

EXPLORERS MY MEDIEVAL CHALONS





DISCOVERY LEAFLET

8 - 12 YEARS OLD

VILLES
& PAYS
D'ART &
D'HISTOIRE



Hi,
my name is Emma.
Come with us and discover the beautiful city of
Châlons-en-Champagne. Take a look around,
solve the enigmas, answer the questions and
follow us in our medieval adventures!



Should you need to find a place or an address,
feel free to use this map.
If you can't find all the answers, come and get them at the place called
"Châlons, Ville d'art et d'histoire" (68, rue Léon Bourgeois).



SUMMARY

MY MEDIEVAL CHÂLONS

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These activities require pencils
LENGTH OF THE COURSE: ABOUT 1H30

1. THE MEDIEVAL CITY

GOAL: to understand the city of Chaalons-en-Champagne during the Middle Ages

Departure is located at the Hemicyle roudabout ①, towards the Rue de la Marne.

A. The "Voie Agrippa" (Agrippa way)

The city was born out of the meeting of a road and a river: the Agrippa way and the Marne. This road was built by the Romans. It originates in Milan in Italy, goes through the Rue de la Marne and ends up in Boulogne-Sur-Mer.



Auguste



Agrippa

On this map, draw the path of the Voie Agrippa and circle Chaalons en Champagne.



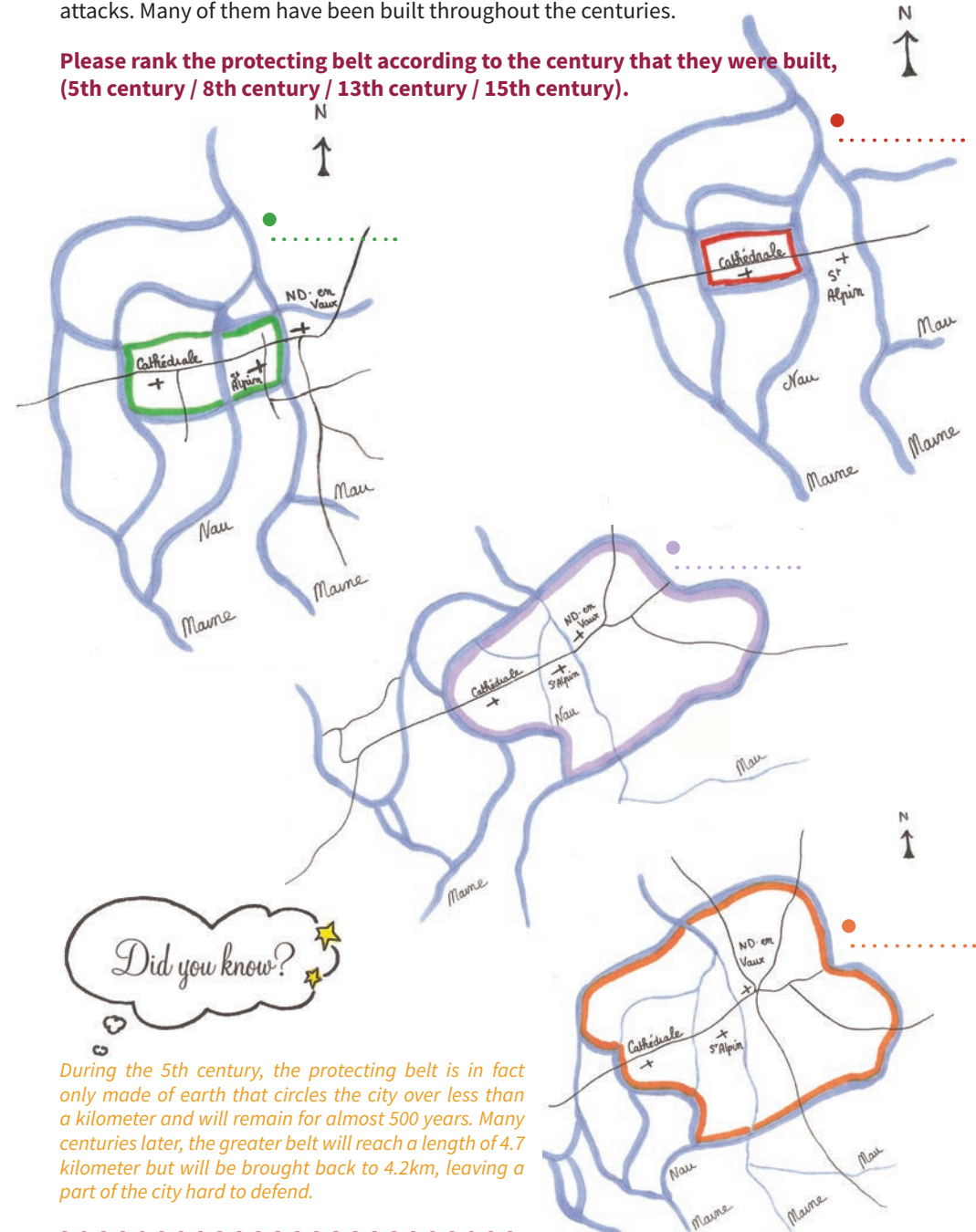
The construction of these roman roads was requested by Auguste, the first Roman Emperor. You can see his statue in the entrance of the City Hall.

It's the building that is right in front of you, at the end of the rue de la Marne (Marne street). When you come in, it is placed directly to your left.

B. Fortified Châlons

Châlons was surrounded by a protecting belt in order to protect its inhabitants from attacks. Many of them have been built throughout the centuries.

Please rank the protecting belt according to the century that they were built, (5th century / 8th century / 13th century / 15th century).



During the 5th century, the protecting belt is in fact only made of earth that circles the city over less than a kilometer and will remain for almost 500 years. Many centuries later, the greater belt will reach a length of 4.7 kilometer but will be brought back to 4.2km, leaving a part of the city hard to defend.

2. THE FAIRS IN THE CHAMPAGNE REGION & THE MEDIEVAL CELLARS

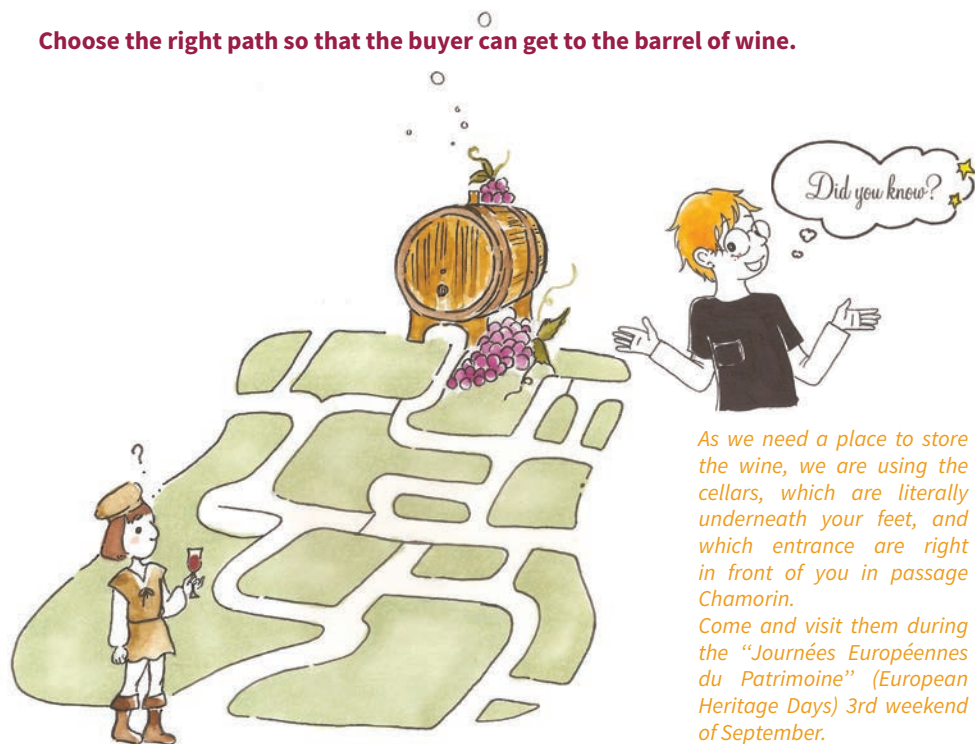
GOAL: to understand the importance of the fairs as places of trade

Take the rue de la Marne (Marne street) until Place Foch. Go inside the City Hall if you want to see the statue of Auguste. otherwise, turn left in the passage Chamorin ②.

The oldest record of the existence of a fair in Châlons goes back to 969. During that time, the city doesn't have any money problem thanks to the sales of woolen sheets that are manufactured in Châlons and generate a lot of money. The sheets from Châlons are known the world over: in Spain, in Italie, in Tunisia and even in Egypt.

During the fair of Saint-Martin in winter, the main products sold are not sheets but wine.

Choose the right path so that the buyer can get to the barrel of wine.



3. WHO WAS SAINT ALPIN?

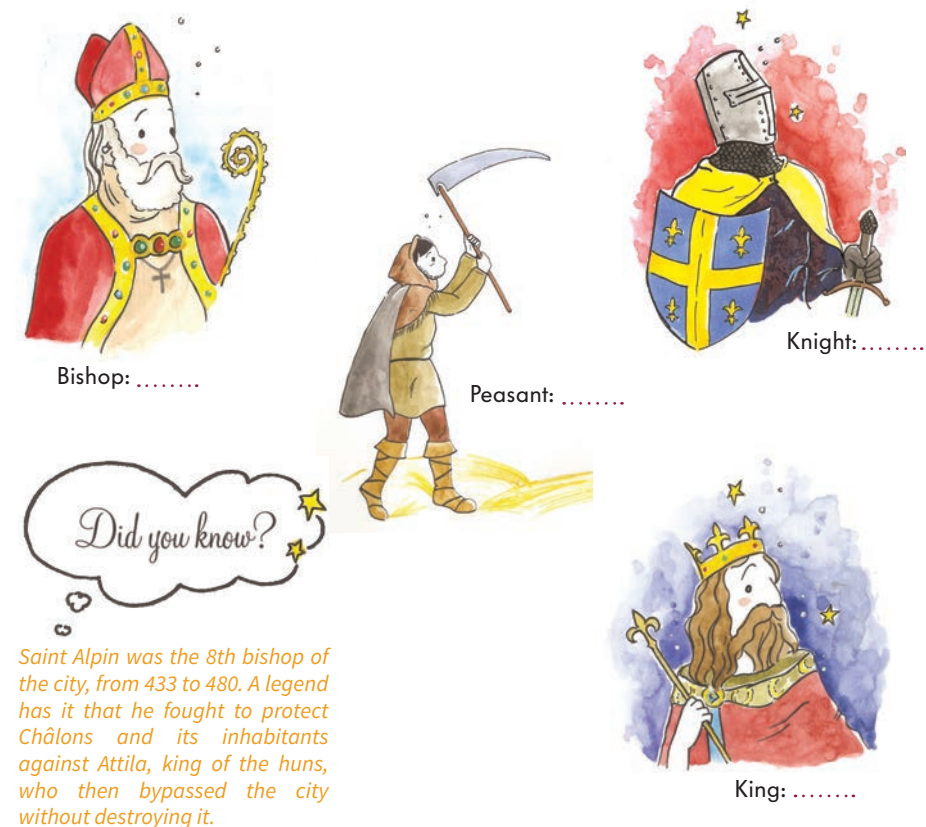
GOAL: to understand the role of the bishops in the Middle Ages

Take the direction of the Rue de la Marne (Marne street), turn left in the Rue des Lombards (Lombards street) and stand in front of the Saint Alpin church ③.

Before the 12th century, there was a chapel here dedicated to Saint André. His statue is on the left when you are facing the Saint Alpin church. Around 860, the bishop of Châlons, who is the religious leader of the city, requests that the body of Saint Alpin is brought back to the city; the Saint André chapel is then dedicated to him.

The merchant district grows bigger around this area and the chapel is being demolished in order to rebuilt a bigger church, the church of Saint Alpin. See how this rich heritage fits into the Châlons habitat!

Rank the various characters according to their importance in the city, in ascending order from 1 to 4.



4. THE MERCHANT DISTRICT

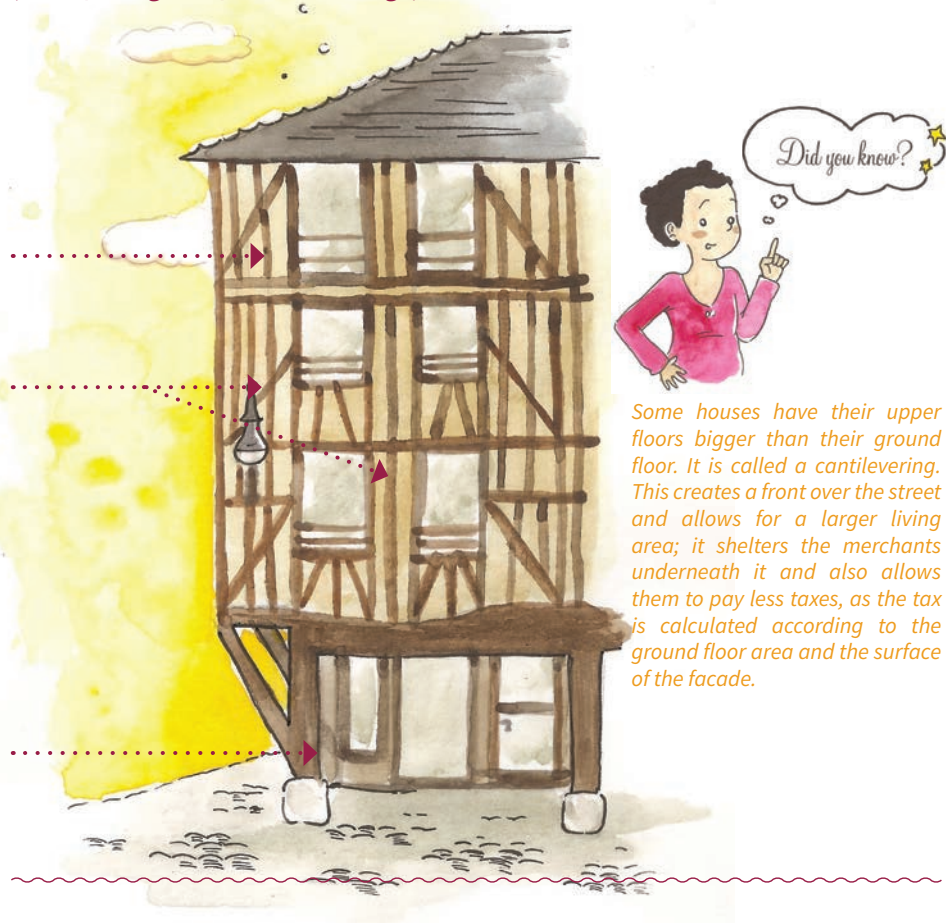
GOAL: to recognise a merchant house and the merchandises from the Middle Ages

Leave the rue des Lombards (Lombards street) and sit down at the Place de la République ④, which used to be the place of the wheat market.

A. The trade

The timber-framed wall houses or houses with wooden beams were the residential houses of the merchants but also their place of work and of storage for their merchandises. There is very little room so the houses are built over 2 or 3 floors. They are made of wooden beams which are then filled with mud and straw (mix of water, clay, straw and sometimes horse hair).

Can you find what each floor is used for in Jehan the merchant's house? (trade / living area / attic for storage).



B. The merchandises

As its name suggests, the place of the wheat market was where wheat was sold. But the nearby streets gathered many other very important shops in the Middle Ages: fish, vegetables, bread, or raw materials used for the manufacturing of the woolen sheets.

Connect the material to its element of origin.

Wool / Silk / Linen



Some products that were not yet around in Châlons during the Middle Ages are hidden in Jehan the merchant's stall; find them and circle them with your pencil!



5. THE CATHEDRAL DISTRICT

GOAL: to discover the very first district of Châlons

Take the rue des Poissonniers (street of the fishmongers), where fish was sold. Carry on straight up into the rue des Cordeliers (Cordeliers are Franciscan monks) then turn right into the rue des juifs (street of the Jewish people). Stop in front of the ruelle Imare 5.

A. The district

The district surrounding the cathedral, called Canonial district, was exclusively reserved for the canons, men of the Church. It was surrounded by a stone wall with 6 doors that the clergymen would lock at nightfall. You are standing in front of the only remaining door, the porte des Lormiers (Lormiers door).

Help the Canon to put the words in the right order so that he can open the dor of the cathedral district:



HHCCRU

C h . . . h

YPAR

P . . y

KLUBVAR

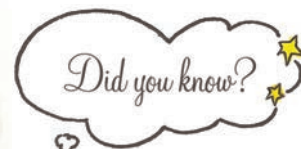
B u . v . . k

RDOO

D o . .

UEWCRF

C u . f . .



In the Middle Ages, the christians cannot lend money to other people; the Jewish people will have this responsibility, hence the name of the street that you are now walking on.

Go through the porte des Lormiers (Lormiers door), turn right into rue Juliette Récamier then left in rue de la Trinité. In front of you is the cathedral Saint-Etienne 6.

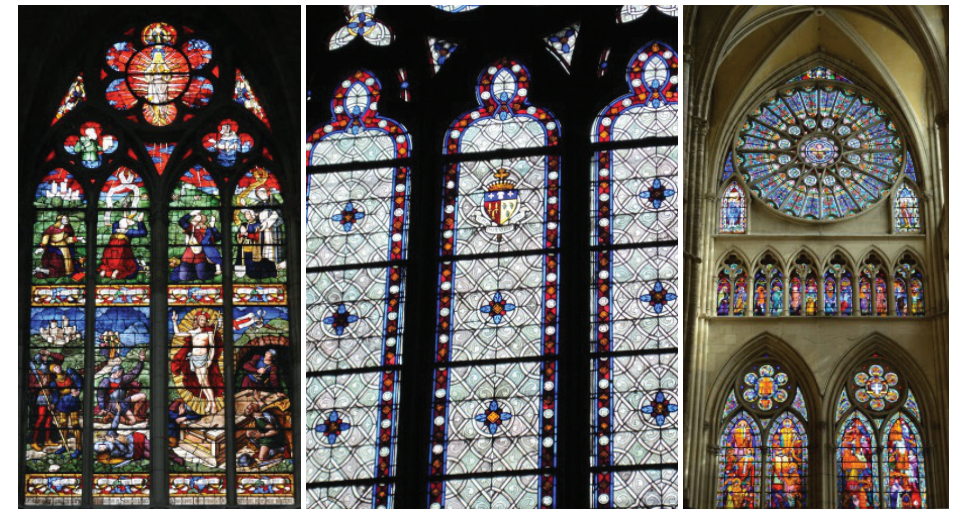
B. The Saint Etienne cathedral

We know very little of the building that was there in the 10th century. The work done on the building that you see today started in the 12th century and lasted 500 years. The architectural style of this cathedral is called Radiant Gothic style. The art Gothic is the process of replacing some walls considered as not important by large stained glass windows, so that each building is filled up by shining light.

If the cathedral is open, take that opportunity to go in and see these magnificent stained glass windows.



Try to give each stained glass window its proper name (Heraldic window (showing a coat of arms) / Rose window / religious window).



6. WHAT REMAINS OF THE MEDIEVAL HOUSES?

GOAL: to be able to identify architectural elements

Take the rue de la Marne towards the Hôtel de Ville (Town Hall) then turn left in Quai des Arts. Stop in front of the tourist office 7.

A. The maison de la petite juiverie (House of the little Jewry)

The tourist office, also called la maison de la Petite Juiverie (the house of the little Jewry) is not one of the wooden houses built during the Middle Ages. It was built in the 16th Century. It is a remarkable house thanks to its assembly of wooden beams and decoration.



The house of the little Jewry wasn't there originally, but further away. It faced destruction. It has therefore been dismantled, moved away and rebuilt in the 1980's where it is standing now.

Number the various architectural elements of the timber-framed walls house.



1. **DISCHARGE**
Piece of wood that fits diagonally between two horizontal pieces
2. **WALL PLATE**
Horizontal pieces of wood supporting the wooden pieces above it
3. **HOLLOW CORE SLAB**
Space between the wooden beams filled with mud and straw
4. **SAINT ANDREW'S CROSS**
Pieces of wood that cross one another thus creating a decor



At the end of the Quai des Arts, turn right in rue des Viviers. Cross the Mau then turn right again in Quai Notre Dame. Finally, turn left in rue Nicolas Durand.

B. The Clémangis house 8

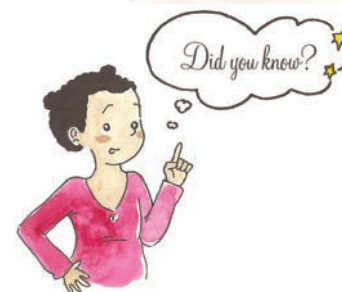
It is one of the last houses left from the medieval period and it has known the same destiny as the maison de la petite Juiverie (house of the little Jewry) in the 1980's (salvaged, dismantled, moved and rebuilt). It has a protruding staircase: it is the tower that you can see on the left of the entrance door.

Cross out whatever you think that didn't take place in Clémangis house.



ma
maison de l'architecture
Champagne-Ardenne

ORDRE DES
ARCHITECTES



A very large quantity of oak wood is required to build a timber-framed walls house. Such wood could be found nearby, in the forests around the actual Lac du Der (one of the greatest lakes of the Champagne area). To transport it, the wooden trunks were dumped in the Marne and the current would float them to us: this was called the floatation system.

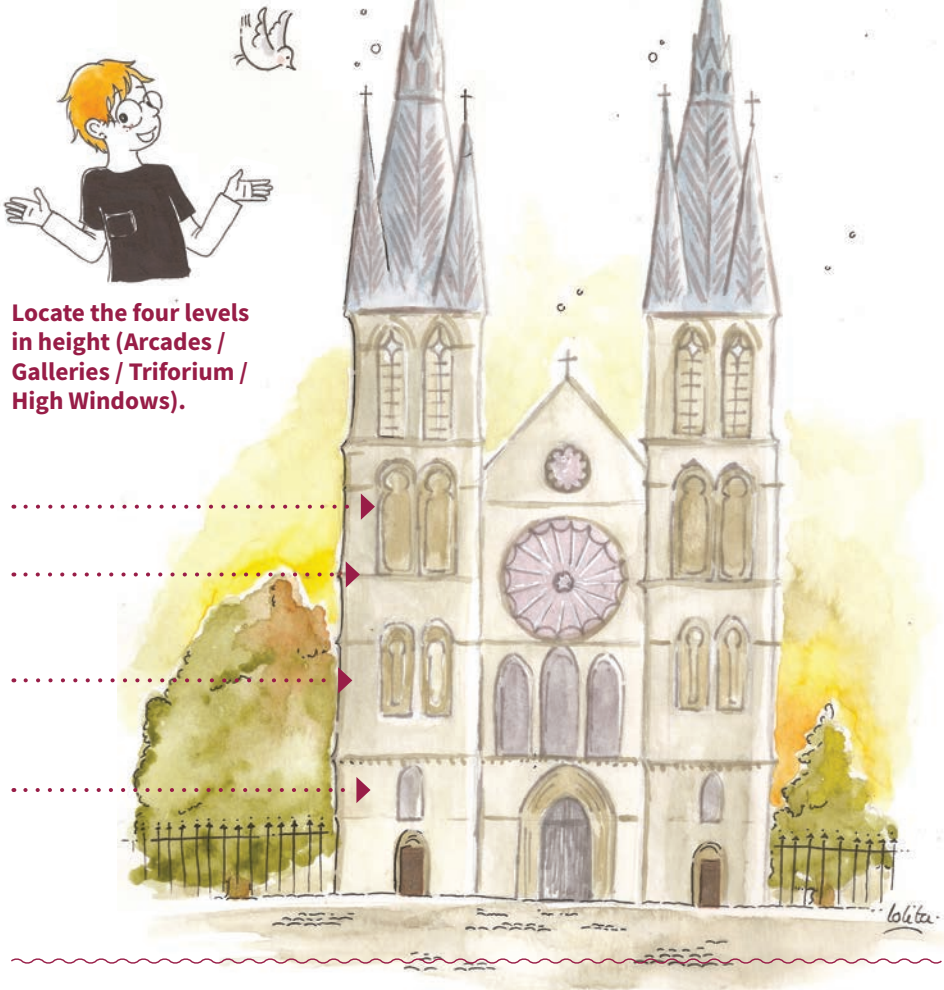


7. THE BEAUTIFUL NOTRE-DAME-EN-VAUX

GOAL: to differentiate the various parts of a church

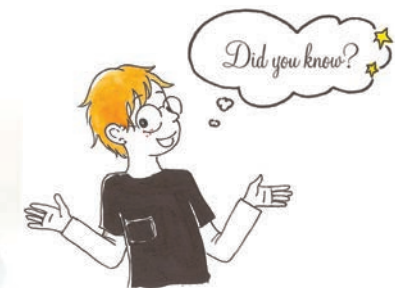
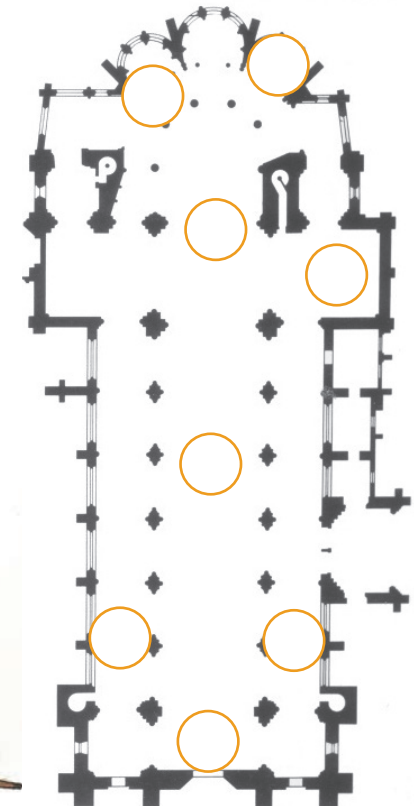
Rejoin the place Notre-Dame, go behind the Collegiale Notre-Dame-en-Vaux and turn right rue de Vaux 9.

Notre-Dame-en-Vaux is a collegial church which architectural style is said to be in transition, that is to say in-between the Roman architecture (small and dark churches) and Gothic architecture (tall and luminous). it has 4 levels in height.



Help us to position on the plan of the collegial Notre-Dame the names of the different parts.

1. **NAVE**
Plenty of choice to sit there!
2. **AMBULATORY**
This is where we find 3 radiating chapels
3. **AISLES (place twice)**
The aisles are not in the center!
4. **CHAPELS**
We find 3 of them in the ambulatory
5. **ARMS OF THE TRANSEPT**
If the church was a person with arms, where would they be?
6. **CHOIR**
It's like the heart in the middle of the chest!
7. **NARTHEX**
You have to go through it to get in!



The collegial Notre-Dame-En-Vaux has been listed in the heritage of UNESCO under the title of Chemins de Saint-Jacques de Compostelle. In the middle ages, it would welcome people that were doing the pilgrimage to Spain. People could stop there for the night and rest in the gallery on the first floor.

8. THE CRAFTSMEN

GOAL: discover the trades of the middle ages

Cross the place Godard behind you, and take the rue Thiers until the rue Croix des Teinturiers. Stand on the bridge Putte-Savatte 10.



The name of this bridge comes from the houses located along the Mau. They were inhabited by tanners, shoemakers and sellers of old shoes. The passersby would shout "ça putte la savatte" which means "it stinks of old shoes".



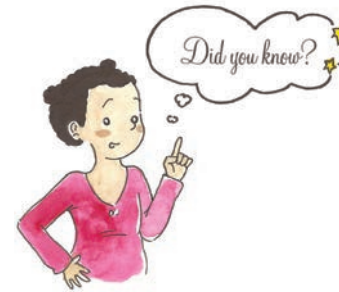
Link up each trade to its definition.

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| CARDER ○ | ● He turns wool into a fine single thread by twisting it or stretching it |
| SPINNER ○ | ● He crisscrosses the wool threads on a loom to make sheets |
| WEAVER ○ | ● He untangles and washes the wool with cards in order to get parallel fibres |
| FULLER ○ | ● He dyes the sheets with dyes of vegetal or animal origins |
| DYER ○ | ● His mill spins the sheets in a mix of water and clay to remove the grease |

Go down the rue Croix des Teinturiers towards the place de la République. then turn right and place yourself in the rue d'Orfeuil 11.

Previously called rue de brebis (ewe street), the current rue D'Orfeuil is the place where the sheep market was located in the middle ages. The bishop would lend his field (that became the Grand Jard today) so that the sheep could graze.

Help the shepherd and its sheep to find the rue de Brebis.



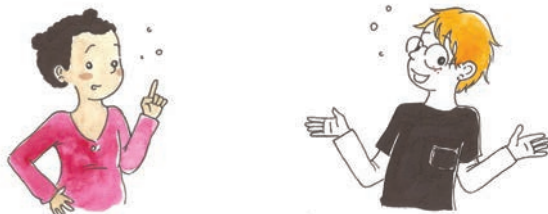
There is an old saying that says that 99 sheep and a champagne shepherd make a 100 sheep.

This comes from the amount of money that a shepherd should pay if he wanted to get his herd of sheep into the city. An astute shepherd tried to avoid this tax by saying that he only had 99 sheep. But the door keeper replied that 99 sheep and a champagne shepherd make for a 100 beasts. We do not know who won the argument.



WE SHOULD SEE THE CITY WITH A CHILD'S EYES

More or less (?) Henri Matisse



The service for the Animation of Architecture and of the Heritage coordinates the initiatives in Châlons en Champagne, city of art and history.

You are welcome at the «Châlons, Ville d'art et d'histoire (city of art and history)» space from Tuesday to Saturday 2pm to 6pm.

This entirely digital and interactive space will show you the urban evolution of Châlons en Champagne and its territory as well as the specifics aspects of its architecture and heritage.

Information and bookings

Animation du Patrimoine
"Châlons, Ville d'art et d'histoire"
space

68 rue Léon Bourgeois

51000 Châlons-en-Champagne

Tel number: +33 (0) 3 26 69 98 21

Email: animation.patrimoine@chalonsenchampagne.fr

Châlons-en-Champagne belongs to the national network of Villes et pays d'art et d'histoire (Art and history cities and countries)

The ministry of culture and communication, the heritage management office, awards the registered term Villes et Pays d'art et d'histoire (Art and history cities and countries) to local authorities that are creating animations for their heritage. This ensures the level of competency of the guide-lecturers and of the heritage facilitators, as well as the quality of their actions. From antic remains to the architecture of the 20th century, cities and countries are depicting heritage in all its diversity. Today, a network of 190 cities and countries offer its expertise all over France.

Nearby:

Reims, Langres, Sedan, Troyes, Bar-le-Duc, Charleville-Mézières, Metz, Strasbourg all benefit from the registered term Ville d'art et histoire (cities of art and history).

Thanks

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Lolita

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City of Châlons-en-Champagne



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