

Background

A coat of arms is a unique heraldic design on a shield or tabard. These were originally used by medieval knights to cover, protect, and identify the wearer. The design is a symbol unique to an individual person or family.

Task instructions

Draw your own coat of arms. Use the template or draw your own shield shape. Now draw pictures for each of the four sections of your coat of arms. You should make your coat of arms as imaginative, colourful and attractive as possible but remember you must not use any words!

In each of the four sections draw something to represent your personal history. You can choose from the list below, or come up with your own ideas.

1. your **family origin**: something to signify the county or country which you identify with (you could even do this twice to represent your parents' origins if appropriate).
2. your **family name**: something to represent either your first or last name.
3. your **local origin**: something which you associate with where you live now (e.g. school, local area, home).
4. your **interests**: something that represents you as an individual (e.g. hobby, pet, sport, favourite team).

When you have finished swap your shield with a partner and explain what each of your pictures represents. Your teacher may then ask you to present your partner's shield to the rest of the class.

Extension:

You could also come up with your own motto (short statement of values) which you pledge to live by!

