



# Handicraft Lesson

## Handicraft

For our handicraft lesson, we will create a medieval-inspired heraldry bunting. We have intentionally kept this lesson simple so that everyone in the family can create together and even experiment with their own designs if desired.

However, older students may enjoy using muslin fabric with felt cutouts sewn or glued together. If you choose to create a fabric bunting, bias tape (cotton twill) will be sturdier for hanging.

Take this project to the next level by having your kids and teens research their family crests or create a unique design based on their values and interests, then design and paint a shield (using cardboard or wood) with their heraldry on it.

*"I've filled him with the Spirit of God, giving him skill and know-how and expertise in every kind of craft to create designs ... he's an all-around craftsman."*

~ Exodus 31:3-5

# Medieval Heraldry Bunting



Heraldry developed in the 12th century in Europe as a way to identify knights and noble families. Since knights wore full suits of armor, their faces were hidden, so they used unique symbols, colors, and patterns on their shields and banners to be recognized in battle and tournaments. Over time, heraldry became a complex system with specific rules and meanings.

## Heraldic Colors and Meanings:

- **Red (Gules)** - Bravery, strength
- **Blue (Azure)** - Loyalty, truth
- **Green (Vert)** - Hope, joy
- **Black (Sable)** - Wisdom, grief
- **Gold (Or)** - Generosity, wealth
- **Silver/White (Argent)** - Purity, peace

## The Code of Heraldry:

- A coat of arms follows strict rules, including who can bear it and how it must be displayed.
- In battle, a coat of arms identified friend or foe.
- Heraldry was inherited, passed down through generations.

## Heraldic Ordinaries (Basic Shapes on the Shield):

- **Fess** – A horizontal band across the shield
- **Pale** – A vertical stripe down the center
- **Chevron** – An upside-down V shape
- **Bend** – A diagonal stripe
- **Saltire** – An X-shaped cross
- **Cross** – A cross dividing the shield

## Heraldic Charges (Symbols on the Shield):

- **Animals:** Lion (courage), Eagle (power), Wolf (perseverance), Boar (bravery)
- **Objects:** Crown (royalty), Sword (justice), Anchor (hope), Fleur-de-lis (purity, associated with France)
- **Plants:** Oak tree (strength), Rose (England), Thistle (Scotland)

## Historical Inspiration from European Heraldry:

- **England:** The three lions of Richard the Lionheart, the Tudor rose
- **France:** The fleur-de-lis of the French monarchy
- **Germany:** The black eagle of the Holy Roman Empire
- **Scotland:** The red lion rampant on a gold field
- **Spain:** The castle and lion from Castile and León

## Supplies Needed:

- Card stock (white)
- Markers or acrylic paints
- Hole punch
- Twine or ribbon
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Template

## Instructions:

1. Transfer the bunting pattern to your card stock using the template on the following pages. The template will produce 6 triangles, or simply cut out rectangular shapes if preferred. Each student should have at least 3-7 pennants for their bunting.

2. Using a ruler and pencil, sketch a design on each pennant. Choose a heraldic ordinary (fess, chevron, bend, etc.) for your design. Older students can add a heraldic charge (animal, object, or plant symbol) if so desired. Use [this guide from the Heraldry Society](#) as inspiration.

3. Use markers or acrylic paints to fill in each bunting with appropriate heraldic colors. Ensure the colors and symbols reflect traditional meanings (or create your own meaning).

4. Add details by outlining designs with a black marker to make them stand out, adding patterns like checkers, stripes, or flourishes.

5. Use a hole punch to create holes in the top corners of each pennant, then thread twine or ribbon through the holes to create a garland. Space the banners evenly and secure them with knots if needed.



6. Tie small loops to both ends of the twine or ribbon for hanging.

7. Display your heraldry bunting by hanging it in your home, bedroom, or for a fun, medieval-themed event!



