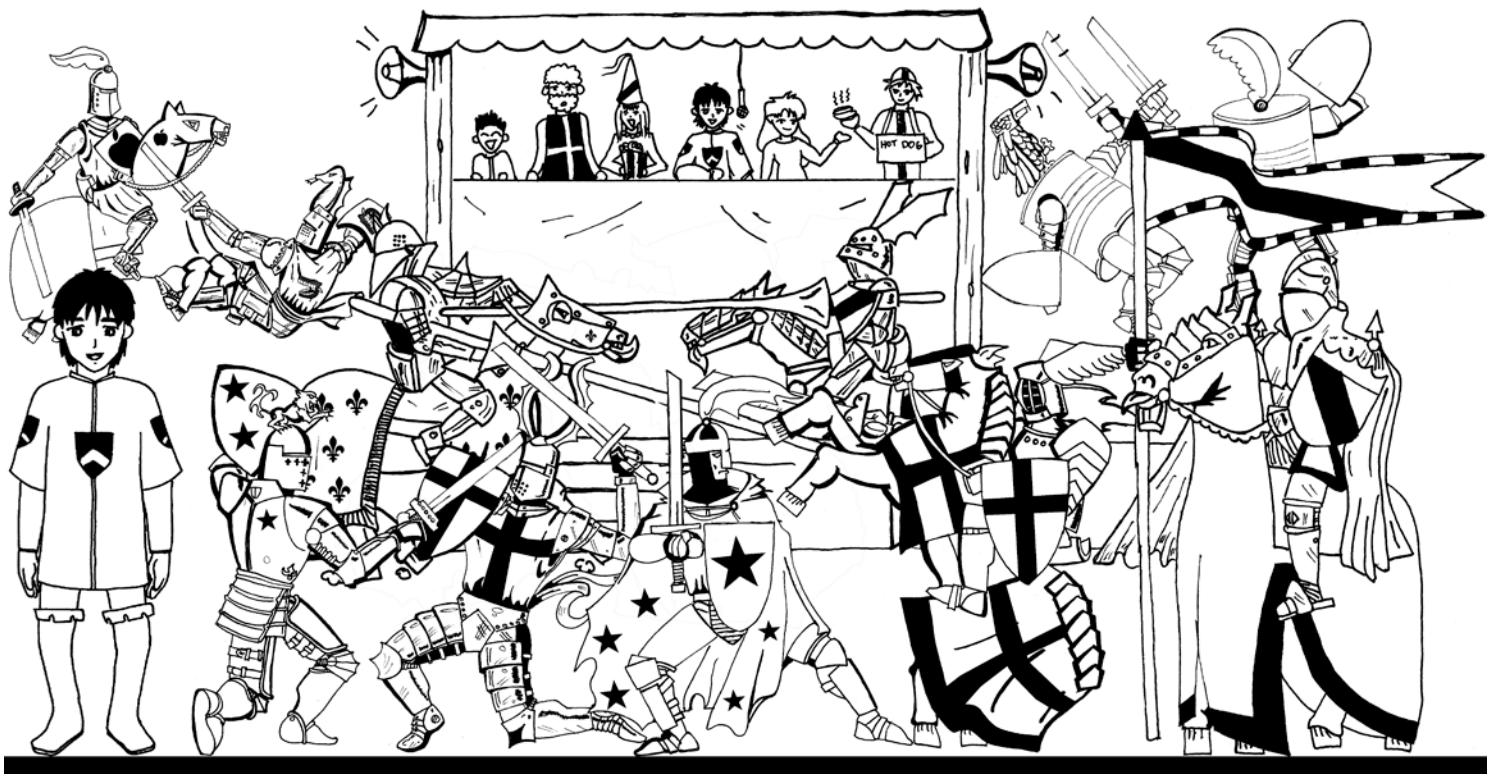


# HERALDRY



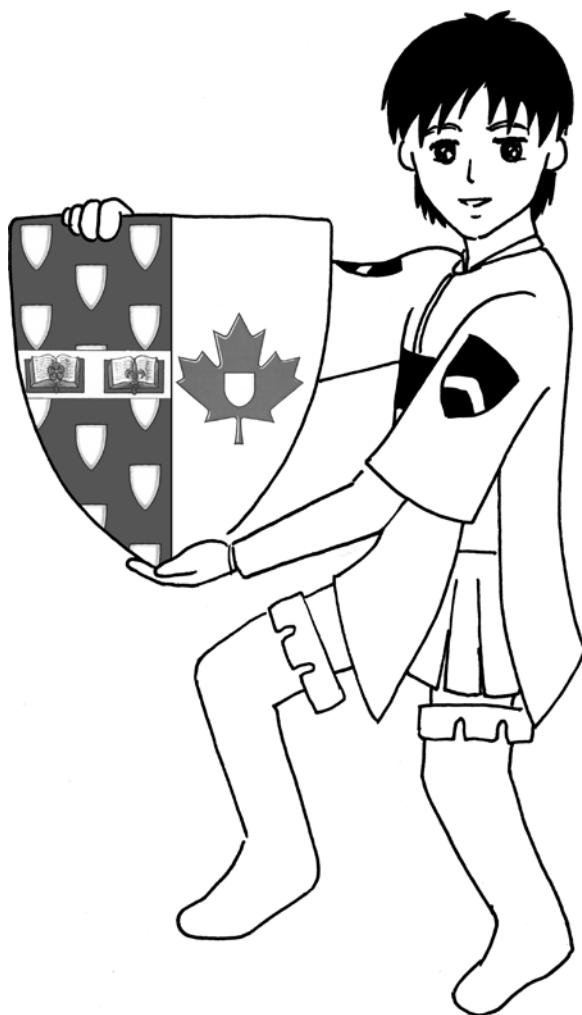
An educational package  
for ages 9 to 13

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# HERALDRY IN CANADA

## An Educational package and activities for teachers and students



University of  
Ottawa

Produced by the Department of History of the  
University of Ottawa  
in collaboration with the  
Canadian Heraldic Authority



Canadian Heraldic  
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# HERALDRY IN CANADA

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## STUDENT'S GUIDE

You will find in this story a lot of information about heraldry. Read the information carefully as it will help you with the various activities that follow.

### Xavier the herald of heroes



A long time ago, in 1439, there lived in medieval England an old lord named Edgar Appleyard who decided to send his knights to a tournament. The tournament was a sporting event at which two sides fought each other to show who were the best knights.

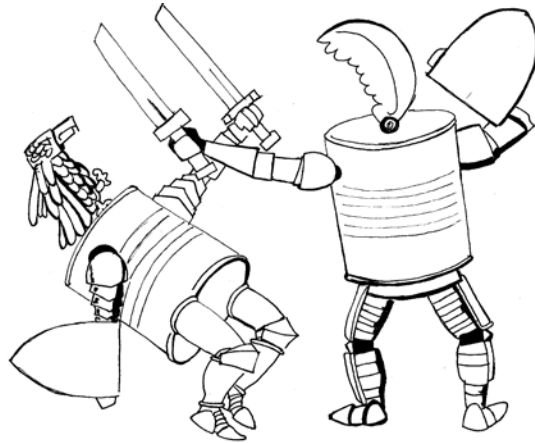
Edgar sent a messenger to gather the knights of his domain. “Hear ye, hear ye! Edgar, Lord Appleyard, summons the greatest knights for the next tournament,” announced the messenger.

The greatest knights were presented to Lord Edgar, who addressed them in these terms: “Valiant knights, thank you for having responded to my call! To show my gratitude and to protect you during the tournament, I am presenting each of you with a new pot helmet, so you can dispense with your old nasal guard helmets.”

The new helmet was made of metal and completely covered the face except for a small slit for the eyes. This helmet gave good protection to the knights because it protected their heads from sword blows. The nasal guard, on the other hand, was a small metallic piece that didn't cover anything except the nose and which was attached to the part of the helmet covering the head.

Lord Edgar and his brave knights departed for the great tournament. When they arrived, a surprise awaited them. Their opponents were the team of knights who were hardest to beat, those of the mighty Roland, Lord Littleteeth. Edgar's knights had never defeated the knights of Lord Littleteeth.

The first part of the tournament was overwhelming, and Edgar realized that many of his knights had been eliminated. But the worst part was that the knights in his own little army were fighting each other by mistake. The knights could not recognize each other during the battle because of their helmets and their armour. They all looked like tin cans without labels.



Edgar lost the first part of the tournament and returned to his castle very disappointed. He went to his wife, Joan, and told her that he did not believe it was possible to win the other parts of the tournament against Lord Roland because his knights could not identify their enemies during the battle. Joan suggested to her husband that he hire a friend's son named Xavier. She said to him: "Xavier is a herald, and his profession is the science of coats of arms, known as heraldry. A coat of arms is an image illustrated on a shield, a piece of clothing or another possession. The image represents the person who owns the coat of arms."

Edgar was very impressed with his wife's knowledge. He had nothing to lose and decided to have Xavier come to his castle. Arriving there, Xavier immediately saw what the problem was with the knights. Xavier explained the dilemma to Lord Edgar. "My lord, the new helmets worn by your knights prevent them from recognizing each other. To defeat the knights of Lord Roland, it is necessary to identify your team so that no confusion during the battle is created."

"What shall we do, Xavier?" asked Edgar.

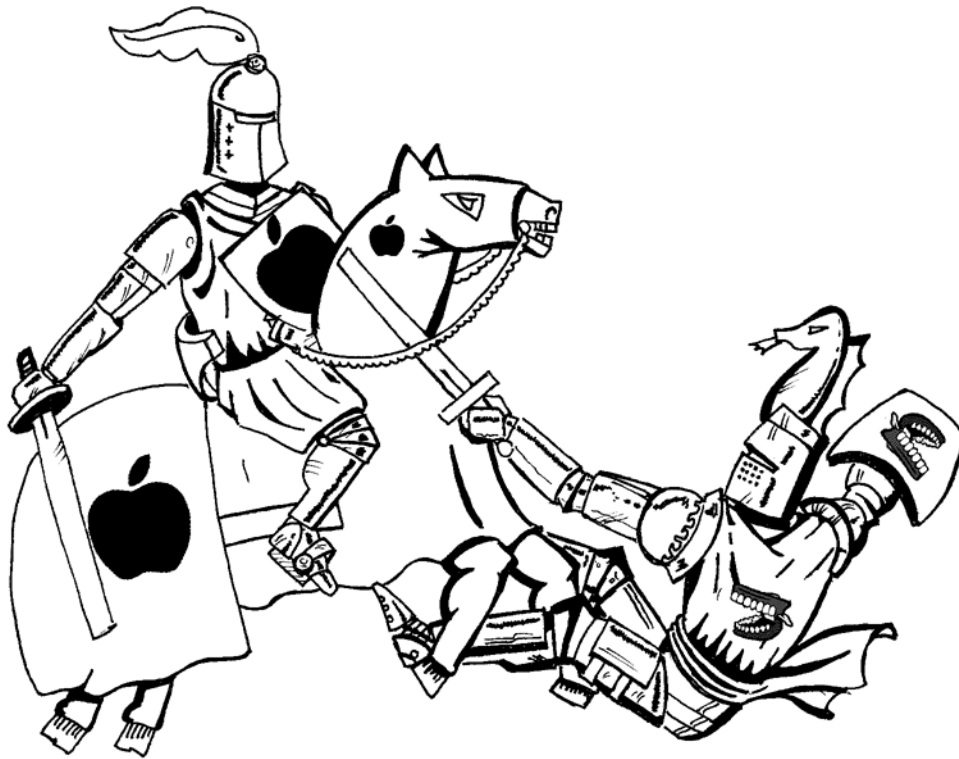
"Lord Edgar, we must identify your knights by means of an object that represents you well. As your domain is famous for its apple trees, and as your family name is Appleyard, I shall use an apple as a symbol for your army."

"What a good idea!" exclaimed Edgar.

Xavier therefore drew apples on the shields and on the surcoats of the knights as well as on the trappings of the horses.

The shields were painted yellow (Or) or white (Argent). Each of the apples was a different colour so that each individual knight could be recognized. There was a knight with a red (Gules) apple, one with a blue (Azure) apple, one with a green (Vert) apple, one with a black (Sable) apple, and one with a purple (Purpure) apple. To create the arms, the herald Xavier followed the language of heraldry called blazon. The blazon gave each of the colours a particular name.

The next day, Xavier, dressed in a tabard, a short coat with full sleeves, proudly presented to the spectators the new outfits of the knights of Lord Edgar. Edgar, to encourage his team, called out his motto: “They will fall with the apples!” Edgar and his knights were ready to confront Lord Roland’s impressive team for the next stages of the tournament.



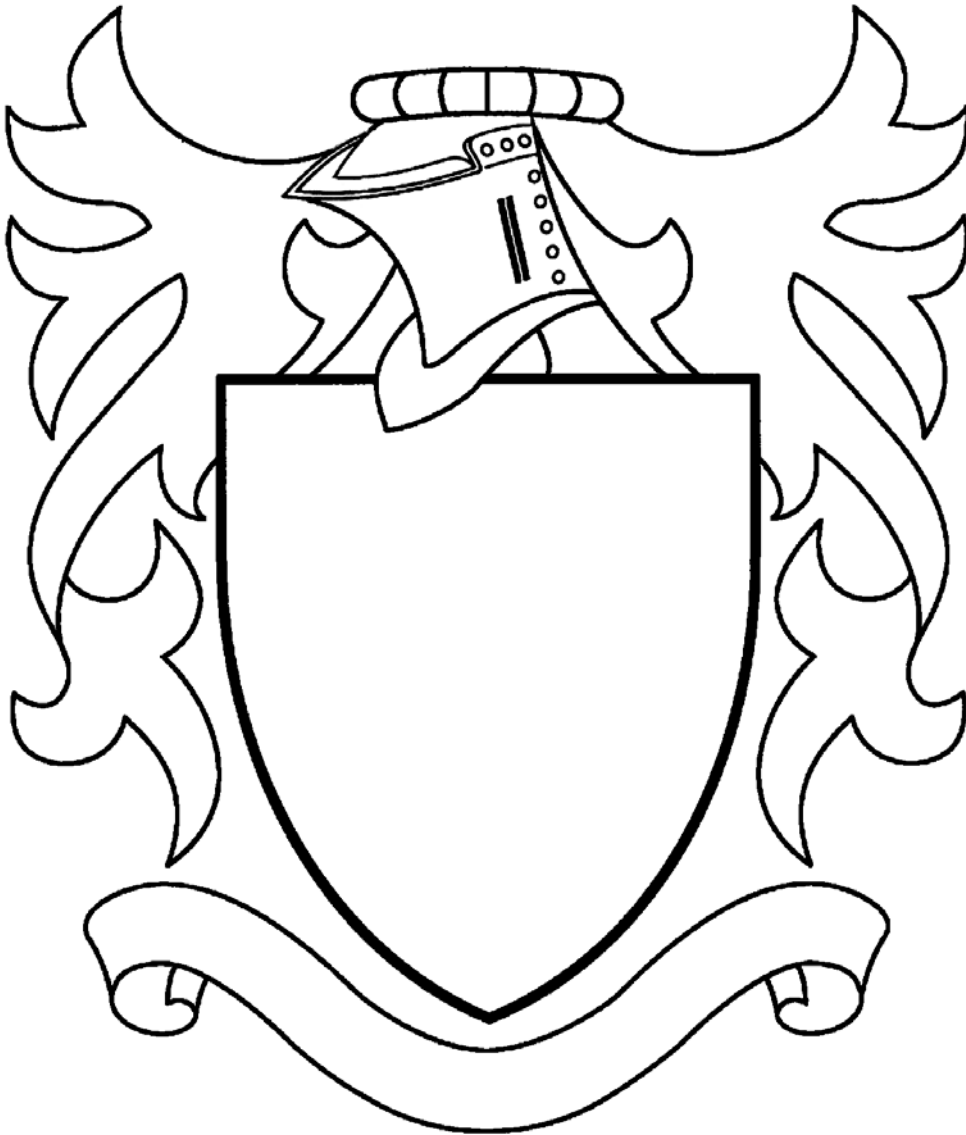
This time, thanks to the coats of arms, the knights did not fight among themselves. The tournament was very exciting, and after many sword fights with the knights of Lord Roland, the army of Lord Edgar was declared the winner, as his knights had shown the greater prowess. They won the golden lion, the animal that symbolizes strength and courage. Edgar knew that he had won thanks to the herald Xavier, and, to thank him, he gave him a small shield decorated with the image of the golden lion. The herald Xavier was the hero of the tournament.

**Activity 1**  
**It's your turn to be a herald**

Put yourself in Xavier's shoes and create a personal coat of arms. Remember to follow the colour rule.

Once you have created your own coat of arms, perhaps you could create one for your class or your school.

Illustration by David Farrar





Activity 2  
Hidden words



M	L	R	E	T	A	B	A	R	D
T	A	U	D	N	R	I	E	S	X
R	S	O	T	E	M	L	E	H	A
E	A	L	V	M	S	A	L	I	V
V	N	O	Z	A	L	B	B	E	I
A	A	C	Z	N	L	A	A	L	E
E	R	U	P	R	U	P	S	D	R
B	R	G	G	U	L	E	S	E	S
E	O	T	T	O	M	L	I	O	N
R	U	L	E	T	H	G	I	N	K

Find the following words:

ARMS      COLOUR      LION      RULE      TABARD  
AZURE      GULES      MOTTO      SABLE      TOURNAMENT  
BEAVER      HELMET      NASAL      SEAL      VERT  
BLAZON      KNIGHT      PURPURE      SHIELD      XAVIER

**HIDDEN WORD:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Activity 3 Scrambled words

During a tournament, Xavier the herald was hit on the head with a lance. Can you help him unscramble these words?

A noble who fought on horseback in the Middle Ages: **TGKHIN**

A piece of military equipment decorated with a coat of arms: **DELHSI**

An animal symbolic of Canada: **EERVAB**

A term meaning Or (yellow) or Argent (white): **LAEMT**

A term meaning Gules (red), Azure (blue), Sable (black), Vert (green) and Purpure (purple): **CRUOLO**

A period in history which saw the birth of coats of arms: **LMEVDEIA**

A coat of arms allows us to \_\_\_\_\_ a fighter on the battlefield: **TYENIFDI**

A competition between two knights on horseback: **SUTJO**



**Activity 4**  
**The arms of Canada**

1. Below each coat of arms, write down the name of the province or the territory<sup>1</sup>.

1



2



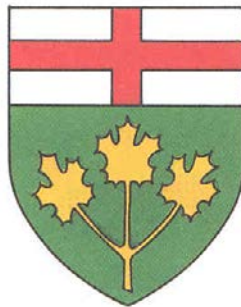
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6



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<sup>1</sup> these images are taken from the booklet *Symbols of Canada*.

7



8



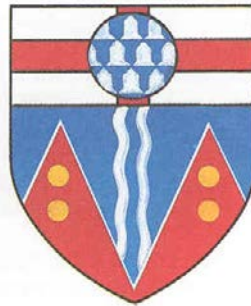
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11



12

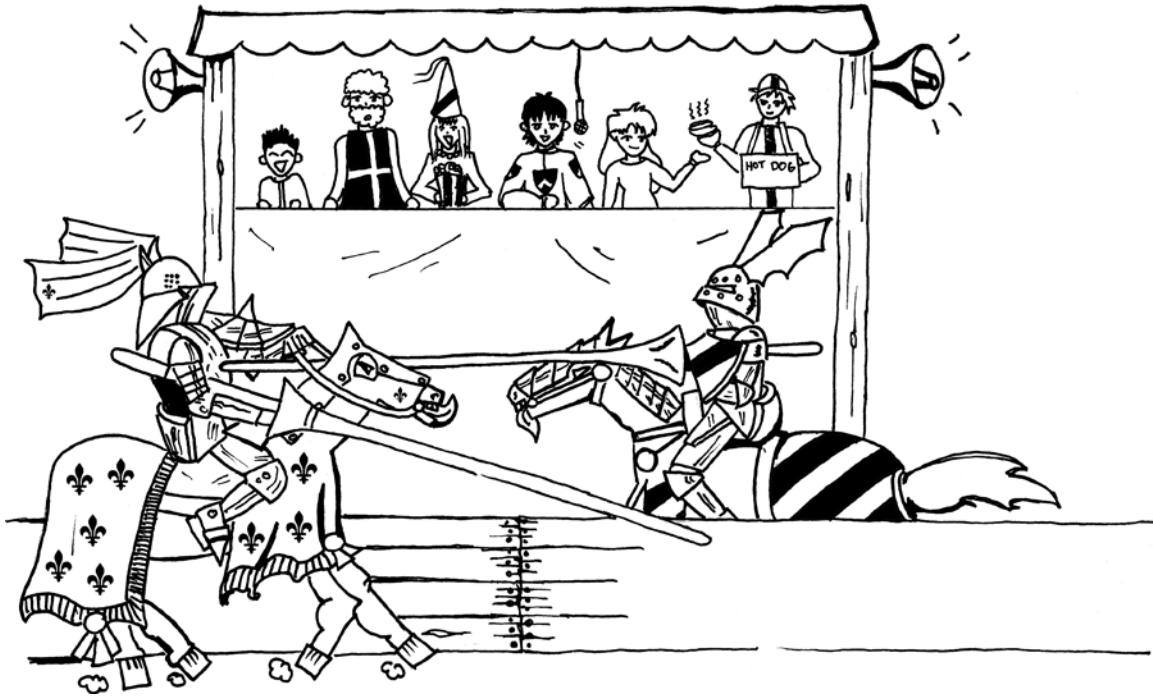


13



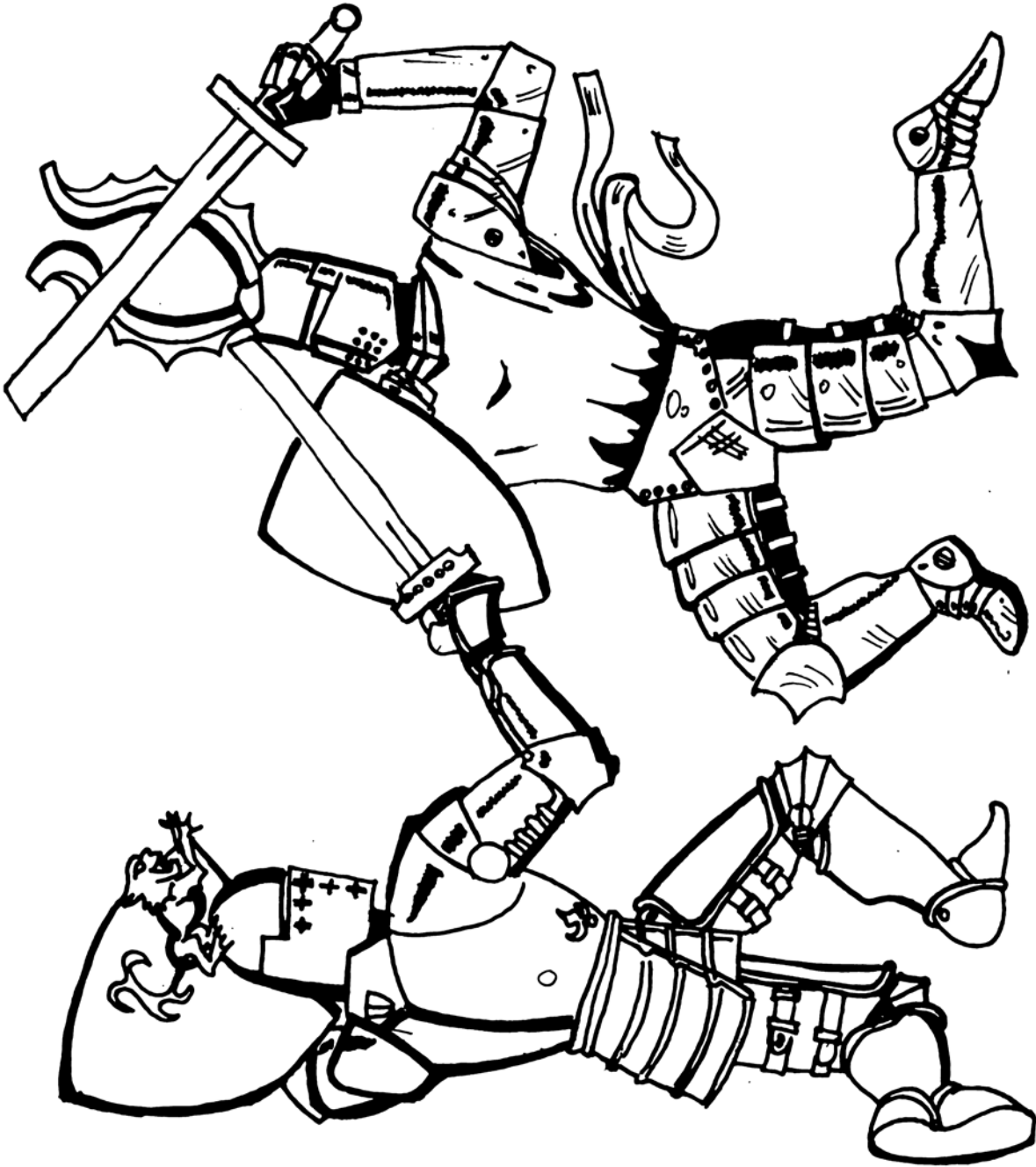
**Activity 5**  
**What doesn't belong?**

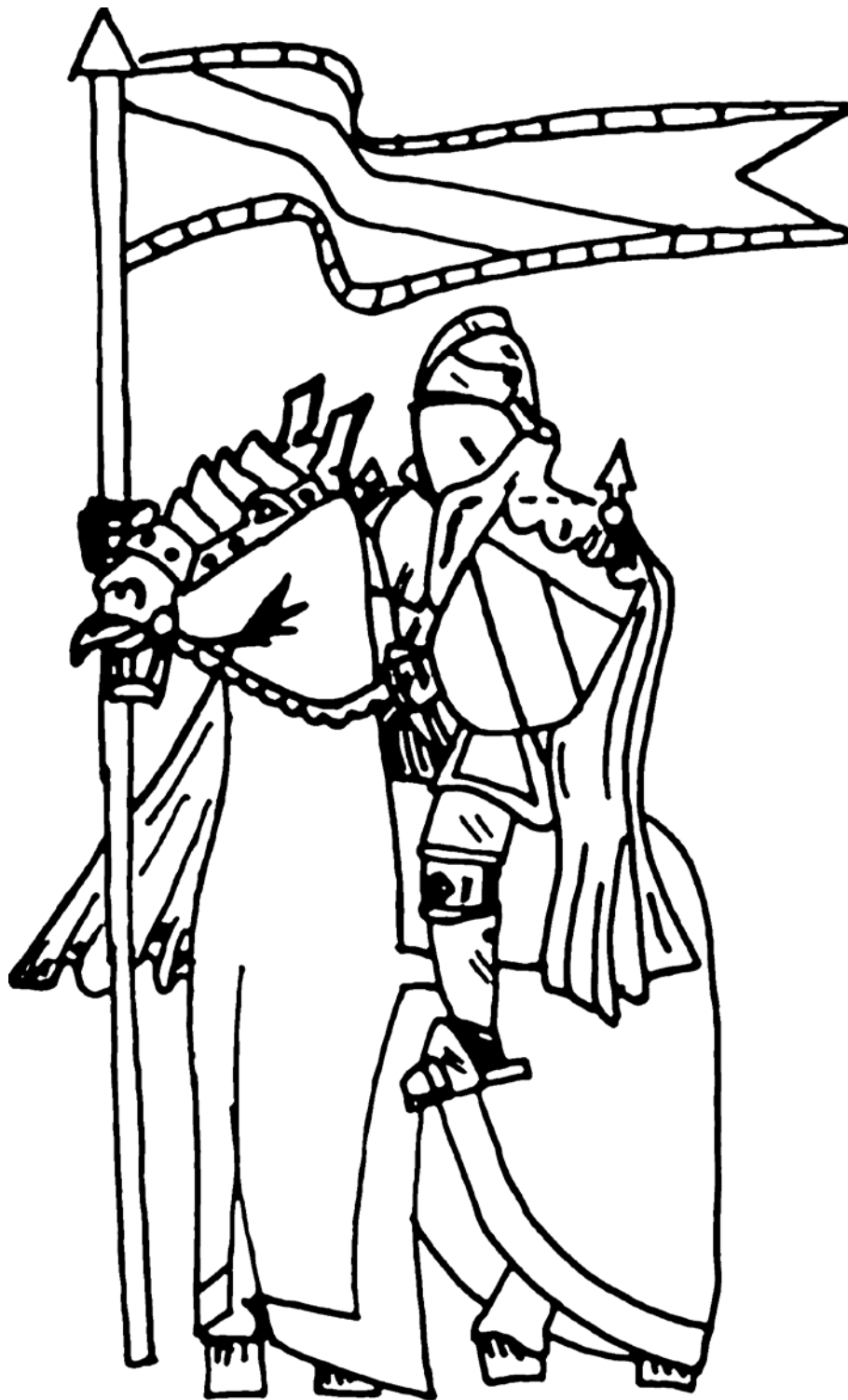
In this picture, can you find four things that don't belong in a medieval tournament?



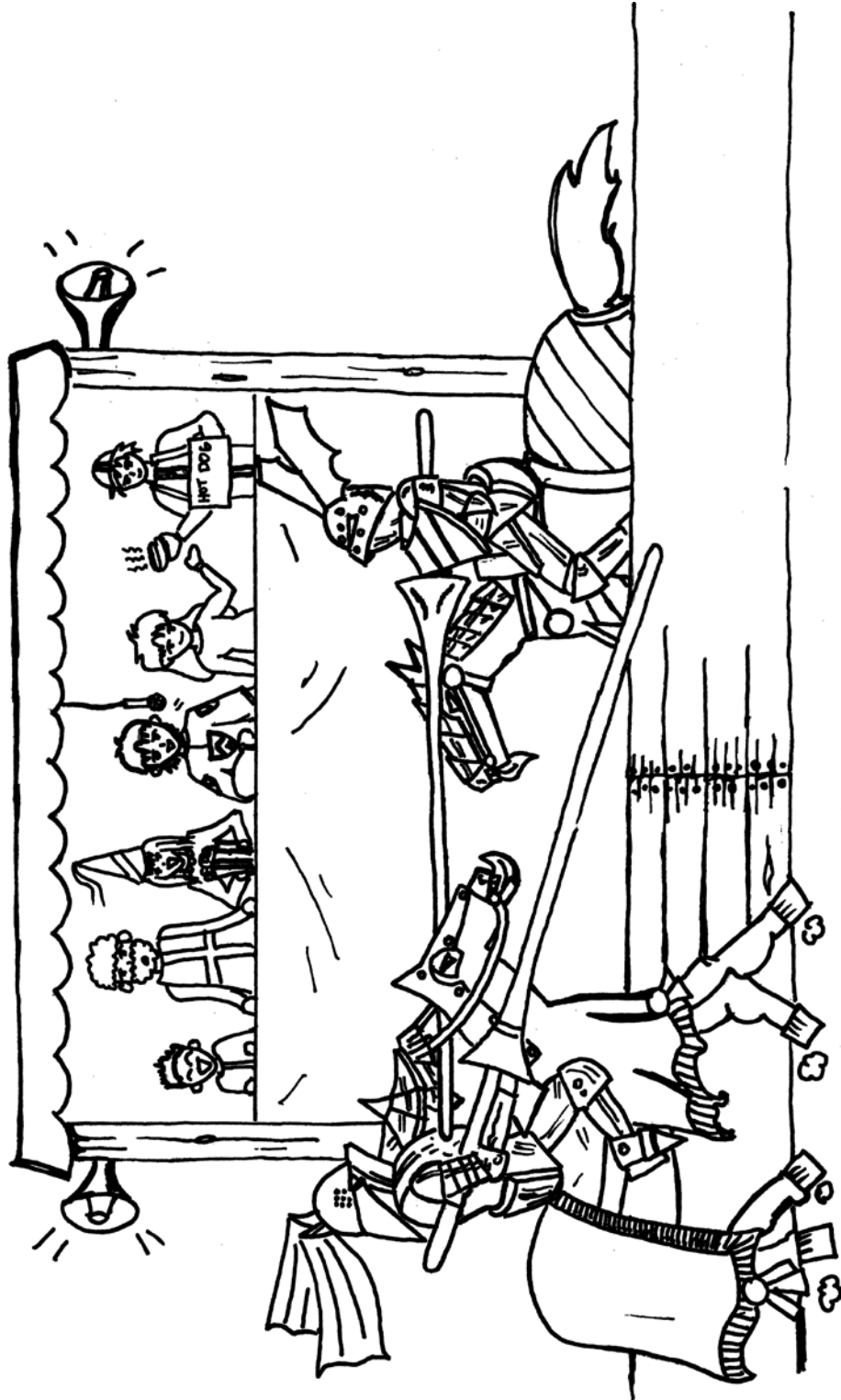
1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Activity 6  
Colouring pages











## GLOSSARY



**Arms:** an emblem depicted in colour on a shield, belonging to an individual or a community and that is required to follow specific rules of blazon (see page 16). Strictly speaking, “arms” or “coat of arms” refers to the shield alone, although these terms are often used to describe the combination of shield, crest, motto, helmet, mantling, etc.

**Beaver:** an animal used as a heraldic charge that is symbolic of Canada.

**Blazon:** the description, in a specialized language, of the design of a coat of arms.

**Bookplate:** an illustrated label attached to the inside of a book indicating ownership. Many bookplates show the coat of arms of the owner.

**Chain mail:** an article of clothing worn composed of interlocking rings of metal.

**Chivalry:** the system of conduct in war and peace followed by knights in the Middle Ages.

**Coat of arms:** another term for “arms.”

**Colour:** when used specific to heraldry, “colour” refers to Gules (red), Azure (blue), Sable (black), Vert (green) and Purpure (purple).

**Crest:** an emblem placed on the top of a helmet, which is above the shield in an illustration of a coat of arms. Note that a crest is *not* the shield.

**Exterior ornaments:** the heraldic elements surrounding the shield: crest, helmet, wreath, mantling, motto, supporters and compartment.

**Feudalism:** how society was structured in Europe in the Middle Ages. Its basis was an understanding of hierarchical loyalties and obligations.

**Helmet:** armour designed to protect the head.

**Herald:** a specialist in heraldry who creates and regulates coats of arms.

**Heraldry:** the science of coats of arms, their colours, charges, composition, transmission, description, etc.

**Hereditary:** able to be passed down from parents to children.

**Joust:** the part of a tournament in which two knights on horseback charge at each other with lances.

**Knight:** a noble who fought on horseback during the Middle Ages.

**Lion:** a strong and courageous animal that frequently appears in heraldry.

**Lord:** a noble who possessed land in the Middle Ages.

**Medieval:** related to the historic period of the Middle Ages.

**Metal:** in heraldry, this term indicates Or (yellow or gold) and Argent (white or silver).

**Middle Ages:** the historic period between the fall of the Western Roman Empire in 476 and the discovery of the New World in 1492.

**Motto:** a phrase or proverb expressing a particular thought, shown with a coat of arms.

**Noble:** a person in a high level of medieval society.

**Peasant:** a farmer who worked on a noble's land.

**Scroll:** a strip on which a motto is written, usually below the shield.

**Seal:** an engraved disc used to authenticate documents. In the medieval period, seals often used a coat of arms.

**Shield:** a defensive item held in the arm of a fighter on which was often painted a coat of arms.

**Supporter:** an animal or human figure that appears on either side of a coat of arms.

**Symbol:** a visual item that represents an idea or concept.

**Symbolism:** the science of symbols.

**Tabard:** a short but full article of clothing worn by a herald, showing an arms design.

**Tincture:** a heraldic colour or metal.

**Tournament:** an organized competition between knights.

**Vassal:** a person in the Middle Ages bound to a lord by an oath of loyalty.

## Bibliographical resources

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Canadian Heraldic Authority  
[www.gg.ca](http://www.gg.ca) (Heraldry section)

Department of Canadian Heritage  
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