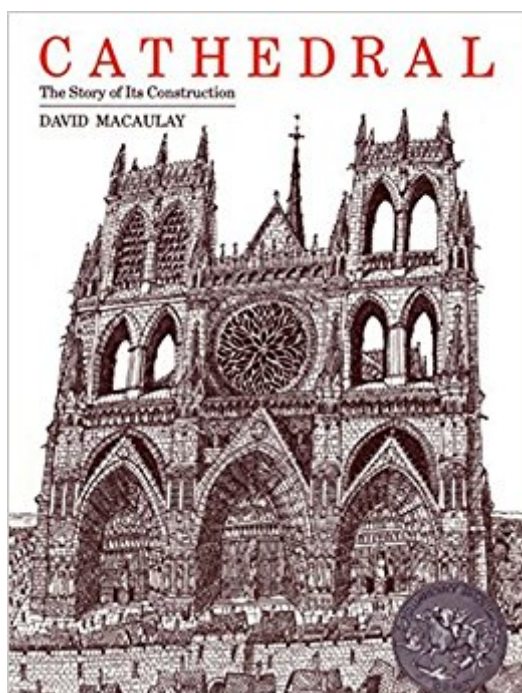


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# Cathedral: The Story Of Its Construction



## Synopsis

Readers worldwide recognize Caldecott Medal winner David Macaulay's imaginary Cathedral of Chutreaux. This critically acclaimed book has been translated into a dozen languages and remains a classic of children's literature and a touchstone for budding architects. Cathedral's numerous awards include a prestigious Caldecott Honor and designation as a New York Times Best Illustrated Book of the Year for Macaulay's intricate pen-and-ink illustrations. Journey back to centuries long ago and visit the fictional people of twelfth-, thirteenth-, and fourteenth-century Europe whose dreams, like Cathedral, stand the test of time. This title has been selected as a Common Core text exemplar (Grades 6-8, Informational Texts: Science, Mathematics, and Technical Studies).

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1120L (What's this?)

Paperback: 80 pages

Publisher: Sandpiper; unknown edition (October 26, 1981)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0395316685

ISBN-13: 978-0395316689

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.2 x 12 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 72 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #34,888 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in Books > Arts &

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Nature & How It Works > How Things Work

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

## Customer Reviews

The Gothic cathedral is one of humanity's greatest masterpieces--an architectural feast that couldn't help but attract the attention of renowned author-illustrator David Macaulay. Once an architectural student at the Rhode Island School of Design, Macaulay glories in the intricacies and beauty of structure, as evidenced in his masterful pen-and-ink drawings in critically acclaimed children's books such as Castle, Pyramid, and Rome Antics. He begins Cathedral in 1252, when the people of a

fictitious French town named Chutreaux decide to build a cathedral after their existing church is struck by lightning. We first meet the craftspeople, then examine the tools, study their cathedral plans, and watch the laying of the foundation. Week by week we witness the construction of this glorious temple to God. Macaulay intuitively hones in on the details about which we are the most curious: How were those enormously high ceilings built and decorated? How were those 60-foot-high windows made and installed in the 13th century? And how did people haul those huge, heavy bells up into the skyscraper-high towers? Thanks to Macaulay's thorough, thoughtful tribute to the Gothic cathedral, not a stone, turret, or pane of stained glass is left unexamined or unexplained. (Ages 9 and older) --Gail Hudson --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"This marvelous book recreates the building of a French Gothic cathedral from the hewing down of half a forest to the placement of the last sheet of lead on the spire. Macaulay uses voluminous knowledge and pen-and-ink sketches accompanied by a brief clear narrative." Time Magazine

I bought "Cathedral" a few years after reading Ken Follett's great novel Pillars of the Earth. His description of the cathedral being constructed in the fictional town of Kingsbridge in the 12th century was so fascinating that it piqued my interest in medieval architecture and how they built the great cathedrals of Europe. I've been in a few of these cathedrals, and to imagine building these huge structures hundreds of years before mechanized equipment was available is mind-boggling. David Macaulay's pictorial book helped tremendously to understand how it was done. His Cathedral of Chutreaux doesn't really exist, but the story of how it was built and the meticulous architectural and structural details are typical of many cathedrals of the era. Don't be fooled by the book's categorization as a children's book. This is an incredibly fascinating book for young and old alike.

I just received the book and DVD, and frankly, I read the book in about 30 minutes. It is a good, yet basic, overview of cathedral construction. As some reviews state, it might be less than you want, but there is enough in it, terminology and ideas of how these magnificent buildings were constructed. If you are looking for a novel, forget it, go to Ken Follet's series. But as a starting point to learn more about this wonderful history, by all means buy it. The sketches are beautiful and terrific, the text easily read. And now I can watch the DVD which I ordered also!

This is a book far too large for the Kindle's small frame. I bought it for my grandson, but we'll have to go soft back instead. Yet, this is a wonderful book, I read to my boys growing up, and I wouldn't

discourage anyone from its purchase. Just buy it in its physical and not virtual manifestations.

Very good detail of the process of building

This is a great book - everyone who is only slightly interested in cathedrals should read it. Anyone who has an interest in architectural drawing and in construction should get and read every one of Macaulay's books. What a pleasure!

The four books: Pyramid, Mill, City and Castle. I learned a lot about line drawing as a kid from these books. I copied his style and made my own subject matter, usually medieval towns. Inspiring and to be honest I'm not that into his full color ones from later years.

I liked this concise description of the construction of the cathedral. This book is comprehensive and detailed enough to teach and fundamental and short enough to engage novices in architecture. I recommend this to everyone who is interested in fundamental knowledge behind the construction of the cathedral or even architecture. I give this 5 stars for its short yet informative content.

I purchased the book because I had just finished reading Ken Follet's book Pillars of the Earth. Although it is a children/young adult book it worked well for me. It clarified the process of building a cathedral but. In addition to the construction there were delightful illustrations that you had to "notice" like the mouse and the bird's nest.....Good book for young and old.

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