

Why did a knight need to have a coat of arms?

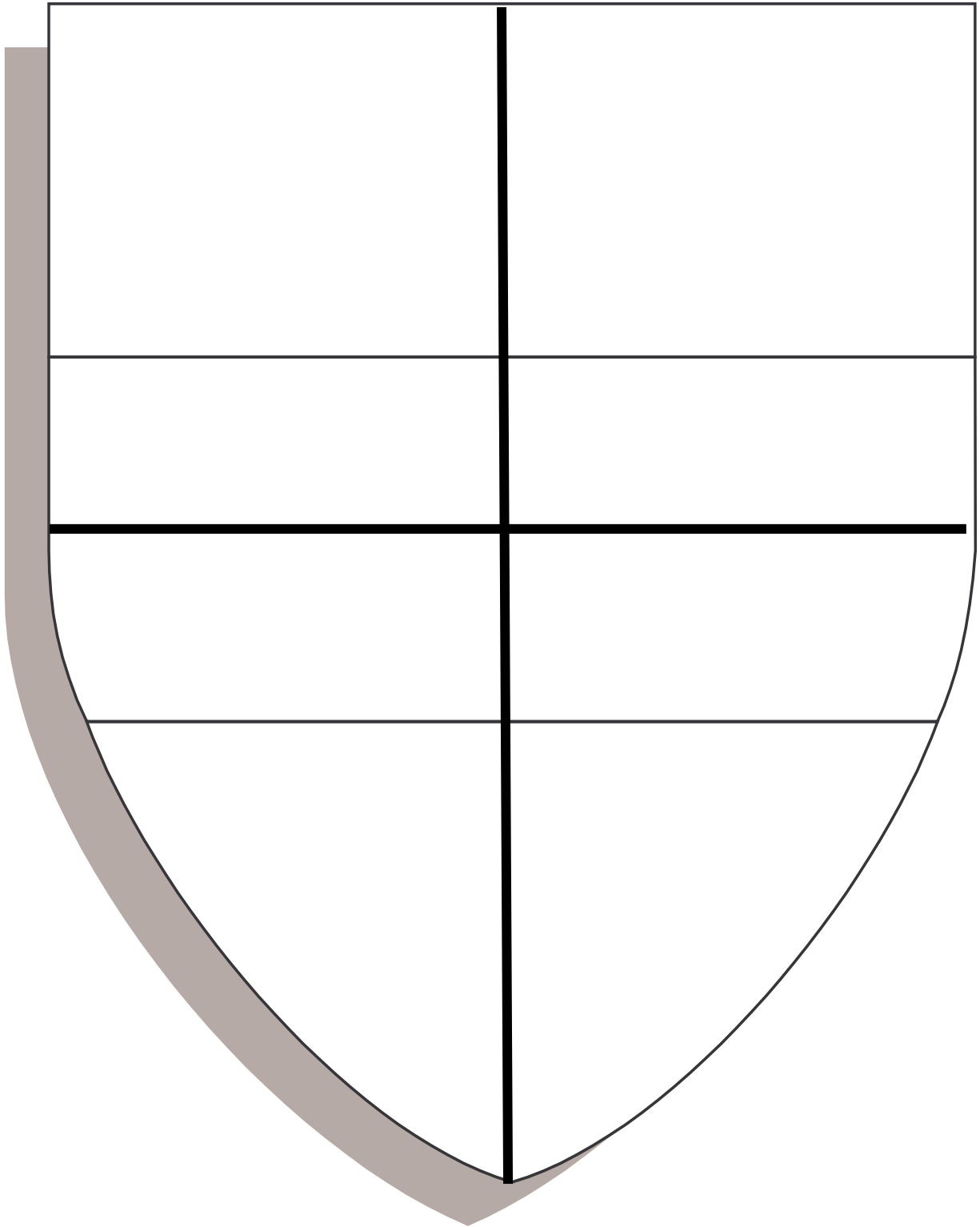
In the 12th century, knights began wearing helmets that completely concealed their faces except for two narrow slits for the eyes. It made a knight unrecognizable to both his friends and his enemies. Symbols such as lions or other beasts were painted on the knights' shields and banners to aid in recognition during a battle. As time went on these decorations were repeated on the surcoat (a sleeveless garment that was worn over armor)—therefore the name, coat of arms. By the 15th century, as the designs became more complex, it developed into a complicated science called heraldry—a system of personal symbols by which a knight could be recognized.

Personal Coat of Arms Project Medieval Unit

1. Copy desired shape for your coat of arms onto a poster board. Leave enough room at the top for your name, and enough room at the bottom for your motto.
2. Divide the shield into 4 even parts
3. The requirements for each section are:
Top Left: Most important activity in your life
Top Right: Your greatest success in life
Bottom Left: A strong belief you have OR what you value most in life
Bottom Right: Your highest goal in life
4. In each part you will symbolically depict each of the requirements
5. Create a motto (favorite saying- usually wise) which is frequently said in your family or by you, and place it in the blank space at the bottom of the poster in a banner.
6. Identify yourself as SIR _____ or LADY _____ Your name should fit into the blank space left at the top of the board.
7. Be prepared to give a presentation on your coat of arms, explaining the four sections that are symbolically depicted on the shield, and explain why/how you chose your “motto for life”.
8. What counts most on the board: Imagination, effort, creativity, neatness, size (large) and brightness, attractiveness.
9. Have fun with this and take pride in your work! They will be displayed at Open House and at Graduation.

Due Date: _____

Sir/Lady NAME HERE



Life's Motto HERE