

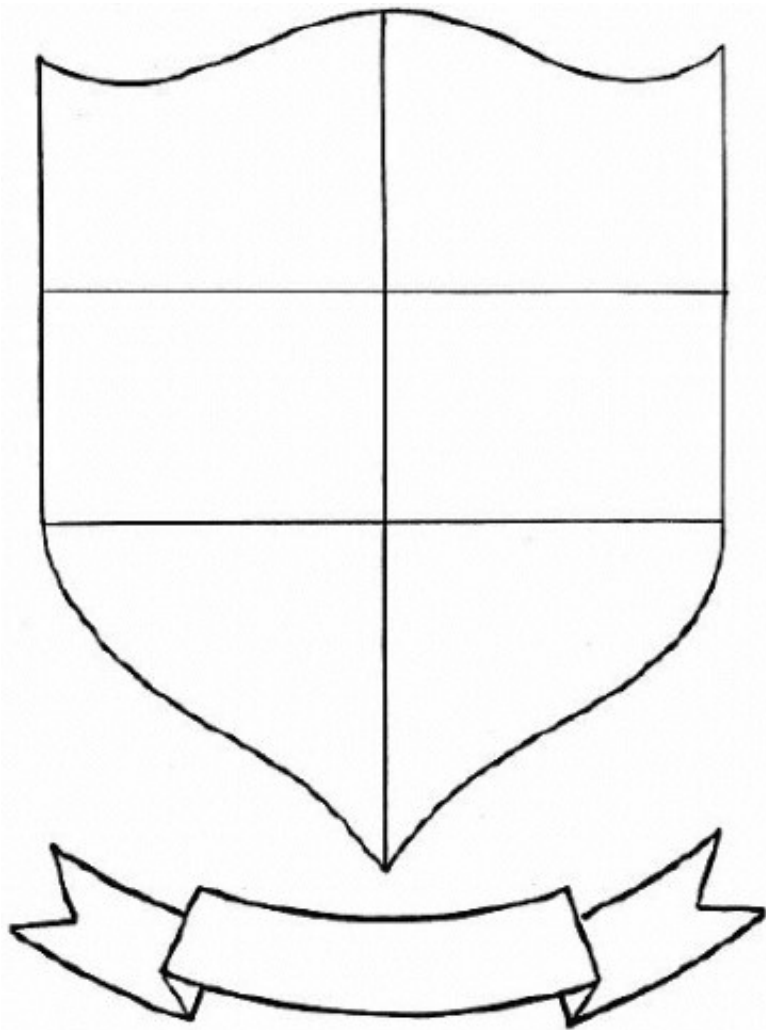
Richard III

Dynasty

Symbols of Power.

Richard III was really interested in the signs and symbols associated with power. From long before the time of his reign to the present day, people of power, kings, queens, organisations and sometimes countries have had a coat of arms covered with signs and symbols that represent them and their family, like a modern day logo. Richard thought that they were so important that, while he was king, he set up the College of Arms that is, even today, involved in the organisation and granting of all coats of arms.

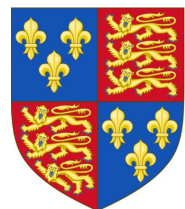
Can you create a coat of arms to represent you and your family?



Richard III's coat of arms - can you see the white boars on either side of the arms and the white rose of York at the bottom?



Richard III's white boar cognizance (badge)

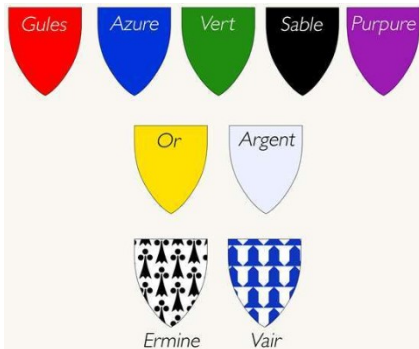


Richard III's arms

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The Colours of Heraldry

The 5 traditional colours used were: red (gules), blue (azure), green (vert), black (sable) and purple (purpura).

There were also 2 'metals': gold or yellow (or) and silver or white (argent).

'Furs' were also commonly used: ermine (representing the white winter fur of stoats with their black tail tips) and vair (representing squirrel skins in blue and white).

Heraldic Ordinaries

Ordinaries are the simple shapes used on heraldic shields, against a colour, metal or fur background. If you are making your own design, choose one of these main ordinaries.

You can also divide your shield into two colours, either vertically or horizontally, or into four different-coloured quarters.

You don't have to use an ordinary, but if you do remember to **never put a colour on colour or a metal on a metal**. Try to remember this heraldic rule: colours don't show up well against colours, or metals against metals. This also applies to charges.

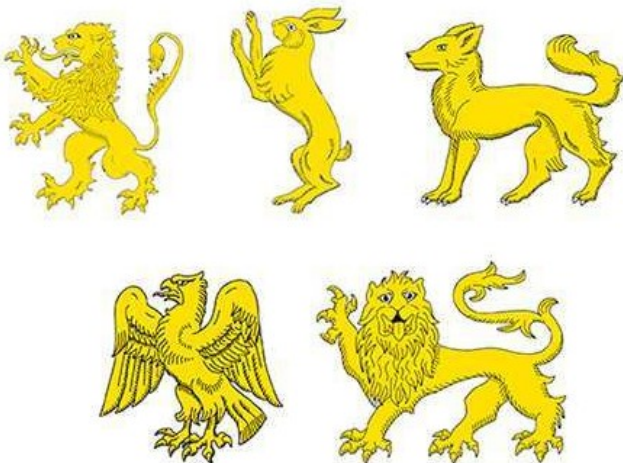


Heraldic Charges

Charges are emblems added to the shield, on the background, the 'ordinary', or both. There can be one big charge, or several smaller repeated ones. Here are some of the common charges you could use:

Crosses - of many different types, Stars, Rings, Balls, Crescents, Diamonds, Flowers.

They can be any colour, but remember **never put colour on colour**, for example a green star on blue, **or metal on metal**, for example a white flower on yellow.



Animal Charges

Any animal - either one big one or several smaller - can be used as a charge. They can be shown in many different ways, for instance:

Rearing up (rampant) - like the lion and the hare in the pictures, standing (statant) - like the dog. For birds, with wings outstretched (displayed) - like the eagle, walking along (passant) - like the other lion.

If the animal is looking towards you, it is also guardant or 'on guard'. So the lion in the picture is passant guardant. The ancient royal arms of England are three golden lions, one above the other, walking along on a red shield: or in heraldic code **gules three lions passant guardant or**.

Choosing your Animal

Animals symbolised different qualities. So for instance:

Lions = bravery, Dogs = faithfulness, reliability, Stags = wisdom and long life, Eagles = power and nobility, Hares = speed, Badgers = endurance or 'hanging on'.

You could also design your own animal charge--for instance a cat, horse or other favourite pet. Or you could choose a fabulous beast.