Coat of Arms

Background Information: Coats of arms have been used for centuries, especially by monarchs and prominent families in Europe. An important coat of arms present during the American Revolution was that of Louis XVI and his ancestors. As the king of France, his decision to aid the Continental Army was crucial to American victory.

Main Ideas:

- A coat of arms is a specific design that represents a family or group of people.
- Coats of arms are commonly used to represent European royalty.
- The symbols present on a coat of arms are specifically chosen to represent specific things about that family.

Skills:

- Critical thinking
- Fine motor skills
- Primary source analysis

Questions to Consider:

- What symbols and color represent you? Why do you think that?

Explore more!

To learn more about the importance of France in the American Revolution click here. To learn more about the French influence at Mount Vernon, click here. Don't forget to explore these sources, too!
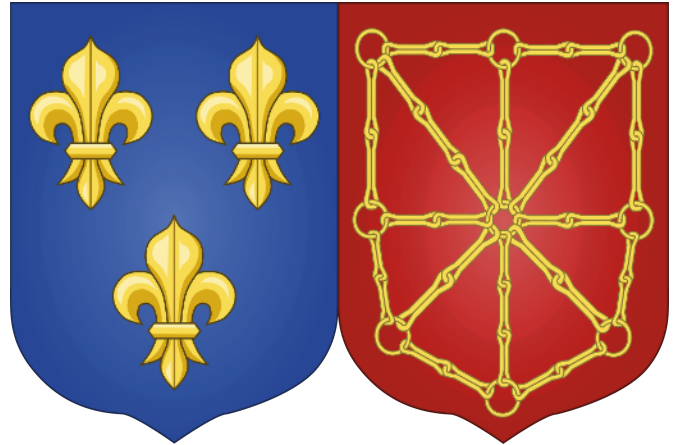
Washington's Gardens

Louis XVI Engraving

Jacques Necker Bust

Build Your Own Coat of Arms

A **coat of arms** is a specific design that represents a family or group of people. Coats of arms have been used for centuries, especially by monarchs and prominent families in Europe. During the time of the American Revolution, the coat of arms pictured to the right is one version of the coat of arms that represented Louis XVI and his ancestors. The blue shield with the fleur-de-lis represented France and the red shield represented the Kingdom of Navarre in modern-day Spain because he was the ruler of both.

If you were to design a coat of arms that represented you, what would it look like? Draw it below: