

name: _____

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date: _____

The Shield in Medieval Heraldry



In medieval times, a _____ would often be recognized by his shield. This shield was not just for protection; it also displayed his _____. Each shield had a unique design, known as a _____. These designs were like a personal _____, representing the knight's family and values.

The colors on the shield were not chosen randomly. Each color had a specific _____. For example, red symbolized _____ and gold represented _____. Animals were also commonly used in these designs. A _____ might symbolize courage, while an _____ represented strength.

The shape of the shield could vary too. Some shields were _____, others were more _____. The top of the shield, called the _____, was especially important. It was often used to signify the knight's _____ to a lord or king.

Not just anyone could have a coat of arms. To own one, you had to be granted it by a _____. This was a big honor. Once granted, the coat of arms became a part of the family _____. It was passed down through _____, sometimes with small changes to mark the family's history.

Girls could inherit coats of arms too, but with a difference. Their shields were usually shaped like a _____, more diamond-like. This was to distinguish their shields from those of _____.

Shields weren't just used in _____. They were also displayed in homes, on _____, and even on _____. They were a key part of medieval _____, showing everyone who you were and what you stood for.

generations meaning logo generosity men tapestries eagle oval
battle heritage tombstones knight identity lozenge lion bravery
monarch culture chief coat of arms rectangular loyalty