Throughout history families have created unique crests or banners to display their history and celebrate their accomplishments and traditions. This lesson is designed to help students discover more about their individual identity by exploring and celebrating their family’s history, traditions and values.

**OBJECTIVE**

The students will research their family history then design and create their own family crests.

**VOCABULARY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ancestry</th>
<th>Crest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surname</td>
<td>Coat of Arms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maiden name</td>
<td>Heraldry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MATERIALS**

- Paint stirrers
- Canvas pads
- Scissors
- Glue dots
- Tempera paint
- Liquid watercolor
- Brushes
- Glue
- Ruler
- Washi tape
- ModgePodge/Glue
- Magazines
- Fabric
- Various art materials such as beads, buttons, etc
- Permanent markers in various colors
- Examples of family crests/Coat of Arms
BEFOREHAND

- Research and discuss the history of Heraldry and family crests.
- Discuss the project with the class and work together to design an interview sheet to serve as a guideline when they interview members of their families. Explain that they are not limited by this questionnaire but that it should serve as an outline to facilitate the conversation.
- Using the interview sheet have the students discuss this assignment with their family and friends in order to learn more about their ancestry, traditions, and the core principles and ideals their family values.
- Have the students work with their family members to identify a saying or motto that captures the spirit that guides them as individuals or as a family.

PROCEDURE

- Using pencil and paper have the students design and create a rough draft of a family crest. The crest must have four sections as well as a nameplate. (see photos)
- Instruct the students to divide their crest into four sections titled:
  
  **Family motto**
  What is a saying that represents your family’s values?

  **Family traditions**
  What traditions are important to your family such as an annual vacation, a religious event, etc.?

  **Ancestry and Home**
  Where do your ancestors come from? You might want to include a map or illustrate flags representing the various nationalities found in your family tree.
  
  Where does your family live now? You might want to include a picture of your home or include something that identifies your neighborhood, city or state.

  **About Me**
  What have you inherited from your family? It could be your eye color, curly hair, artistic talent and/or your love for travel, sports or even a treasured family recipe.

- Instruct the students to include their family name(s) on the nameplate- these might include their surname, their mother’s maiden name, nicknames and any additional monikers they feel are important and representational of their family’s history, traditions, etc.
- Have the students design the shape of their crest and cut the canvas with the scissors.
- Have the students attach the canvas crest to the paint stirrer with glue dots.
- Instruct the students to use permanent marker and a ruler to divide the banner into 4 sections and include a nameplate. (*For younger students you might want to prepare the canvases ahead of time.*)
- In each of the four sections encourage the students to use mixed media such as collage, illustration, text, etc. to create each of the four sections on their crest.
- Instruct the students to write an essay to introduce their family crests and provide commentary and additional detail for each of the items they have included in their design.
PROCEDURE (EXAMPLES)

1. [Image]

2. [Image]

3. [Image]

4. [Image]

5. [Image]

6. [Image]

RESOURCES

Kuski, Karla, I am Me, Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers, Simon and Schuster, New York.
www.houseofnames.com/outline-family-crest
www.britannica.com/topic/heraldry