

Spanish Knight

Find this sculpture of a Spanish knight.

This sculpture was made for the top of a knight's tomb, or sarcophagus. It includes many details of the man's armor. Instead of a helmet, the man wears a soft hat. Can you find these parts of the knight's armor?

• hauberk	<i>mail shirt, made out of tiny rings of iron or steel</i>
• gauntlets	<i>metal gloves</i>
• handle of a pollaxe or war hammer	<i>(most of the shaft is missing)</i>
• poleyn	<i>armor that protected the knee</i>
• faulds	<i>horizontal plates that protect the waist and hips in the front</i>
• breastplate	<i>armor that protected the chest and stomach area</i>



Spanish, probably Castille, Toledo: Gisant: knight in armor, ca. 1500. Stone, h. 63.5 cm, l. 189.9 cm. Gift of Baroness Cassel van Doorn (y1955-3277). Photo: Bruce M. White.

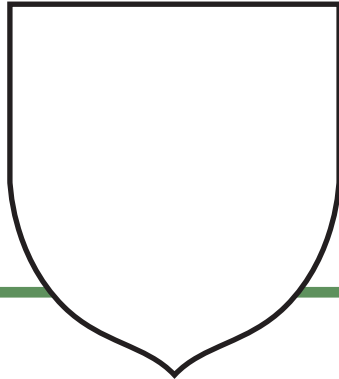
The knight's family coat of arms would have been on the side of the sarcophagus, a stone container that held his body after he died. A coat of arms is a unique combination of pictures and colors that have different meanings.

Unfortunately, the sarcophagus is now lost, and we have no clues to tell us who this man was.

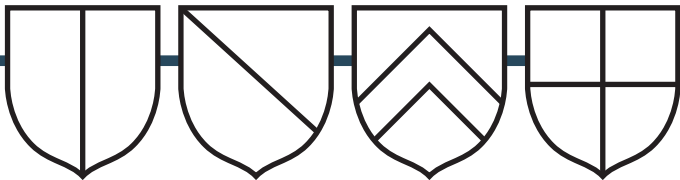
Here are some suggestions for continuing your medieval adventure at home.

You will need: a large piece of cardboard or tag board; scissors; glue or tape; colored pencils, crayons, or markers.

To make your shield, cut out a large piece of cardboard or tag board in the shape shown here:



You can draw lines across the shield to divide it into two, three, or four parts, like this:








Next, draw pictures of things that you like or like to do in the different sections. For example, if you have a pet dog, you could draw a dog.

Or, you can use some of the traditional symbols from the Middle Ages, shown on the right.



Colors

	Silver or white	peace
	Red	strength
	Blue	truth and loyalty
	Green	hope and joy
	Purple	royal majesty (king)

Pictures

	Apple (or other fruit)	peace
	Bear	strength
	Bee	hard-working
	Crown	king
	Deer	peace and harmony
	Dog	loyalty
	Dragon	defender of treasure
	Griffin (head and wings of an eagle, body of a lion)	bravery; defies death
	Helmet	wisdom and protection
	Lion	courage
	Rose (or other flower)	hope and joy
	Ship	ancient sea voyages
	Unicorn	courage and strength