

History Detectives

What are Coats of Arms?



The Coat of Arms started in about the 12th Century. A knight dressed in armour from head to foot could not be recognised by friends or enemies. This resulted in markings being painted on knights' shields, as it was the largest piece of equipment the knight had and as

the shield was easily seen from far away.



A Coat of Arms was properly granted to someone with your surname many hundreds of years ago.

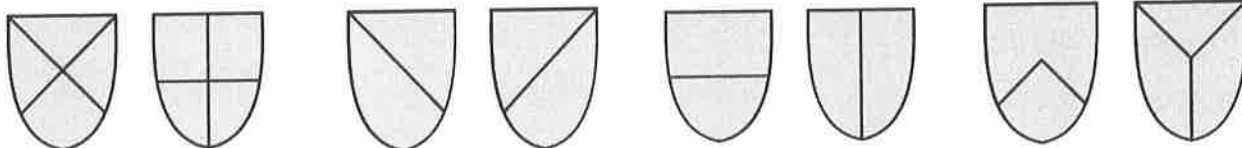
Have a go at designing your own

Your design should be made up of "clues" about yourself so that your friends would recognise it as being yours.



1. Use the blank Coat of Arms template
2. Have a look at the examples to get inspiration and to see what some real Coat of Arms look like.
3. Follow the stages below to create your own Coat of Arms

1. SHIELD – this is the main body of the design. You might want to divide it up using crosses and lines. Each section should include something about what you like to do (hobby, sport or other pastime) or maybe what you would like to be when you grow up. Some of the symbols commonly used are shown below with their meaning, this might help give you some ideas.



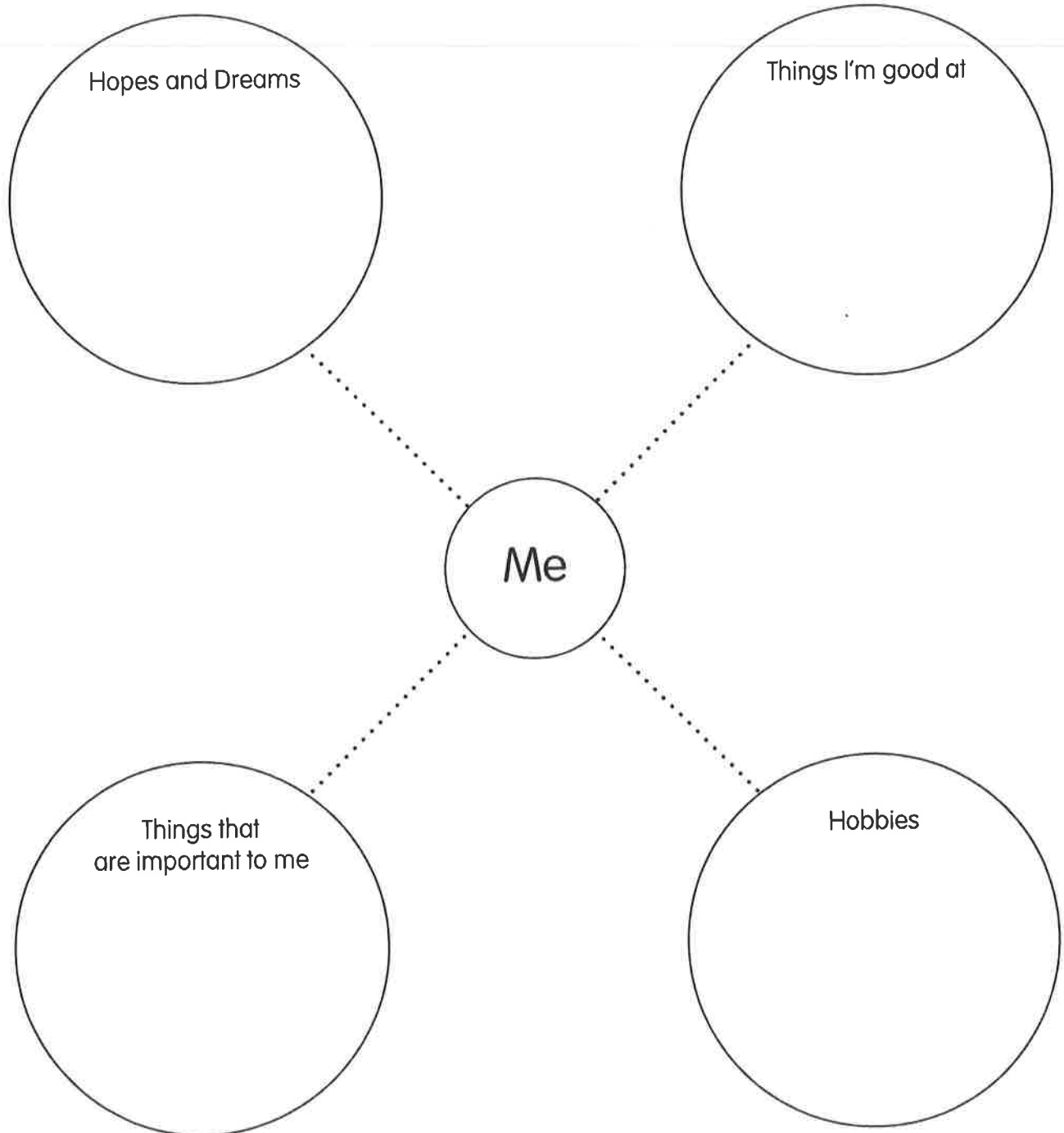
2. COLOURS - choose your favourite colours for the background of your shield it could even be more than one colour, perhaps one or two for each section.

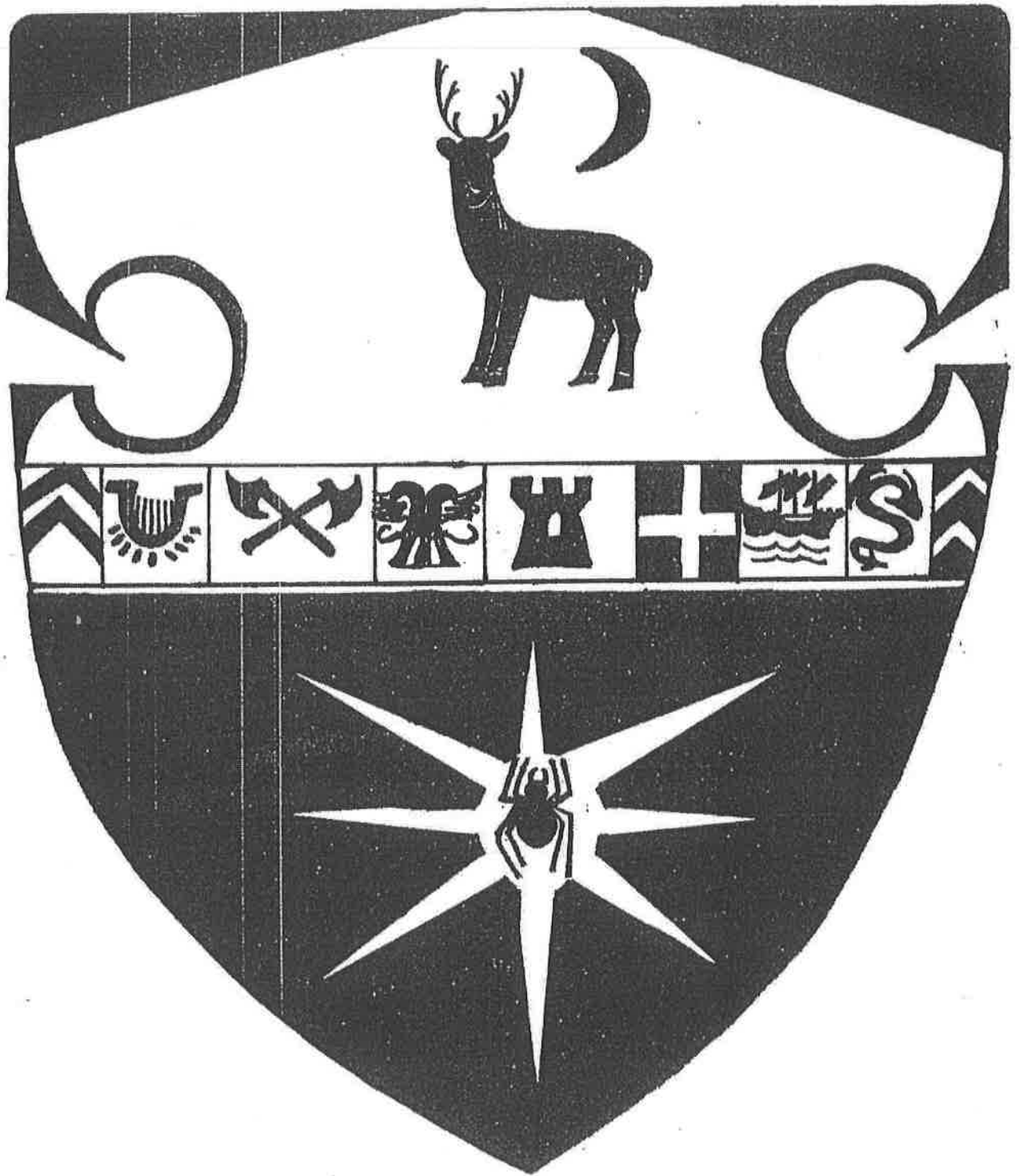
5. MOTTO - this appears at the bottom of the coat of arms and would normally be three words describing why the knight would be a good ally. Think of three words that sum up your strengths, or one of your strengths.

Some colours, symbols and animals had special meaning when use on Coats of Arms.

Bravery	Red, Griffin (part eagle part lion), Unicorn, Lion, Tiger, Dragon, swords, horns, antlers	
Kind	Bear, Pelican	
Loyal	Blue, Dog, Wolf, Horse, Axe, Ring	
Hard working	Bees, Camel	
Ambitious	Snake	
Enthusiasm	Falcon, Hawk, Fire	
Clever/ Wisdom	Fox, Grasshopper, Cubes, Dice, Crescent	
Leader	Purple, Eagle, Crown, Bridge	
Trustworthy	Raven, Gold Circle	
Peace & Harmony	White, Silver, Stag, Elk, Deer, Moon	
Grace	Purple, Mermaid	
Beauty	Peacock, Butterfly	
Honest/ Truthful	Blue, Hand, Heart	
Generous	Yellow, Gold	







HERALDRY

Coats of Arms Uncovered!

Shield Template

