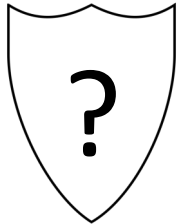


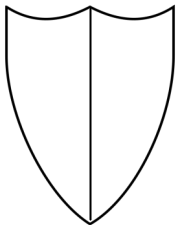
## Design your own Coat of Arms

### Step 1:



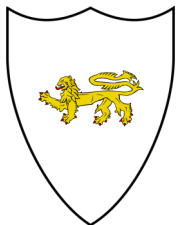
Choose the colour of your shield. This is known as the **tincture**.

### Step 2:



You can keep the **field** (background) plain or you can divide it using one of

### Step 3:



Choose a **charge**. These are symbols that represent you. You can have one big charge or several smaller ones. Pick one or design your own!


### Charges:

A **charge** is the a symbol used in heraldry to represent a person or their family name. A charge can be a plant, an animal or another symbols. Animals will usually face left. Some common charges used in heraldry are:




#### Animals

Lion  
Eagle  
Stag  
Fish  
Dog  
Dragon  
Unicorn  
Griffin

#### Plants

Oak tree/leaf or acorn  
Bunch of grapes  
Thistle  
Rose  
Fleur de lis 

#### Symbols

Cross  
Lozenge   
Billet   
Roundel   
Shell

### Tinctures:

**Tinctures** are the colours used in heraldry. There are nine to choose from—5 **colours**, 2 **metals** and 2 **furs**

#### Colours



**Gules**  
(Red)



**Azure**  
(Blue)



**Vert**  
(Green)



**Purple**  
(Purple)



**Sable**  
(Black)

#### Metals



**Or**  
(Gold/Yellow)



**Argent**  
(Silver/White)

#### Furs



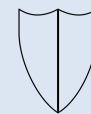
**Ermine**  
(White with black pattern)



**Vair**  
(White and blue pattern)

### Divisions:

The **field** (background) of a coat of arms is sometimes divided into multiple colours. Here are the 6 different divisions with the heraldic names used to describe them:



*party per pale*



*party per fess*



*party per bend*



*party per bend sinister*



*quarterly*



*per saltire*

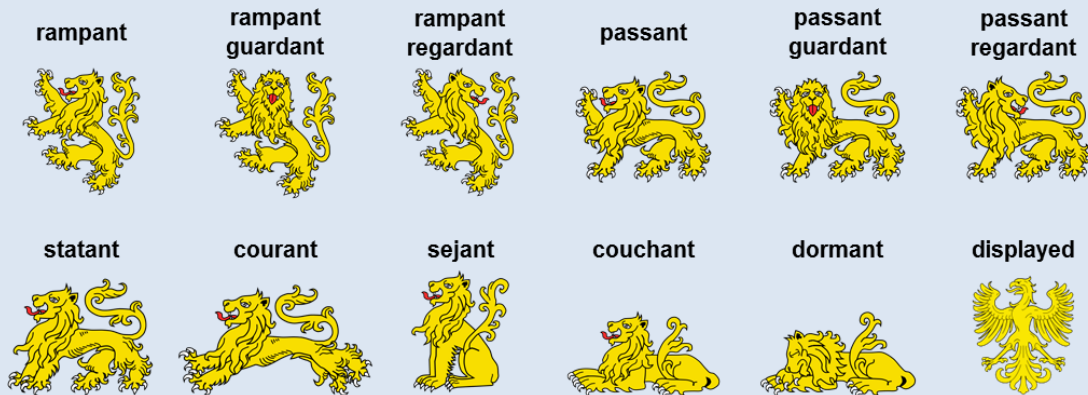
Now **blazon** your Coat of Arms! A *blazon* is the official description of your Coat of Arms. The writing of blazons follows a strict formula so the more complicated your Coat of Arms, the trickier the blazon!

1. First describe the field using its tincture, which should be written with a capital letter. If the field is divided, describe division first and then the tinctures beginning on the left side.
2. Next, name the principal (main) charge with its tincture(s). If the charge is a bird or beast, describe its *attitude* (see the box below) followed by its tincture.
3. Finally, name any other charges with their attitudes and tinctures.
4. A *quartered* shield is blazoned one quarter at a time, starting with the top left quarter and proceeding from left to right.

The idea is that if somebody read just the description, they would be able to draw the Coat of Arms without seeing it.. Have a go!

### Attitude

In heraldry, *attitude* refers to the position an animal's body is in. Each position has its own name and there are many variations. Some animals, such as fish, even have their own unique set of names - it can get very complicated! We have listed some common attitudes below:



If your animal is a four-legged creature with wings, such as a dragon or griffin, use the term *segreant* instead of *rampant*.

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### My blazon:

.....

.....

.....

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