PEQUOT LIBRARY

Resources for Parents & Educators

Create Your Own Coat of Arms

What's a Coat of Arms?

A coat of arms is a unique design that includes symbols, colors, and words, or "motto", that are important to a family. It is an image or "herald" of a family.

During medieval times, families would use a coat of arms to display colors and symbols that were important to their histories and reputations on banners, shields, crests, and other objects, to show the world who they were and what they stood for.

Coats of Arms at Pequot Library

You can see examples of coats of arms by looking at one of Pequot Library's most outstanding architectural features: its Tiffany & Co. stained glass windows, located in the Stacks.

Completed in 1898, the windows were a gift of Mary Catherine Hull Wakeman in memory of her daughter, Eliza Hull Wakeman Taintor. They were designed by Edward Peck Sperry and were included in the Tiffany Studio catalog of 1910.

The windows are a "triptych", which means there are three pieces. You can see all three together on the next slide.

This is one of the two side panels of the triptych. This and the other side panel are decorated with the coats of arms of eight of the greatest authors the world has known: Shakespeare, Dante, Moliere, Chaucer, Bacon, Goethe, Milton and Lope de Vega.

IN
LOVING MEMORY
OF
ELIZA HVLL
WAKEMAN
TAINTOR
THIS BOOK ROOM WAS ENLARGED AND FVRNISHED
BY MARY CATHERINE HVLL WAKEMAN. A.D.1898

AVE GRATIA PLENA

Question:

If you could create a coat of arms for your family, what would it look like?

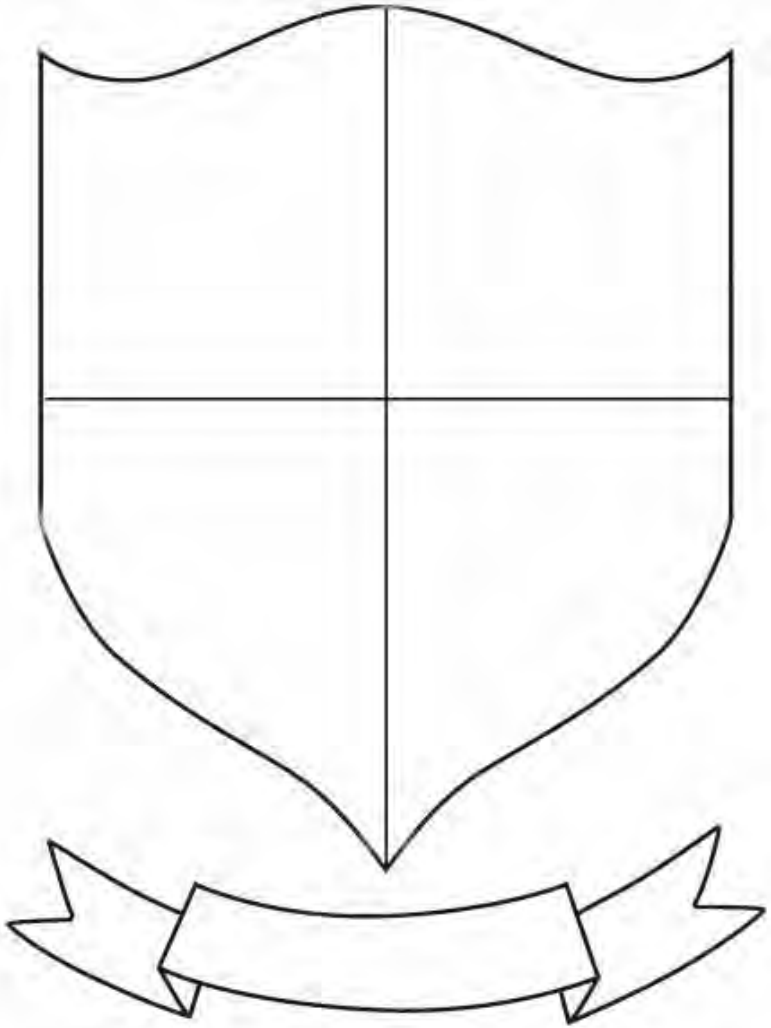
See the activity on the following slides to create a crest that tells the world all about what makes your family special and unique!

Materials

- White paper, cardstock, or poster board
- Markers, colored pencils, crayons
- Number 2 pencil
- Scissors
- Glue Stick

Instructions

- Cut paper into the shape of a shield, using the following template
- Ask yourself: What is my family about? What is important to us? What makes us unique? What words describe my family? What do I want the world to know about us?
- Each image and color on a coat of arms has meaning. Decide which images you'd like to include (could be drawn, painted, or cut and pasted onto shield) and refer to the following color chart to decide which colors to use to best represent your family
- Use markers, colored pencils, etc, to add images and colors to your shield.
- Is there a family motto that you'd like to include, such as "We love each other" or "All for one, and one for all!"?



Coat of Arms - Colors

Red
Passion, courage, bravery

Green
Healing, growth, harmony

Gold
Success, quality, elegance, radiance, abundance

Orange
Warmth, adventure, optimism, flair

Blue
Confidence, calm, understanding, dignity

Silver
Insight, reflection, power

Yellow
Cheer, joy, sun

Purple
Intrigue, pride, wisdom, wealth

Black
Strength, protection, mystery

Examples

Images courtesy of Pinterest