

Coat of Arms Heraldry Project

Coats of arms originated during the Middle Ages when knights used colors to make their armor and shields easily recognizable by friends, foes, and spectators in battles and tournaments. The designs were worn over the armor, hence the term "coat of arms." In addition to the shield, elements of the knight's coat of arms were used to decorate the helmet crest, the pavilion, and the banners of knights and lords. In the beginning, each knight chose his own symbols and designs. He would choose an animal that represented a quality or characteristic, refer to accomplishments, or to make connections to his name. Sons would keep their father's design, and add their own elements to it. Every choice made, from the colors, the patterns, and the symbols, was purposeful and embedded with meaning. The study of these symbols, colors, and patterns used in coats of arms is called heraldry.

You are tasked with the challenge to create your own coat of arms. Think of your personality, character, hobbies, and family. Your coat of arms should be unique to you. Every choice you make will need to be justified, so do not choose something just because it is "cute" or "easy".

Please follow the following guidelines:

- Your coat of arms cannot be smaller than a half-sheet of posterboard. Do not use copy or notebook paper. You may also use creative materials if you choose... wood, metal, fabric, etc.
- Limit the number of background tinctures (colors) to four.
- You must use a pattern on the field (background of shield). Choose one that divides the shield into enough sections to represent all four of your required categories.
- You may use symbols from the Middle Ages, or you may choose more modern symbols. Be prepared to justify your choices.
- You may use pictures (printed images) or you can freehand your images.

The following categories must be represented on your coat of arms:

- an animal that represents you
- a symbol that represents your strongest character trait
- a symbol that represents a hobby/activity that you enjoy
- a symbol that represents your future
- include a personal motto (this can be words that you try to live by- a favorite quote, create your own, or use one from history)

I have included internet resources on heraldry symbols and coats of arms for you on the pvraiderenglish.weebly.com page on the Unit One: The Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Periods tab. I also have patterns available if you would like to trace a shield shape onto posterboard.

On the back of your shield, attach a sheet of notebook paper that justifies your choices. Be sure to describe each component, from the shape of your shield to the colors and symbols.

Due Date-

Coat of Arms Heraldry Project Rubric

Component	Points Possible
Project Meets Guidelines (see specific guidelines listed on this handout)	25
All Categories Represented (animal, character symbol, hobby/activity symbol, future symbol, motto)	25
Effort/Creativity/Neatness	25
Written Justification of Coat of Arms	25