal

flying buttress

pinnacle

leading

gargoyles

archivolts

cluster pier

triforium

flassed glass

tympanum

jambs

ribberd groin vaults

rose window

grisoile

trumeau

voussoirs

jamb

portal

## TIMELINE:

## 1122-1151 Suger, Abbot of Saint Denis

## 1182-1226 St. Francis of Assisi

## 1215 King John signs the Magna Carta

## 1259 Treaty of Paris

## 1149 Hundred Years’ War (France and England)

## 1347 Black Death

## 1378 Great Schism

## 1453 Constantinople falls to the Ottoman Turks

**CONTEXT CARDS: Blue**

Gothic

## ARCHITECTURE CHARACTERISTICS:

* choir, ambulatory, and radiating chapels become unified open space (walls dissolve)
* Ribbed groin vaults carries weight of roof structure down to cluster piers and columns
* Stained glass windows replace heavy walls of Romanesque
* Pointed arch relieves some of the outward thrust of walls and distributes the weight more evenly 🡪 allows for flying buttresses
* Increased verticality possible using the above building forms 🡪 nave and tower become higher
* Light through large stained glass windows fills interior space with majestic light 🡪 divine light

## SCULPTURE CHARACTERISTICS:

* 12th – 13th century 🡪 shift of sculptures iconic images to a more natural take on the human body
* Development from early style – extreme elongation, stylization, archaic smile, linear quality of drapery of figures
* Slow movements to the greater realism and naturalism of door jamps sculptures of late Gothic (north and south portals of Chartes)
  + figures begin to interact with each other
  + move away from confines of door jamb shapes 🡪 natural figures 🡪 greater understanding of anatomy
  + individual faces
  + attempt at contrapposto
* Courtly style of Late Gothic
  + free standing
  + Gothic s-curve 🡪 elegance
  + doll like features
* German Gothic sculpture
  + tendency towards naturalism almost an expressionist quality