

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Baptistries and Baptismal Fonts

*After Christianity became the religion of the Roman Empire, it was a common practice for people to come to the main church of a city, the cathedral, to be baptized. A baptistery, or place where baptisms were held, was often a separate building.*

### Early Baptistries

In the first Creation story in Genesis, God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh day. The seventh day is commemorated on the Jewish Sabbath—Saturday. Jesus rose on the day after the Sabbath, beginning a new creation. The day of Resurrection is considered the eighth day of creation. To symbolize this “eighth day,” many baptistries are octagonal shaped, or eight-sided.

### Modern Baptismal Fonts

Modern baptismal fonts are now located in the churches themselves. Baptismal fonts are built so that infants can be immersed into water or water can be poured over the heads of adults. Many baptismal fonts are small pools, and some have flowing water. These baptismal fonts or pools are often placed near the door of the church. This location symbolizes Baptism as entry into the church. The font may also be placed near the altar so that all the people in attendance can participate in baptismal celebrations.

### ***Examine and Sketch a Baptismal Font***

Examine the baptismal font in your church or another church in your area. Make a sketch of the font. Take notes on where it is placed, the type of baptismal font it is, and any signs or symbols that may be near or on the font.

