

Make your own shield

Shield decorations can be found all over Scotland's historic properties – pictured in stained glass windows and carved in stone.

The shape often forms part of a coat of arms, a design which represents a powerful person. These are called coats of arms because knights decorated the coats they wore on top of their armour with them, so you could tell who was who.



The Prestons of Craigmillar Castle chose a coat of arms that included a play on their name – under the shield there's a wine press and a tun (a kind of barrel).

Gordon Earls of Huntly coat of arms on the roof of the Great Hall, Edinburgh Castle.



This coat of arms carving at Dryburgh Abbey belonged to John Stewart.



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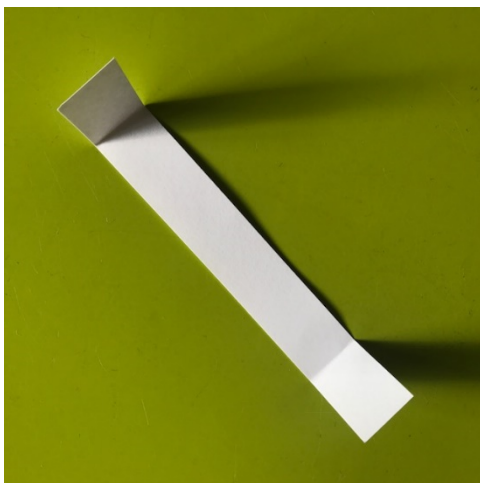
1. Draw a shield shape, ideally on a big piece of paper or on the inside of a cereal packet. (Or you can print the template on the next page.) Then cut it out.



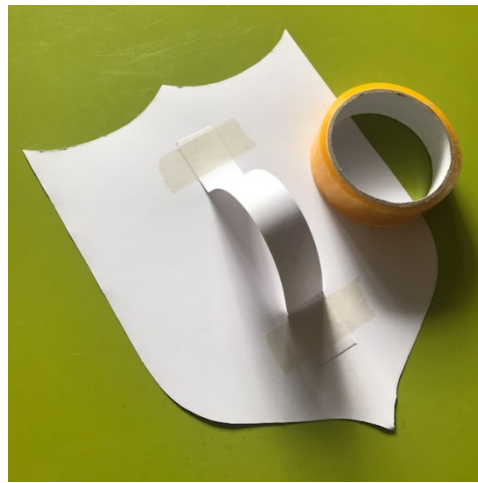
2. Decorate your shield with your choice of symbols, colours and animals. What do you think represents you and what you love best?



3. Take a strip of card or paper and bend the ends up.



4. Tape it to the back of your shield, allowing space for your arm.



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