

Stained Glass Windows

Linking science and art, how could people many years ago create the stained glass windows seen in cathedrals and churches?

Answer

Silica, which requires a very high temperature to melt, is the raw material needed to produce a glass. Potash, soda, and lead were added to lower the melting temperature. Glass was coloured by adding metallic oxide powders or finely divided metals while it was in a molten state. This method was an early form of *nanotechnology* to create colours with various *nanoparticles* of numerous sizes.