How Much Time Will You Need?
About an Hour

Materials You will Need:
- Scratch Paper
- Drawing paper, Poster Board or Cardboard
- Crayons, Markers or Paint – YOUR CHOICE!!
- Printout of Attached Handout OR a Computer to Follow the Links

Learning Objectives (or Why are we doing this besides having fun?)
- History – Heraldry, the art of using symbols to on Armor, specifically shields throughout the ‘high middle ages in Europe (around the 12th century)
- Shakespeare – He talks a lot about Herladry and uses it to make lots of jokes!
- Theater – In theatrical design, symbols are very important. This helps young artists practice using symbols and exploring archetypes to communicate who they are (or want to be) to the world.

Let's Get Started!

Coats of Arms were the artistic expressions of Heraldry in Shakespeare’s England. They were made of of Symbols that represented the person or family and could be put onto a flag that would be recognized on the battlefield – so you knew where your friends... or enemies were. They were also a kind of LOGO... a medieval brand. They told the viewer what the family was all about. What they believed, what they aspired to, where they were from or what they had done.

LOOK AT THESE COATS OF ARMS? WHAT SYMBOLS DO YOU SEE AND WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY MEAN??

(Can you guess which one belonged to Shakespeare’s family?? Answer at the end)
Let’s Make YOUR OWN PERSONAL COAT OF ARMS …

1. What is the best thing about you? Use one word! Write it down!

2. Think of an image that would represent that thing and draw it next to the word.

   EXAMPLE: If you are brave, perhaps an image would be a lion standing with claws stretched out.

3. Make a list of 3 more personal attributes.

   What are you best known for? What are you proud of? Are you cheerful? A really good friend? Do you like to talk or read a lot?

4. Think of images for those things and draw them too.
   Here are some images and their “meanings” that people used in Shakespeare’s day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Image</th>
<th>HAND</th>
<th>FLAMING HEART</th>
<th>PELICAN</th>
<th>PORTICULUS OR GATE</th>
<th>SERPENT</th>
<th>CROWN</th>
<th>SWAN</th>
<th>ROSE</th>
<th>LANTERN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Hand" /></td>
<td><strong>HAND</strong>&lt;br&gt;Open – eloquence&lt;br&gt;Closed - logical</td>
<td><strong>FLAMING HEART</strong>&lt;br&gt;passion, intense emotions</td>
<td><strong>PELICAN</strong>&lt;br&gt;Charity or Self Sacrifice</td>
<td><strong>PORTICULUS OR GATE</strong>&lt;br&gt;Protection in emergency</td>
<td><strong>SERPENT</strong>&lt;br&gt;Wisdome, cunning</td>
<td><strong>CROWN</strong>&lt;br&gt;Leadership Authority</td>
<td><strong>SWAN</strong>&lt;br&gt;Poetic perfection&lt;br&gt;Light, grace, harmony</td>
<td><strong>ROSE</strong>&lt;br&gt;Hope &amp; Joy</td>
<td><strong>LANTERN</strong>&lt;br&gt;Light, Life, Enlightenment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. WRITE YOUR PERSONAL MOTTO.

A motto is a brief phrase or slogan that says who you are. It’s a catch phrase that says everything about you ... OR what you think is most important in the world! ... OR even what you want the world to THINK about you.

It’s about VALUES and might be INSPIRING!

It was often in a different language like LATIN. Does your family speak more than one language? You could use that!

SOME EXAMPLES FROM REAL COATS OF ARMS:

Unite and Be Mindful

Land of the Elm Trees

Much in Little

Dare to be Wise

Honor before Luck
In heraldry, an escutcheon, or scutcheon, is the shield displayed in a coat of arms. The escutcheon shape is based on the Medieval shields that were used by knights in combat. The shape varied from region to region and over time.
7. PICK COLORS

You can pick colors you like or colors that have meanings! What do you think about with certain colors... what does BLUE mean to you? Is it SAD or IS it PEACEFUL? Maybe it reminds you of water and you’re a swimmer!

Some Color Associations from Shakespeare’s Day!

- Gold (Or) : Generosity and elevation of the mind
- Silver or White (Argent) : Peace and sincerity
- Red (Gules) : Warrior or martyr; Military strength and magnanimity
- Blue (Azure) : Truth and loyalty
- Green (Vert) : Hope, joy, and loyalty in love
- Black (Sable) : Constancy or grief
- Purple (Purpure) : Royal majesty, sovereignty, and justice
- Orange (Tawny or Tenne) : Worthy ambition
- Maroon (Sanguine or Murray) : Patient in battle, and yet victorious
8. DIVIDE YOUR SHIELD AND PICK SOME DECORATIONS

The simplest possible arms consist of a plain field. One example are the arms of Termes family in the Languedoc, whose arms were plain red - in heraldic language the full blazon is "Gules". As there are clearly a limited number of possibilities for such arms, many include charges to "difference" them.

Another way of creating more variations is to vary the field. The field can be divided into more than one tincture. Many coats of arms consist simply of a division of the field into two contrasting tinctures. These are considered divisions of a shield, so the rule of tincture does not apply. For example, a shield divided Azure and Gules would be perfectly acceptable.

A line of partition may be straight or it may be varied. The variations of partition lines can be wavy, indented, embattled, engrailed, nebuly, or other forms.
9. **PUT IT ALL TOGETHER AND DECORATE YOUR SHIELD** - Using your special images and the motto you have created. Decorate your shield…

Look at some of the SYMBOLS you may want to use below!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Heraldic Lines and Ordinaries:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nebuly Line</td>
<td>Clouds or air</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wavy Line</td>
<td>Sea or water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engrailed Line</td>
<td>Earth or land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invected Line</td>
<td>Earth or land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indented Line</td>
<td>Fire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dancette Line</td>
<td>Water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raguly Line</td>
<td>Difficulties that have been encountered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embattled Line</td>
<td>Walls of a fortress or town (also, fire)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Lots of Scrolls for Mottos**

![Scrolls for Mottos](image)
You might want to organize it this way…

10. Congratulations! You’ve designed a Coat of Arms!

Want to go to the next level?

Take your coat of arms and put it on a Flag or make a cardboard or even wooden shield and make a big version.

And…

Please share it with us! We will put any pictures (and your name if you want it) on the Elm Website and share it on our Facebook page for the world to admire!

Want to learn more? Look on the next page for some great websites that have even more information, history, pictures, symbols and more!
EVERYTHING about Coats of Arms Decorations
http://www.internationalheraldry.com/

Encyclopedia Britannica – Coat of Arms
https://www.britannica.com/topic/coat-of-arms
This website has a terrific video from Folger Library with beautiful examples of Coats of Arms and a great discussion about them too!

Medieval Manuscripts Blog – Animals on Coats of Arms
https://blogs.bl.uk/digitisedmanuscripts/2020/01/animals-on-coats-of-arms.html
This website has some great pictures!

Heraldic Symbolism
https://www.heraldryandcrests.com/pages/heraldic-symbolism-a-z
An amazing website with many many different symbols, colors, patterns etc. and what they mean when used.

Heraldic Mottos – Hall of Names
https://www.hallofnames.org.uk/mottoes-on-coats-of-arms/

EVERYTHING about Coats of Arms Decorations
http://www.internationalheraldry.com/

Answer – Shakespeare’s Coat of Arms is the Yellow and Black one on the second row. The Motto: Not without Right.