

## What is A coat of Arms?

In medieval times, when a knight's helmet would cover his whole head, it was very difficult to tell who was who in battle. So in order to help identify themselves and distinguish the enemy people started to use heraldry- designs or markings on their armour. Over time these developed into coats of arms, used to represent a person or family. Each of the colours, symbols and shapes on a coat of arms has a meaning, or represents something important to that family. Now we often see coats of arms for places, on school badges, even sporting clubs.

If you want to learn more about this time period in North Lanarkshire you can read our collection stories here- <https://www.culturenmuseums.co.uk/>

## Design Your Own Coat of Arms

What you will need:

An empty cereal packet

Scissors

Glue

Felt pens/ crayons or similar

- Using the template on the next page you can design your very own knight's shield / coat of Arms - hopefully using materials which you already have at home.
- Print off the template OR copy the shape. Glue it down on to the cardboard and cut to size. It will fit nicely on the back of a cereal packet, but if you've got other spare cardboard at home you can supersize your shield if you want.
- Design- choose what design you want to put on your shield and decorate with whatever craft materials you have available. There is some information and pictures below about what the different symbols and colours mean. Why not choose some images which represent your own family, or just yourself. Does your family already have a coat of arms- perhaps you could find out about it on line?

We'd love to see pictures of your finished Coat of Arms, maybe you could send a picture to our twitter @CNLLearning

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# Heraldic Elements



## Colors

- Yellow or Gold - Generosity
- White or Silver - Peace/Sincerity
- Black - Constancy & Grief
- Blue - Loyalty & Truthfulness
- Red - Military Fortitude
- Green - Hope, Joy, & Loyalty
- Purple - Royalty & Justice

## Animals

- Bear - Protectiveness
- Bee - Industriousness
- Camel - Perseverance
- Dog - Loyalty
- Dove - Peace
- Dragon - Defender of Treasure
- Eagle - Leadership & Decisiveness
- Falcon or Hawk - Eagerness
- Fox - Cleverness
- Griffin - Bravery
- Horse - Readiness to Serve
- Raven - Constancy
- Snake - Ambition
- Stag, Elk, or Deer - Peace & Harmony
- Tiger - Ferocity & Valor
- Unicorn - Extreme courage
- Wolf - Constant vigilance

## Symbols

- Axe - Dutiful
- Crescent - Enlightenment
- Crosses - Christian sentiments
- Crown - Authority
- Fine - Enthusiasm
- Flaming Heart - Passion
- Flower - Beauty
- Hand - Faith & Justice
- Heart - Sincerity
- Horns & Antlers - Fortitude
- Leaves - Nature
- Lightning - Decisiveness
- Moon - Sincerity
- Oyster Shell - Traveler
- Ring - Fidelity
- Scepter - Justice
- Star - Nobility
- Sun - Glory
- Sword - Warfare

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HUMOR



APPETITE



SINCERITY



PEACE



COURAGE



WISDOM



WARRIOR



RELIGION



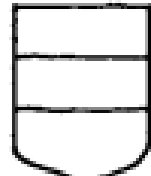
PRIDE



EAGERNESS



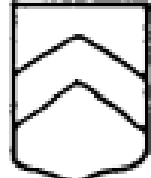
STRENGTH



HONOR



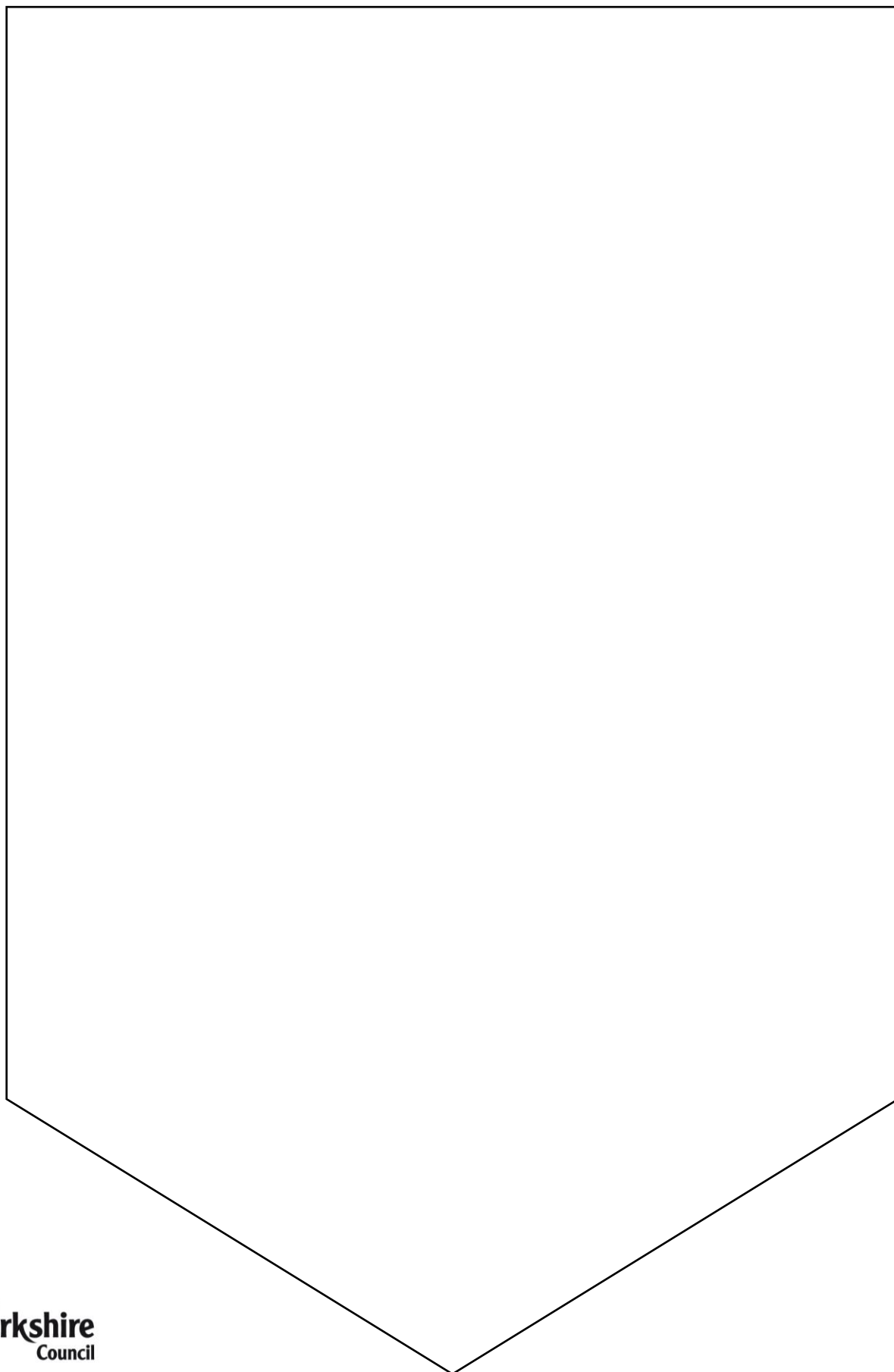
CLEVERNESS



ACHIEVEMENT

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