

My Personal Profile: Family Crest



The time period from around 500 AD to around 1500 AD in Europe was known as the Middle Ages or Medieval Times. This was a time of castles and knights. Knights, like in this drawing, were a type of soldier during this period. Each knight would have a specific design on his shield, helmet, and armor. This was one way people watching a competition between knights could tell who was who. These designs together are known as a coat of arms. The designs of a knight's coat of arms would tell a story about the knight and his achievements. The design or symbol on a knight's helmet was called the family crest and would be passed on to his first son or grandson when he died.

Everything on a family crest should mean something about the family it represents. Even the colors and things had specific meanings in Medieval Times. For example, purple meant royalty or justice, and a lion would stand for courage.

Work with someone else in your home and think about what you would put on your family's crest? For this project, your family could be the people who live in your house right now or it could be your relatives.

What would you include on your family crest? You could use symbols of things your family likes to do. For example, if your family likes to fish you could add a drawing of a fish. If you like to play soccer, you could add a soccer ball. You can include some favorite colors for people in your family.

Use the blank crest on the next page to design a family crest for your family. You can add your name, your family's last name, or any other words that are important to you or your family. You can finish your design at your program if you want to use the art supplies there.



