

## *Trebuchet Teamwork- Design your coat of arms*

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 (e.g. signet rings) 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.

Before you design your own coat of arms, it'll be useful to look at a few traditional heraldic designs. Observe the traditional design elements. What do you think they symbolized for the people who chose to wear them? Below is a list of some elements you may want to include in your designs.

The Language of Heraldry

<p><b>Heraldic Colors:</b>            Yellow or Gold - Generosity            White or Silver - Peace &amp; Sincerity            Black - Constancy (&amp; sometimes Grief)            Blue - Loyalty &amp; Truthfulness            Red - Military Fortitude &amp; Magnanimity            Green - Hope, Joy &amp; sometimes Loyalty            Purple - Royal Majesty, Sovereignty &amp; Justice</p>	<p><b>Heraldic Animals:</b>            Bear - Protectiveness            Bee - Industriousness            Camel - Perseverance            Dog - Loyalty            Double Eagle &amp; Eagle - Leadership &amp; Decisiveness            Dragon - Defender of Treasure            Falcon or Hawk - Eagerness            Fox - Cleverness            Griffin (part eagle, part lion) - Bravery            Horse - Readiness to Serve            Lion - Courage            Pelican - Generosity &amp; Devotion            Raven - Constancy            Snake - Ambition            Stag, Elk or Deer - Peace &amp; Harmony            Tiger - Fierceness &amp; Valor            Unicorn - Extreme courage            Wolf - Constant Vigilance</p>	<p><b>Heraldic Symbols:</b>            Axe - Dutiful            Bridge - (signifies a governor or magistrate)            Crescent - Enlightenment            Crosses - Christian sentiments            Crown - Authority            Fire - Zeal            Flaming Heart - Passion            Fleur-de-lys (stylized Iris flower) - Purity            (associated with France)            Hand - Faith, Sincerity &amp; Justice            Heart - Sincerity            Horns &amp; Antlers - Fortitude            Lightning - Decisiveness            Moon - Serenity            Oyster Shell - Traveler            Ring - Fidelity            Scepter - Justice            Star - Nobility            Sun - Glory            Sword - Warlike            Tower or Castle - Fortitude &amp; Protectiveness</p>
--	---	--

Design a coat of arms that will be displayed on your trebuchet

<http://www.makeyourcoatofarms.com/>

[http://www.vam.ac.uk/vastatic/microsites/british\\_galleries/designa/coat\\_of\\_arms/coat\\_of\\_arms.html](http://www.vam.ac.uk/vastatic/microsites/british_galleries/designa/coat_of_arms/coat_of_arms.html)

[http://inkwellideas.com/coat\\_of\\_arms/](http://inkwellideas.com/coat_of_arms/)

