

Heraldry Basics: Numbers and History

Heraldry · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. In which century did the systematic use of coats of arms as a hereditary system begin in Europe?

- A) 10th century
- B) 12th century**
- C) 14th century
- D) 16th century

2. How many primary 'tinctures' (colours) are traditionally used in heraldry, divided into metals and colours?

- A) 2
- B) 5
- C) 7**
- D) 10

3. Which English king established the College of Arms in 1484 to oversee heraldic matters?

- A) Richard III**
- B) Henry VIII
- C) Edward IV
- D) William the Conqueror

4. What is the term for the horizontal stripe that occupies the top third of a shield in heraldry?

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

5. In heraldic terms, how many 'metals' are typically used, consisting of Gold (Or) and Silver (Argent)?

- A) 1
- B) 2**
- C) 3
- D) 4

6. The study of heraldry is officially known by what name?

- A) Cartography
- B) Calligraphy
- C) Armory**
- D) Numismatics

7. Which classic heraldic pattern consists of a shield divided into nine equal squares or segments?

- A) Quartering**
- B) Tincture
- C) Attire
- D) Blazon

8. How many 'ordinaries' (basic geometric shapes) are most commonly cited as the fundamental divisions of a shield?

- A) 3
- B) 7**
- C) 12
- D) 20

9. What is the name of the written description of a coat of arms, standardized to ensure accuracy?

- A) Blazon**
- B) Scepter
- C) Crest
- D) Motto

10. During the 13th century, what specific piece of protective clothing often featured a knight's coat of arms, leading to the term 'coat of arms'?

- A) Helmet
- B) Surcoat**
- C) Gauntlet
- D) Sabaton