

Notre-Dame de Paris

Strange-looking stone creatures, called gargoyles, sit on top of the cathedral.
Their purpose is to stop rainwater dripping down the cathedral's walls and damage them.

Its full name in French is 'Notre-Dame de Paris' which means 'Our Lady of Paris'. The lady is Mary, the mother of Jesus.

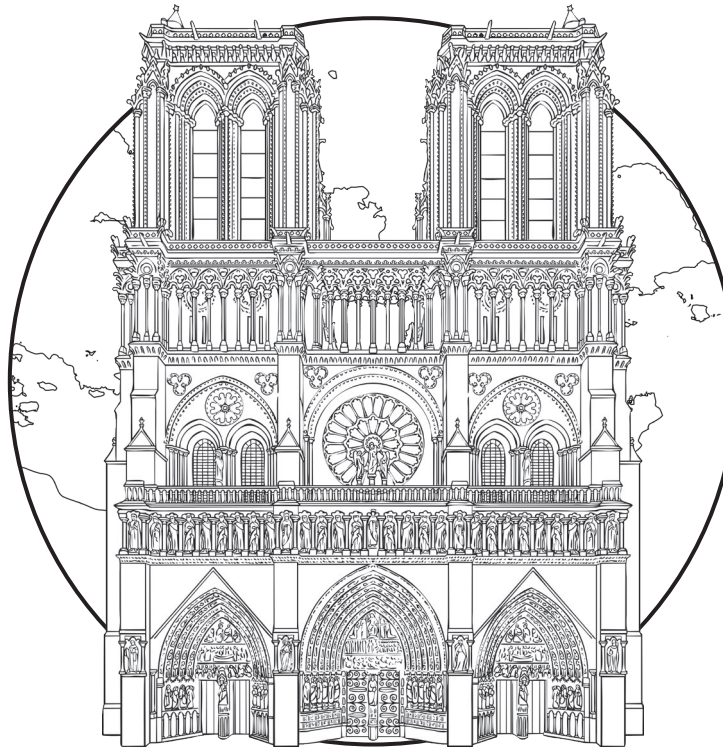
Building work began in 1163 and finished in 1345.

The French author Victor Hugo wrote a novel called 'The Hunchback of Notre-Dame'. A film of the same name has also been made.

The two towers are 69 metres high.

Around 13 million people visit Notre-Dame de Paris each year; that's about 30 000 people per day!

Notre-Dame is a cathedral in Paris.



The cathedral was built on the site of an older church which had in turn been built on the site of a pagan temple.

There is a beehive on the roof of the cathedral.

The south tower houses the cathedral's biggest bell, which is called the Emmanuel bell. It weighs around 13 000kg.

Visitors can climb the north tower. There are 387 steps to get to the top.

Notre-Dame de Paris is famous for its three rose-stained glass windows.