

# MEDIEVAL COAT OF ARMS

## BACKGROUND

In Europe during the Middle Ages, knights wore full-body armor that made them unrecognizable on the battlefield and in tournaments. In order to set themselves apart, knights would decorate their shields and banners with colors and symbols. Knights would have their symbol on a garment they would wear over top of their armor known as a “surcoat”.

Over time, these colors and symbols were passed down and became family symbols and became known as a “coat of arms”.

As time went on, more families had a coat of arms and some towns even adopted them. In an age when many people could not read or write, these symbols became easy ways to distinguish a person, place, or family.

## DIRECTIONS

Today, you will design your own personal coat of arms. Think of colors, images, symbols, or other things that are important to you and your family. What would you want strangers to know about you?

There are also colors and symbols that have traditional meaning in heraldry. “Heraldry” is the art of creating coats of arms. Over time these colors, symbols, and animals have developed and held significance. Feel free to use these examples below:

### COLORS

White - Peace  
Black - Grief  
Blue - Loyalty  
Red - Strength  
Green - Joy  
Purple – Royalty  
Gold - Generosity

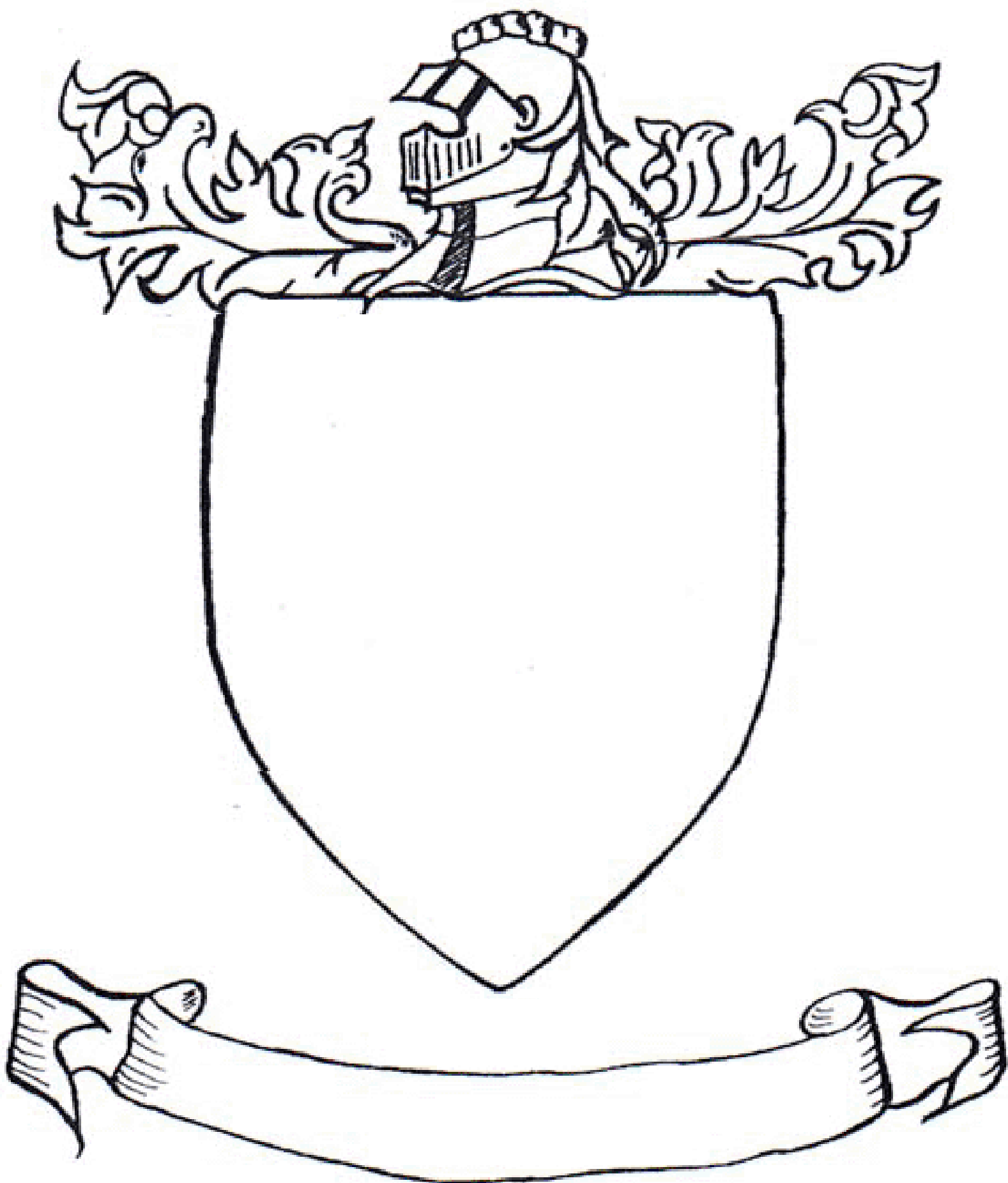
### SYMBOLS

Axe - Devoted  
Crescent - Intelligence  
Crosses - Christianity  
Crown - Authority  
Fire - Zeal  
Heart - Passion  
Moon - Serenity  
Oyster Shell - Traveler  
Ring - Fidelity  
Star - Nobility  
Sun - Glory  
Sword - Warlike  
Castle – Fortitude

### ANIMALS

Bear - Protectiveness  
Camel - Determination  
Dog - Loyalty  
Eagle - Leadership  
Dragon - Defender  
Fox - Cleverness  
Griffin - Bravery  
Lion - Courage  
Snake - Ambition  
Deer - Peace  
Tiger - Valor  
Wolf - Vigilance





# COAT OF ARMS RUBRIC

	Possible Points	Points Received	
		Self-Evaluation	Teacher Evaluation
<b>Visual Appeal:</b> Neatness, color, good choice of background and visuals, impressive first impression	10		
<b>Creativity / Originality:</b> The Coat of Arms is creatively presented and done with a new or unique twist	10		
<b>Effort:</b> Obvious effort went into project; not a hasty, "Gotta-get-it-done look"	5		
<b>Organization:</b> Each section of the Coat of Arms is easy to understand and has a clear purpose.	5		
<b>Ideas and Content:</b> Followed instructions for project, thorough knowledge of the purpose of a Coat of Arms is apparent. Includes all required information.	10		
<b>Total Points</b>	40		



# MEDIEVAL TIMES COAT OF ARMS PROJECT



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