

LESSON PLAN: COAT OF ARMS

OBJECTIVES:

Social Studies

- Students will be able to describe the purpose of a coat of arms.

Civics

- Students will be able to create their own personal motto reflecting their own beliefs and values.

COAT OF ARMS

During the Middle Ages, knights used a coat of arms to identify themselves. In a society where few people could read and write, pictures were very important. Traditional colors include: Black, Royal Purple, Emerald Green, Royal Blue or Sky Blue, Bright Red. Animals were frequently used as a main charge. They were not drawn to look three dimensional, but were shown as if they were flat.

The pictures represented the animal as a symbol: Lion, Bear, Boar, Eagle, Horse, Dragon, Griffin.

PROCEDURES:

Students will create their own shield and family coat of arms including a motto that reflects the Code of Chivalry Values and an explanation on the back.

Crest: On the top of the helm. Stood on a two-coloured wreath, a cap (like here) or a crown. Knights wore these when jousting.

Helm: Different forms of helmet show how important people are. This gold & silver one is for a nobleman.

Coat of Arms: The main heraldic design. Used by knights on their shields to identify them in battle.

Motto: A saying which a knight & his family live by. Often in Latin or French.



Mantling: Two-coloured drapery worn by knights below the crest when jousting. Protects the neck from the sun.

Coronet: Only for noblemen. Most people weren't allowed them. Not shown here.

Supporters: Only given to very few important people. They hold up the shield. May be two the same or different.

Compartment: Supporters often stand on a grassy mound. Not shown here.

Rubric for Coat of Arms

| Criteria | Total Points Possible | Your Points |
|---|-----------------------|-------------|
| Neatness - use of precise drawings and artwork | 10 | |
| Motto - clearly identified and reflects own beliefs and values | 25 | |
| Symbols & Images - incorporate three or more images, symbols and animals from the Middle Ages into the coat of arms | 40 | |
| Explanation - clear and reflects the Code of Chivalry Values | 25 | |
| Total | 100 | |

COAT OF ARMS

Student Handout

