

Heraldic Fauna and Flora: A Deep Dive

Heraldry · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. In heraldry, the 'sea-horse' (or hippocampus) is a common charge. Which ancient Greek deity is often depicted riding or accompanied by a sea-horse?

- A) Apollo
- B) Poseidon**
- C) Artemis
- D) Hades

2. The heraldic beast known as the 'talbot' is often described as a hunting dog. Historically, which breed is it most closely associated with?

- A) Greyhound
- B) Mastiff
- C) Bloodhound**
- D) Saluki

3. The 'tressure flory-counter-flory' is a distinctive heraldic element famously found in the Royal Arms of Scotland. Which plant's motif is represented by 'flory'?

- A) Oak leaf
- B) Rose
- C) Fleur-de-lis**
- D) Thistle

4. In blazonry, the term 'eradicated' is used to describe a charge that has been torn out by the roots. Which natural element is most often depicted this way?

- A) Tree**
- B) Mountain
- C) Cloud
- D) River

5. The 'griffin' is a mythological creature often featured in heraldry. It is a combination of which two animals?

- A) Lion and eagle**
- B) Horse and snake
- C) Bear and owl
- D) Wolf and hawk

6. The 'woodwose' (or wild man) is a less common, but significant heraldic figure. What does this figure typically represent in its natural context?

A) A mythical forest dweller

- B) A farmer tending crops
- C) A sailor navigating seas
- D) A miner extracting ore

7. In heraldry, the depiction of a bird with its wings 'elevated' signifies a specific posture. What does this posture most closely represent in avian behavior?

A) Taking flight

- B) Resting on a perch
- C) Preening feathers
- D) Singing a song

8. The 'fountain' is a heraldic charge representing a spring or well. What tincture (color) is it typically depicted in?

A) Azure (blue)

- B) Argent (white)
- C) Vert (green)
- D) Or (yellow)

9. The 'mullet' is a common heraldic star, usually depicted with five points. What celestial body does this symbol traditionally represent?

- A) Comet
- B) Planet

C) Star

- D) Moon

10. The 'serpent' or 'snake' in heraldry can carry various symbolic meanings. When depicted coiled and striking, what primal concept does it often evoke?

- A) Wisdom and healing

B) Temptation and evil

- C) Fertility and rebirth
- D) Protection and vigilance

11. The 'lion rampant' is one of the most prevalent heraldic beasts, signifying courage and strength. What specific stance is described by the term 'rampant'?

- A) Standing on all fours

B) In a leaping or rearing posture on its hind legs

- C) Lying down
- D) Walking forward

12. In heraldry, a 'garb' refers to a sheaf of grain. Which grain is most commonly depicted as a garb?

- A) Rice
- B) Wheat**
- C) Barley
- D) Oats

13. The 'crane' is a bird sometimes found in heraldry. What is the characteristic posture of a crane when depicted 'statant' in heraldic terms?

- A) Standing on one leg**
- B) In flight
- C) Perched on a branch
- D) With wings folded

14. The 'anchors aweigh' or 'anchors fouled' are heraldic charges related to maritime life. What does the 'fouled' state of an anchor typically signify in nautical terms?

- A) Ready for deployment
- B) Tangled with rope or chain**
- C) Being lifted from the seabed
- D) Securely fastened

15. The 'trefoil' is a heraldic charge resembling a three-leafed clover. Which of the following is a common symbolic association with the trefoil?

- A) Royalty
- B) Christian trinity**
- C) Victory in battle
- D) Abundance of wealth