Europe in the High Middle Ages:

Knights’ Challenge

Directions: Working on your own, please follow the instructions on this sheet in order to complete this challenge. You will need to use the resources in your textbooks and those listed on Ms. Adamson’s website. To access the instructions for the knighthood, please go to Ms. Adamson’s website (<http://www.theadamsonadventure.com>).

This challenge will be due on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. Define Your Terms. As a knight, there are specific terms with which you should be familiar. Please use your textbook and online resources to write the definition to each term in your own words.

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| **Knight** |  |
| **Chivalry** |  |
| **Tournament** |  |
| **Crusade** |  |
| **Heraldry** |  |
| **Squire** |  |
| **Fealty** |  |

2. Choose your name. For this and your next challenge, you’ll need to have a sense of exactly where your fiefdom is located-- if your fief is in France, you probably want to go with a French name, for example. Use the resources located on Ms. Adamson’s website located under the heading of “Knight’s Challenge” in order to help you with your work. (By the way, don’t feel that your character must necessarily be the same gender as you. If you would prefer to work on this project from the position of another gender, that is perfectly acceptable.)

**Knight’s name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

3. Create Your Coat of Arms. After reviewing the PowerPoint on the Middle Ages which Ms. Adamson has posted on her website as well as watching the portions of The Dark Ages documentary which are also posted, please create a detailed coat of arms for your character. You will want to also use the online resources Ms. Adamson linked to under the heading “Knight’s First Challenge” in order to complete this task.

A coat of arms includes several elements, but historically they emerged out of a need to be able to identify knights in full armor during a pitched battle. After all, one guy dressed in shiny metal looks much like another-- you wouldn’t want to accidentally attack someone who was fighting on your side. Over time, the brightly painted shields became associated with noble houses, and were then incorporated into symbols for important houses.

In creating your coat of arms, consider the region where your group has decided your fief is located; as best you’re able, your coat of arms should reflect the heraldic conventions of that region. Your coat of arms should be at least the size of one sheet of printer paper (although it may be larger if you prefer), and it should be hand-drawn (NO COMPUTER PRINTOUTS), neat, and colorful. It should also be as appropriate to the time period as possible. Your coat of arms should include the following:

**Required Elements:**

* Your fief’s motto and official colors.
* A shield, crest, helm, mantling, and wreath.
* Two supporters on either side of the shield. You may want to use these to represent your kingdom and your noble’s family.
* Your character’s family name.
* A key which explains the symbolism of each element of the coat of arms.

You may be as creative as you like on the specifics of this assignment-- you’ll find in your research that particular shapes, patterns, colors, and symbols all had their own meaning in the medieval European world, and you’re welcome to incorporate those elements into your coat of arms as well. Be creative, and take your time on this. I’m looking for quality and thoughtfulness of work, not necessarily artistic skill.