Milestones in Heraldic History

Heraldry · Answer Key · 18 Questions

1. What is considered the earliest documented instance of a coat of arms, depicted in 1127 on a shield granted by Henry I to Geoffrey of Anjou?

A) The Golden Lion
B) The Lion of Judah
C) The Six Lions of Anjou
D) The Silver Griffin

2. Which 12th-century invention allowed knights to identify one another on the battlefield while wearing full-face helmets?

A) Heraldic surcoats
B) Personal armorial bearings
C) Iron chainmail patterns
D) Horse armor engravings

3. The 'Roll of Arms' is a primary historical record. What is the name of the oldest known roll of arms, dating back to approximately 1244?

A) Dering Roll
B) Glover's Roll
C) Matthew Paris Shields
D) St. George's Roll

4. During which century did the systematized set of rules for blazon, the formal description of a coat of arms, first become standardized?

A) 10th century
B) 13th century
C) 16th century
D) 18th century

5. What innovation in the 14th century allowed heralds to verify the legitimacy of armorial bearings and prevent the unauthorized assumption of arms?

A) The Visitation
B) The Royal Decree
C) The Heraldic Patent
D) The Court of Chivalry

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6. In heraldic design, what is the earliest known use of the 'tinctures' system, which categorized colors into metals, colors, and furs?

A) The 12th-century 'Aspilogia'
B) The 14th-century 'Tractatus de Armis'
C) The 15th-century 'Book of St. Albans'
D) The 16th-century Tudor reform

7. Which English monarch was the first to formally incorporate the fleur-de-lis into the royal arms to claim the throne of France?

A) Edward III
B) Henry V
C) Richard the Lionheart
D) William the Conqueror

8. The 'hatchment' was a unique heraldic invention first used in the 16th century to serve what specific purpose?

A) Marking the boundary of a fiefdom
B) Identifying a knight's horse
C) Displaying a deceased person's arms during mourning
D) Certifying a marriage alliance

9. What was the first professional body created to regulate heraldic practice, established by Richard III in 1484?

A) The College of Arms
B) The Heralds' Guild
C) The Royal Armory
D) The Order of the Garter

10. Which specific heraldic partition, known as 'per pale', was first introduced in the 13th century to indicate what?

A) Marriage or union of two families
B) A promotion in rank
C) A victory in tournament
D) The ownership of land

11. The 'Book of St. Albans', published in 1486, was the first printed book in English to cover which topic?

A) Naval navigation
B) Heraldry and hawking
C) Diplomatic protocol
D) Architecture

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12. In the history of heraldry, when were 'supporters' (figures standing on either side of the shield) first widely adopted in royal armory?

A) 11th century
B) 14th century
C) 17th century
D) 19th century

13. Which innovation in heraldry, known as the 'cadency mark', was introduced to distinguish between sons of the same family?

A) Adding a crown
B) Changing the shield shape
C) Adding small symbols like a label or crescent
D) Changing the background color

14. The first official 'Kings of Arms' in England were appointed by which king?

A) Edward I
B) Henry V
C) Richard III
D) James I

15. What is the 'Rule of Tincture', a foundational heraldic discovery meant to improve visibility?

A) Metals cannot be placed on metals
B) Colors cannot be placed on colors
C) Metals cannot be placed on metals and colors cannot be placed on colors
D) Only gold can be used on a background

16. Which historical document from 1215 is often cited as the first 'heraldic charter' because it confirmed the right of nobles to bear arms?

A) Magna Carta
B) The Charter of Liberties
C) The Statutes of Oxford
D) The Treaty of Wallingford

17. The 'mantling' in a coat of arms originated from what piece of practical equipment worn by knights?

A) A decorative scarf
B) A cloth cover to protect the helmet from the sun
C) A leather belt
D) A metal cloak clasp

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18. The first institution to provide a formal degree or rigorous training for heralds was established in which city?

A) London
B) Paris
C) Rome
D) Vienna