



Artist in YOUR Residence

Family Art Activity

My Story, Your Story, Our Story: Creating a Family Crest with DiAE Teaching Artist Kate Testa



DO YOU KNOW...

- Family crests and coats of arms are powerful family symbols passed down through generations.
- They were commonly used throughout the 11th- 17th centuries and they can still be meaningful reminders for families.

For more information visit <https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/family-crest-coat-of-arms/>

Things to think about:

- Who are your family members? Who makes up your “home community”?
- What colors and symbols can you use to represent the members of your home community?

Supplies Included:

- Crest template
- Crayons
- Glue stick
- Colored paper

Additional Materials: Suggested materials would include news circulars, printer paper, lined notebook paper, construction paper, brown paper bags, wrapping paper, magazines, scissors, tape, or photos.

Key Vocabulary Words: Symbol, Shape, Template, Design, Community

Directions

1. Start by dividing your crest template to accommodate all your family members. Think of the template as a pie and divide it up so each member of your home community gets an equal piece. (Please see the video link below for specific instructions.)
2. Create your section! Each family member will design a section of the crest that represents themselves using symbols and colors. What makes you unique and how can you represent that in images? Think about your hobbies, favorite foods, favorite colors or even draw a self-portrait!

Is there one symbol you could use to describe yourself? Include your favorite color or a color that matches your personality. Trace symbols (use a window with light behind it as a makeshift lightbox) or draw them freehand. Try not to use any words on your crest only images that represent you.
3. Assemble your family crest! Use the glue stick to affix your symbols to your section of the crest. You can also draw directly onto the crest and color with markers or crayons and sign your section with your name.
4. Finally, as a group, decorate the center circle with things you all have in common. What things are unique to your “home community”? Do you have traditions, favorite meals, favorite sports or teams? Use these prompts as a starting point and select two or three images for the center of your crest. Glue these images into the center circle and admire your new family crest!

Reflection:

What surprised you about this project?

How did your family make decisions about what the center circle would reflect?



Scan here for a video of DiAE Teaching Artist Kate Testa demonstrating the project, along with links to additional resources or please visit our website:

<https://diae.org/resources/diae-artist-in-your-residence/>.

We'd love to see your family crest. Please share a photo of your work and tag us!



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