Louis Comfort Tiffany (1848-1933) was a great American artist who became famous for his work in glass. Tiffany’s art was often inspired by nature, but not always. His work, like that of many artists, can be divided into two categories: naturalistic and abstract.

**THE REAL WORLD**

Can you find Tiffany artworks with naturalistic examples of the following?

**Plants and Fruits**
- **Bamboo**  
  #6 (64-013)
- **Black-eyed Susan**  
  #11 (70-028)
- **Grapes**  
  #26 and #27  
  (64-029, 028)
- **Squash**  
  #1 (58-011: A-D)

**Animals**
- **Parrots**  
  #25 (68-005)
- **Peacock**  
  #4 (75-014)  
  #16 (64-003)
- **Spider and Web**  
  #11 (66-029)

**NATURALISTIC ART**
Art that represents people, places, or things that you might see in the real world is said to be naturalistic.

**ABSTRACT ART**
Art that uses shapes and colors to create designs that you would not see in the natural world is said to be abstract.
PRETTY AS A PEACOCK
One of the animals you looked for has a long history in art. Early Christian artists (c. 1 AD - 526 AD) used the peacock as a symbol of immortality or eternal life. Much later in the 19th century, many decorative artists, including Tiffany, liked to use peacocks in their art because of the bird’s unique colors, its fabulous feathered tail, and its connection to the past.

In Galleries II and III, there are three very different works that celebrate the beauty of the peacock. Can you find them? (Hint: Two are windows, and one is a plate. 
# 4 (75-014); #8 (61-001); #16 (64-003).

How are the images of the peacock different? Which one is abstract? (Hint: The abstract image is the one that does not show the whole bird, but which only suggests the peacock’s fanned tail of feathers by its colors and placement of glass.)

THAT’S UNREAL
Can you find the following examples of abstract art by Tiffany?

Some of Tiffany’s art was inspired by things in the natural world, but he often made plants, flowers, and animals look a little abstract. Can you find abstract examples of these real-world things?

Drawing Activity

If you were to make a stained-glass window, would you make it naturalistic or abstract? What would it look like? Draw your stained-glass window below: