

Heraldry Basics for Teens

Heraldry · Answer Key · 22 Questions

1. What is the primary purpose of a coat of arms in heraldry?

- A) To identify an individual, family, or organization**
- B) To serve as a battle cry during combat
- C) To indicate a person's wealth and status
- D) To decorate a knight's armor

2. The study and practice of heraldry is called:

- A) Genealogy
- B) Cartography
- C) Heraldry**
- D) Philately

3. Which historical period saw the rise of heraldry as a significant practice, particularly for knights?

- A) The Roman Empire
- B) The Middle Ages**
- C) The Renaissance
- D) The Victorian Era

4. A shield, the central element of a coat of arms, is known in heraldry as a:

- A) Crest
- B) Motto
- C) Charge
- D) Escutcheon**

5. What are the main colors used in heraldry called?

- A) Hues
- B) Tints
- C) Tinctures**
- D) Shades

6. Which of these is NOT a primary heraldic color (known as 'colours')?

- A) Red (Gules)
- B) Blue (Azure)
- C) Green (Vert)
- D) Yellow (Or)**

7. What is a 'charge' in heraldry?

- A) The helmet worn by a knight
- B) A symbol placed on the shield**
- C) The frame around a coat of arms
- D) A decorative border on a shield

8. What is the term for the object worn on top of a knight's helmet, often depicted in a coat of arms?

- A) A crown
- B) A coronet
- C) A crest**
- D) A helm

9. What does the term 'blazon' refer to in heraldry?

- A) The act of painting a coat of arms
- B) The symbolic meaning of a crest
- C) A written description of a coat of arms**
- D) The tournament where shields were displayed

10. Which of these animals is commonly found as a charge in heraldry, representing courage and strength?

- A) Dolphin
- B) Lion**
- C) Squirrel
- D) Butterfly

11. What is a 'supporter' in heraldry?

- A) A decorative knot on a shield
- B) Figures that stand on either side of the shield**
- C) The base of a coat of arms
- D) A type of metal used in shields

12. The national flag of Scotland, the Saltire, is an example of a heraldic symbol. What shape is it?

- A) A cross
- B) A chevron
- C) A saltire (diagonal cross)**
- D) A fess (horizontal band)

13. Which country has a national emblem featuring a lion rampant, often associated with its royal standard?

- A) France
- B) Spain
- C) Scotland**
- D) Germany

14. What is the term for a simple horizontal band across the center of a shield in heraldry?

- A) Pale
- B) Chevron
- C) Fess**
- D) Bend

15. In heraldry, what does the color black (Sable) often symbolize?

- A) Joy and happiness
- B) Constancy and grief**
- C) War and aggression
- D) Peace and tranquility

16. What is a 'motto' in the context of a coat of arms?

- A) A decorative pattern on the shield
- B) A short phrase or saying, often beneath the shield**
- C) The name of the knight who first bore the arms
- D) A symbol of rank or authority

17. What is the heraldic term for the diagonal stripe across a shield, typically from the upper-left to the lower-right?

- A) Fess
- B) Pale
- C) Bend**
- D) Chevron

18. Which of these is NOT a heraldic 'metal'?

- A) Or (Gold/Yellow)
- B) Argent (Silver/White)
- C) Azure (Blue)**
- D) Gules (Red)

19. What is a 'garb' in heraldry, often seen as a charge?

- A) A sword
- B) A ship's wheel
- C) A sheaf of wheat**
- D) A hunting horn

20. The process of granting new coats of arms is typically overseen by:

- A) Local councils
- B) Government treasuries
- C) Official heraldic authorities**
- D) Art museums

21. What is the heraldic term for a design that looks like an upside-down 'V' on a shield?

- A) Fess
- B) Chevron**
- C) Pale
- D) Bend

22. In heraldry, what does the color green (Vert) often symbolize?

- A) Wealth and prosperity
- B) Hope and joy**
- C) Strength and courage
- D) Loyalty and fidelity