

Introduction to Heraldry

Heraldry · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. What was the primary historical purpose of a coat of arms?

- A) To decorate castle walls
- B) To identify knights on the battlefield**
- C) To mark the boundary of a kingdom
- D) To serve as a royal signature

2. What is the formal name for the study or design of coats of arms?

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

3. What is the technical term for the shield upon which a coat of arms is displayed?

- A) Escutcheon**
- B) Banner
- C) Mantling
- D) Crest

4. Which of these is a common 'ordinary' or simple geometric shape found on a shield?

- A) A chevron**
- B) A dragon
- C) A flower
- D) A castle

5. What is the term for the set of instructions that describes how to draw a specific coat of arms?

- A) Blazon**
- B) Scribe
- C) Ordinance
- D) Motto

6. Which part of a coat of arms is traditionally placed above the helmet?

- A) Supporter
- B) Crest**
- C) Compartment
- D) Field

7. In heraldry, what are the animals or figures that stand on either side of the shield called?

- A) Guardians
- B) Supporters**
- C) Marshals
- D) Bearers

8. Which color in heraldry is classified as a 'metal' rather than a 'tincture' (color)?

- A) Gules (Red)
- B) Or (Gold)**
- C) Azure (Blue)
- D) Sable (Black)

9. What is the heraldic term for the color red?

- A) Gules**
- B) Sable
- C) Vert
- D) Purpure

10. What is the ribbon or scroll appearing at the base of a coat of arms containing a phrase called?

- A) The Mantle
- B) The Motto**
- C) The Badge
- D) The Seal

11. Which heraldic color is represented by black?

- A) Sable**
- B) Azure
- C) Vert
- D) Argent

12. What is the term for the decorative, leaf-like cloak draped around the helmet on a coat of arms?

- A) Supporter
- B) Mantling**
- C) Crest
- D) Ordinance