

Character and Life Skills: Honor

SEL Focus: Social Awareness

Lesson Title: Shield of Honor

Grade Level: 3-5



Project and Purpose

Students design coats of arms that honor their class.

Essential Question

How does a coat of arms honor our class?

Materials

- Examples of different coats-of-arms (a few are provided)
- **Coat of Arms Code** sheet
- Blank shield template
- Markers, crayons, art supplies

Introduction

1. Review/introduce the concept of courtesy: The showing of politeness in one's attitude and behavior toward others.
2. Post the definition of social awareness and ask students to tell you what they think it means in their own words. If you have done the deconstruction lesson, remind them of the hard work they did to break down all the skills that are a part of social awareness.

Social Awareness: The ability to take the perspective of an empathize with others from diverse backgrounds and cultures, to understand social and ethical norms for behaviors, and to recognize family, school, and community resources and supports.

3. Ask students to think about how courtesy is part of social awareness.

Direct Instruction (I do)

1. Show students an ID card with your picture on it. Ask what they notice and why you need to carry this identification card.
2. Tell students that long ago, in medieval times, knights and royalty had a coat of arms that identified their families and honored the accomplishments and qualities of their ancestors.
3. Very often the coat of arms was drawn on a shield and had very carefully selected colors, and each color had an important meaning. Each shield usually had a symbol on it that represented something special about the family.

- Knights carried their shields, and often they had cloth versions sewn onto their tunics or robes. It was a symbol of pride, and it honored their families. It also made it easier to identify their bodies if they were slain in battle, but that's another story.

Guided Exploration (We do)

- Distribute or post the **Coat of Arms Code** sheet for student reference.
- Post examples of different coats of arms, and as a class, analyze each for the qualities and characteristics of the families that the shield honors. Begin by asking what they notice about each example. Have them refer to their code sheets to conduct their analysis.
- Discuss the designs around the outside of each shield and consider what they mean.
- Read the different mottos and discuss what they tell others about the family.

Independent Practice (You do)

- Explain that students will design a coat of arms on a shield that honors this class. Students should use their social awareness skills to think deeply about the skills, qualities, cultures, etc. that their classmates bring to the group.
- Each coat of arms must have the following four:
 - At least three of the following:
 - A representation of a strong skill of the people in this classroom
 - Something that represents a quality or characteristic of this class
 - Something that represents what this class does that makes you proud
 - Something that represents a way this class can improve
 - Designs that support the shield (around, under, and over the shield)
- Determine if students will work alone, with partners, or in a small group on this project.
- Set a due date for the project.

Conclusion

Mount the coats of arms around the classroom and have students do a gallery walk. Ask them to discuss the different ways the shields honor their class and how each demonstrates social awareness.

Notes

**Silver / White
(Argent)**



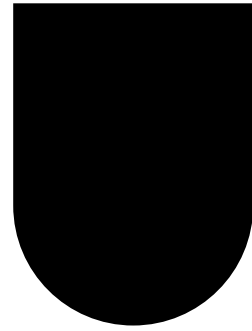
Signifies truth, sincerity, peace, innocence and purity.

**Gold
(Or)**



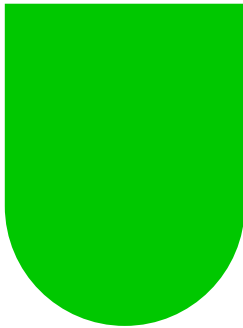
Signifies wisdom, generosity, glory, constancy and faith.

**Black
(Sable)**



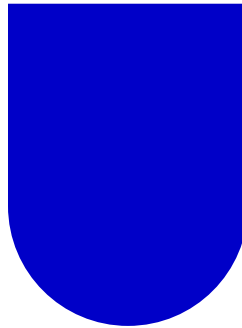
Signifies abundance, joy, hope and loyalty in love.

**Green
(Vert)**



Signifies abundance, joy, hope and loyalty in love.

**Blue
(Azure)**



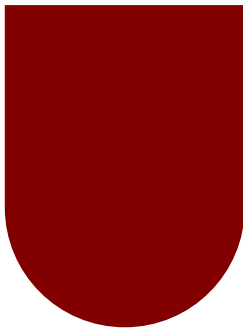
Signifies loyalty, chastity, truth, strength and faith.

**Red
(Gules)**



Signifies magnanimity, military strength, warrior and martyr.

**Maroon / Blood Red
(Sanguine / Murray)**



Signifies Fortitude or victorious.

**Purple
(Purpure)**



Signifies temperance, regal, justice, royal majesty, and sovereignty.

**Orange
(Tenne / Tawny)**



Signifies Fortitude or victorious.

Source: The Tree Maker, www.thetreemaker.com/design-coat-of-arms-symbol/meaning-of-colors.html

Examples of heraldry symbols in alphabetical order can be found at: www.familytreesandcrests.com/heraldry-symbols.htm

