

Gothic Architecture Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts Printable Trivia Pack

Gothic Architecture trivia explores the engineering breakthroughs and artistic ambitions behind the great churches, civic buildings, and monuments that rose across Europe from the 12th century onward. From ribbed vaults and flying buttresses to gargoyles and rose windows, it offers a lively way to learn how this style combined structural innovation with dramatic visual impact.

HARD GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE TRIVIA

1. Which master builder is specifically associated with Saint Vitus Cathedral in Prague?

Answer: Peter Parler

2. Who is the leading figure most directly identified with the Gothic Revival in this fact set?

Answer: Augustus Pugin

3. Which 19th-century architect is singled out here as a major Gothic Revival designer?

Answer: George Gilbert Scott

4. William Butterfield designed which landmark of Victorian Gothic?

Answer: All Saints, Margaret Street

5. The Royal Courts of Justice in London were designed in the Gothic Revival style by whom?

Answer: George Edmund Street

6. Which book did John Ruskin use to praise Venetian Gothic?

Answer: The Stones of Venice

7. Which American architect is identified here as a prominent advocate of Collegiate Gothic?

Answer: Ralph Adams Cram

8. In France, which phase came after Early Gothic?

Answer: French High Gothic

9. Which Gothic mode is defined here by expansive windows and radiating tracery effects?

Answer: Rayonnant Gothic

10. If the tracery looks like it's trying to burst into stylized flames, which Gothic style are you probably staring at?

Answer: Flamboyant Gothic

11. Strong vertical lines paired with panel tracery point to which Gothic style?

Answer: Perpendicular Gothic

12. Venetian Gothic is described here as blending Gothic forms with which outside influences?

Answer: Byzantine and Islamic influences

13. What practical condition helped Brick Gothic flourish?

Answer: Scarce building stone

14. Which region is noted here for distinctive late medieval Gothic town halls and churches?

Answer: The Low Countries

FUNNY GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE TRIVIA

1. If a gargoyle could complain about dry air, its name would still point to what body part rather than to rooftop moodiness?

Answer: The throat or gullet.

2. Which Gothic creature looks like a gargoyle but is basically all pose and no plumbing?

Answer: A grotesque.

3. True or false: flying buttresses earned their name because medieval builders watched them flap majestically over the nave.?

Answer: False

4. A rose window gets its name from what: actual gardening on the church roof, or its flower-like pattern?

Answer: Its flower-like pattern.

5. Despite sounding like it should come with a GPS, the word 'nave' is related to what instead?

Answer: Ships.

6. What is the clerestory in a Gothic church: the basement archive, the bell-ringer's lunchroom, or the high wall of the nave with windows?

Answer: The high wall of the nave with windows.

7. In Gothic vaulting, a 'boss' is impressive, but it still won't approve your vacation days. What is it actually?

Answer: A carved decorative keystone.

8. A misericord sounds suspiciously like a pastry, but in a choir stall it is really what?

Answer: A small ledge under a folding choir seat.

9. Pinnacles look fancy, but what practical job do they also do besides decoration?

Answer: They add weight and stability.

10. If someone says a Gothic facade needs more crockets, what kind of detail are they asking for?

Answer: Leaf-like ornaments.

11. What is the finial on a Gothic structure: the top ornament or the final invoice from the mason?

Answer: The top ornament.

12. Lancel windows are not medieval weapons lockers. What are they?

Answer: Tall narrow pointed windows.

13. Blind arcading can look busy without actually doing one key thing. What does it not do?

Answer: It does not open through the wall.

FUN GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE TRIVIA

1. What year did Cologne Cathedral first get its giant medieval-to-modern building story underway?

Answer: 1248

2. After centuries of work, Cologne Cathedral was officially completed in which year?

Answer: 1880

3. Milan Cathedral is dedicated to which holy figure?

Answer: Saint Mary of the Nativity

4. Which cathedral boasts the tallest church spire in the United Kingdom?

Answer: Salisbury Cathedral

5. How many main towers stand on the facade of Notre-Dame de Paris?

Answer: Two

6. Beauvais Cathedral is especially famous for its dramatically tall what?

Answer: Choir vaults

7. If a chapel seems made of light more than wall, you might be thinking of which Paris landmark famed for vast stained glass walls?

Answer: Saint-Chapelle

8. Where have English and British monarchs traditionally gone for coronations?

Answer: Westminster Abbey

9. Canterbury Cathedral's rebuilding followed a fire in what year?

Answer: 1174

10. Chartres Cathedral gets extra bragging rights for preserving much of its what?

Answer: Medieval stained glass

11. True or false: Strasbourg Cathedral was once the tallest building in the world.?

Answer: True

12. Which French cathedral is the largest in France by internal volume?

Answer: Amiens Cathedral

13. Seville Cathedral rose on the site of what earlier structure?

Answer: A former mosque

GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE FAMILY TRIVIA

1. At which cathedral were French kings traditionally crowned?

Answer: Reims Cathedral

2. Lincoln Cathedral is in which English city?

Answer: Lincoln

3. Beauvais Cathedral stands in what French city?

Answer: Beauvais

4. Saint Vitus Cathedral stands within what famous castle complex in Prague?

Answer: Prague Castle

5. If your postcard says 'Orvieto Cathedral,' which Italian town should be on the address line?

Answer: Orvieto

6. Which Venetian landmark is a famous example of Venetian Gothic?

Answer: Doge's Palace

7. Brick Gothic is especially linked with which region of Europe?

Answer: the Baltic region

8. Perpendicular Gothic developed in which country?

Answer: England

9. Which year is associated with a key milestone for Gothic Architecture?

Answer: the 13th century

10. What is the name of the ornate style that developed in Portuguese late Gothic?

Answer: Manueline

11. Spanish Gothic includes the cathedral tradition of which region pair?

Answer: Castile and León

12. Compared with French Gothic, which tradition often uses more wall surface and less emphasis on flying buttresses?

Answer: Italian Gothic

EASY GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE TRIVIA

1. In what place and era did Gothic architecture first emerge?

Answer: 12th-century France

2. Which kind of arch is a classic sign of Gothic architecture?

Answer: Pointed arches

3. What structural feature uses intersecting stone ribs in many Gothic buildings?

Answer: Rib vaults

4. What exterior support helps hold up the tall walls of many Gothic churches?

Answer: Flying buttresses

5. Which historical figure is closely linked with the early Gothic rebuilding of Saint-Denis?

Answer: Abbot Suger

6. Which church is often named as an early Gothic monument?

Answer: Saint-Denis

7. What is the name of the famous Gothic cathedral in Paris?

Answer: Notre-Dame de Paris

8. Chartres Cathedral is found in which French city?

Answer: Chartres

9. Amiens Cathedral stands in what city?

Answer: Amiens

10. Reims Cathedral is located in which city?

Answer: Reims

11. Cologne Cathedral is located in which German city?

Answer: Cologne

12. Which major Gothic church is in Italy?

Answer: Milan Cathedral

13. Salisbury Cathedral is in which English city?

Answer: Salisbury

Source: <https://triviagong.com/themes/gothic-architecture>