

Chapter 16: (Gothic) Guided Reading Questions

1. Why did Abbot Suger want Saint-Denis re-built, and how did he achieve his goal?
2. Why did the “rediscover” of literary work from Classical antiquity pose a challenge to Christian theology?
3. Why is a flying buttress, what is its purpose, and where is it used on the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris?
4. Describe at least two scenes used to decorate Chartres Cathedral and explain how their iconography would be important to both the church and the parishioners of the time.
5. Describe how stained glass windows are created.
6. Explain why Reims Cathedral might be considered a reflection of 100 years of change in plan, iconography, and workshops.
7. What is the Rayonnant Style and where do we see it used? Use a specific example to describe its attributes.
8. How is Salisbury Cathedral a representation of the English interpretation of the Gothic style? What differences might we note between the English and French Gothic cathedrals of this time period?
9. What innovations did the Pisano family contribute to the southern Italian style of sculpture?
10. What is Gothic mural painting? Use a specific example to explain your answer.