

COAT OF ARMS

UNIT STUDY PACK







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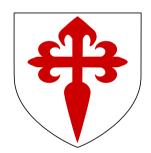
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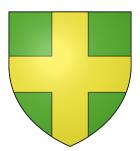
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All About A Coat of Arms

A coat of arms is a unique design painted on a shield. The unique symbol represents a specific family or person. These designs may be inherited, meaning that they pass from a father to his children. In the Middle Ages, these designs were shown on real shields, but today they are usually only drawn or painted on the paper that makes them legal which is called a grant of arms.









Originally appearing on shields or flags, coats of arms were once used as a way of distinguishing one knight from another on a battlefield. The study, classification, and design of coats of arms is known as heraldry.

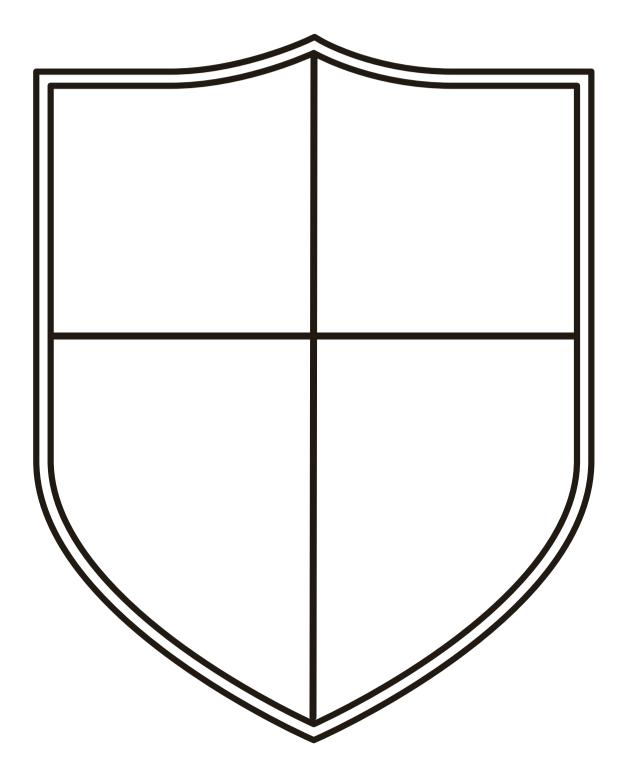


Designs for coats of arms included four main things:

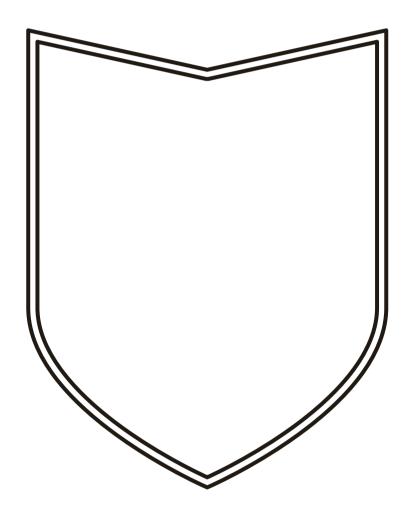
- 1. A shield divided into sections. Each section would have an image in it that had something to do with the family the coat of arms was made for.
- 2. On either side of the shield, there might be objects or animals - like the lion and unicorn on the coat of arms below - that look as if they're holding it up. These are known as supporters.
- 3. Above the shield was a helmet and a crest. A crest is a special object worn on top of a helmet to help identify who's wearing it.
- 4. Below the shield was a phrase written in Latin, called a motto, about the person's beliefs.



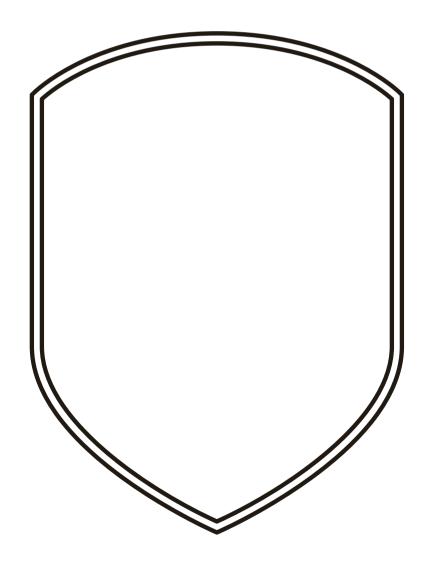
Step 1: Brainstorm what you want your coat of arms to represent.



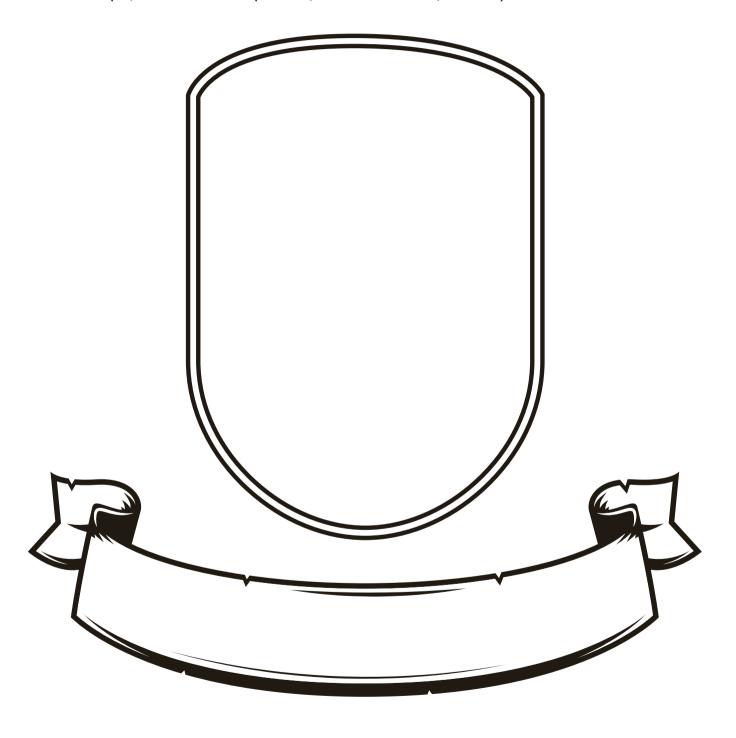
Step 2: Brainstorm what you want around your coat of arms (if anything).



Step 3: Design a helmet and a crest for the top of your coat of arms.



Step 4: Write a Latin phrase, called a motto, about your coat of arms.



Draw Your Finished Coat of Arms

