By the 12th century, the medieval knight was wearing a helmet that covered his face in battle. As a result it was difficult to know friend from foe. To help a knight identify who was an enemy and who was a friend on the field of battle, knights began to wear certain colors and adopt certain symbols that identified them as vassals of a certain lord or members of a particular family. By the 15th century the use of these colors and symbols had become standardized and is known as, heraldry.

Each Noble family had their own heraldry or coat of arms (the symbolic images seen on a knight's shield. Individuals would have variations of the basic family coat or arms that showed their status or individual achievements. As a result one could read the images on some ones coat of arms and know what family they belonged to, where in that family they stood, and other important facts about them.

Your task is to create a coat of arms for yourself. On the blank shield provided you are to create a coat of arms that reflects who you are, what traits you admire, or what you wish to obtain.

1: Select a pattern design for your shield taking into account their meanings
Since the designs often separate the shield into different areas each area can be used to show something different
2: Pick back ground colors being sure to refer to the colors meaning chart as to what it means. For the different areas of your shield
3: select symbols that have meaning to you and add them to your shield, either over several areas or in individual areas.

Example   Authority

Warrior

Courage

3rd son
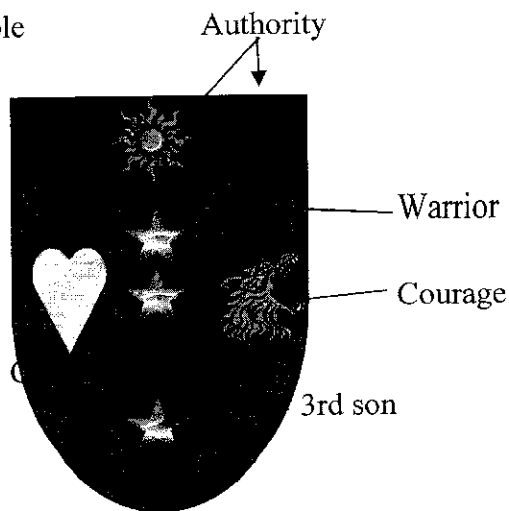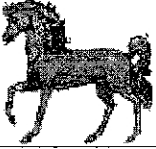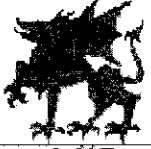
Pattern of the coat of arms		
Name	Meaning	image
Chief	Wisdom, authority	
Pale	Strength, fortitude	
bend	defense	
fess	honor	
pile	Construction building	
chevron	Protection faithful service	
cross	Christian , served in Crusades	
saltire	Resolution, resolve	
canton	Used to add a special coat of arms To a herald maybe a special grant from A king	

You may come up with your own symbols to complete your coat of arms for example sports symbols or hobbies. But be ready to explain your symbol and its meaning to you

Remember, you do not have to use the exact image shown in the chart, any image or a dog, realistic or symbolic

| Symbols		
Name	Meaning	image
Heart	Sincerity, truth, charity	
Hand	Faith, justice	
crown	Regal authority	
Label	1st born son	
crest	2nd born son	
Mullet	3rd born son	
Ring	Fidelity, 5th born son	
sun	Glory, splendor, authority	
chains	Honor, obligation	
helmet	Wise, defense	

Symbols		
Name	meaning	image
lion	Courage, Fierce	
Fish	Regal Of character	
wolf	Effort, perseverance	
horse	Readiness for duty	
Bull	Valor, Magnanimity	
Boar	Fierce fighter	
Fox	wisdom	
Dog	Loyalty, courage	
dragon	Valiant defender	
Stag	Skillful politics	
Griffin	Valiant soldier	

Colors and their meaning	
Name	Meaning
Gold	generosity
Silver/white	Sincere, peace
Purple	Justice, royal, sovereign
Red	Warrior, military strength
Blue	Strength, loyal
Green	Hope, loyalty in love
Black	Constance, grief
Maroon	Victory, patient in battle

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Bonus: After designing your Coat or Arms create a motto that reflects the meanings n the symbols you selected
A motto is a short saying the sums up what is important to you, as in "America, the land of the free"
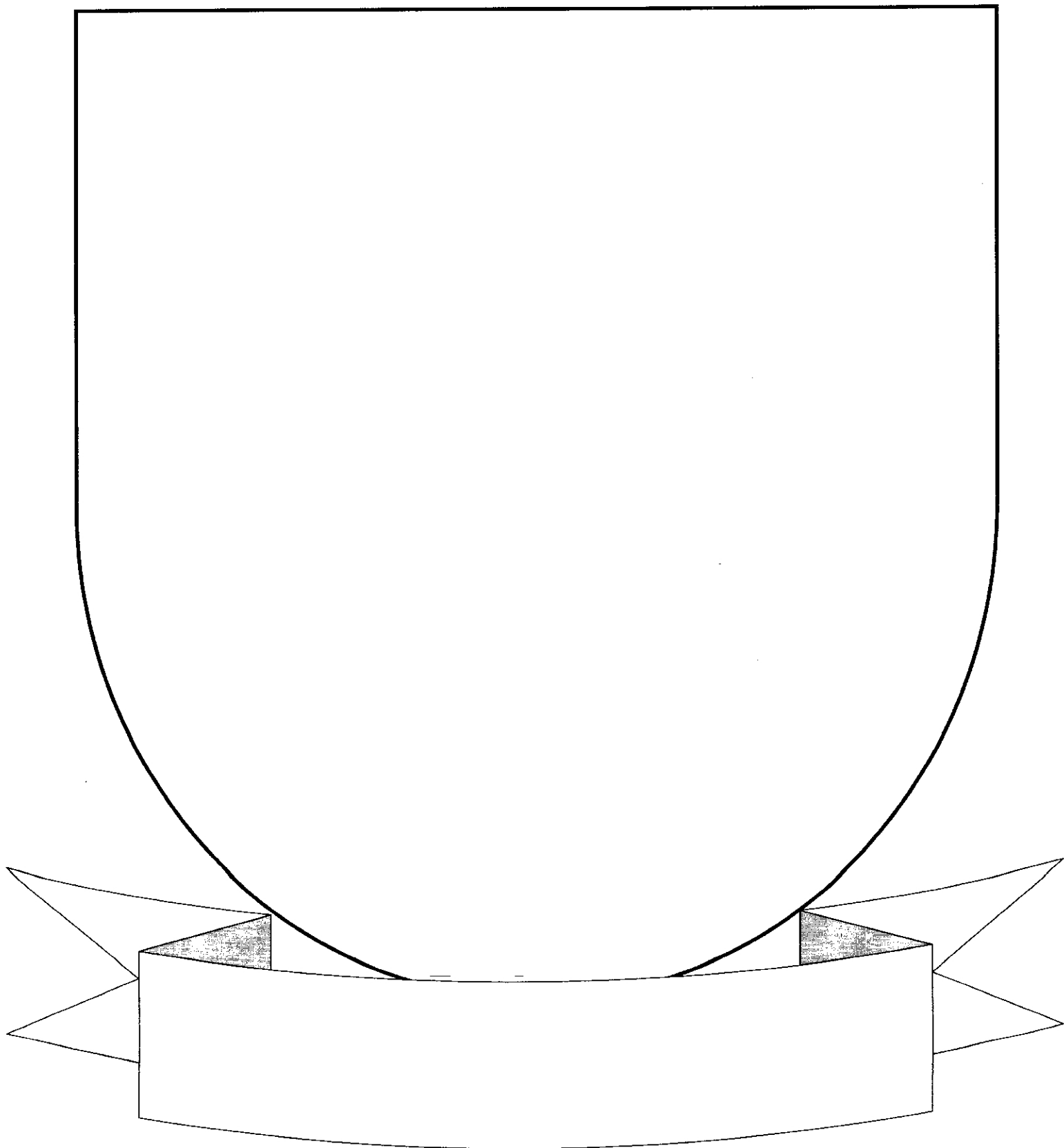
Practice Page: use this side to work out your rough ideas on how you want your Coat of Arms to look!