



# Coat of Arms

*Imagine you're a knight in battle, you can't tell friend from enemy, and then you realize your friends don't recognize you either. You need a new plan. This is it.*

*Coats of Arms date to the early Middle Ages. In the early twelfth century, helmets and other armor began making it difficult to tell armed warriors apart. The solution was for each knight or soldier to paint something personal on their shield. These designs were important in battle, but they also functioned like team uniforms when knights met in tournaments. Over time, shield emblem designs became enduring symbols of their owners, and of their owners' families.*

*It became quite fashionable to have a "coat of arms", so people hired artists to design them. The designs weren't just used on shields. They were applied on tunics, saddle blankets, banners and tapestries. They were duplicated in sculpture and architectural features. They were used in signs and advertisements. They were carved into coins, jewelry and the personalized stamps for sealing letters.*

*Soon, Coats of Arms weren't just for soldiers! From about 1210 A.D., some priests are known to have had them. The first women known to have had their own coat of arms got them around 1220. Around 1230 towns and cities began having coats of arms. Tradesmen and even peasants started using coats of arms around 1250. In an era when few people could read or write, coats of arms made it easier for people to recognize each other's marks.*

## Create Your Own Coat of Arms

**There are specific rules for designing a coat of arms:**

1. Use the cut out coat of arms to trace one of your own onto your paper.
2. Divide the background with lines. You may use any of the example designs or create your own.
3. Choose a combination of the following colors: black, green, red, purple, gold, or silver to color your background.
4. Draw a fanciful animal as part of your design.
5. Complete your coat of arms with any personal or family symbols.
6. **Make sure your name is above the coat of arms.**
7. For each color, animal, symbol and design feature that you choose, on the back you must explain why you chose this in complete sentences.

**SEE EXAMPLE**—Be sure you follow all directions very carefully.

# *Use these guidelines to help you in your design.*

<p><b>Colors:</b> Yellow or Gold - Generosity White or Silver - Peace &amp; Sincerity Black – Constancy, loyalty (&amp; sometimes Grief) Blue - Loyalty &amp; Truthfulness Red - Military Fortitude &amp; Magnanimity, strength Green - Hope, Joy &amp; sometimes Loyalty Purple - Royal Majesty, Sovereignty &amp; Justice</p> <p><b>Animals:</b> Bear - Protectiveness Bee – Industriousness, intensity Camel – Perseverance, determination Dog - Loyalty Double Eagle &amp; Eagle - Leadership &amp; Decisiveness Dragon - Defender of Treasure Falcon or Hawk - Eagerness Fox – Cleverness, skill Griffin (part eagle, part lion) - Bravery Horse - Readiness to Serve Lion - Courage Pelican - Generosity &amp; Devotion Raven – Constancy, reliability Snake – Ambition, motivation Stag, Elk or Deer - Peace &amp; Harmony Tiger - Fierceness &amp; Valor Unicorn - Extreme courage Wolf - Constant Vigilance, watchfulness, observer</p>	<p><b>Symbols:</b> Axe – Dutiful, devoted, loyal Bridge - (signifies a governor or magistrate) Crescent - Enlightenment Crosses - Christian sentiments Crown – Authority, power Fire – Zeal, enthusiasm Flaming Heart – Passion Hand - Faith, Sincerity &amp; Justice Heart – Sincerity, honesty Horns &amp; Antlers – Fortitude, strength, courage Lightning – Decisiveness, determination Moon – Serenity, calmness, peacefulness Oyster Shell - Traveler Ring – Fidelity, reliability, devotion Scepter (rod) - Justice Star - Nobility Sun - Glory Sword - Warlike Tower or Castle - Fortitude &amp; Protectiveness</p> <p><b>Common Design Features:</b> Bend - a diagonal stipe Chevron - an upside-down "V" Chief - broad stripe across top of shield Dexter - the righthand side of the shield (from its user's perspective) Ermine - a white fur pattern (with black tail tips) Fess - broad horizontal stripe through center Pale - broad vertical stripe through center Passant - an animal shown walking Rampant - an animal standing on hind legs Sinister - the lefthand side of the shield (from its user's perspective)</p>
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*Write your ideas here. What colors, animals, symbols and design features do you like best? Do your rough draft here:*