

SIMPLE STUDIES

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SIMPLE STUDIES™

THE MIDDLE AGES



A CHARLOTTE MASON INSTRUCTOR'S GUIDE
FOR K-8 STUDENTS
BY CRYSTAL WILEY

Materials Needed for Entire Study

- ❑ *When Knights Were Bold* by Eva March Tappan (I recommend the version by New West Press which can be found [here](#)). This book is also available in the public domain. Audio recordings are available on [LibriVox](#) and [Archive.org](#). A free book copy can be found online [here](#) and an e-book version is available on Google [here](#). Multiple used paperback and hardback versions exist online.
- ❑ **Middle Ages Coloring Pages** (print off copies for each young student)
- ❑ **Personal History Narration Notebook or Journal** (older students)
- ❑ **Quality Coloring Pencils** (Recommended: Prismacolor)
- ❑ **Watercolor paints** (Recommended: [These Watercolors](#)) (optional)
- ❑ **Picture Booklist (for each lesson)** (attached)
- ❑ **Heraldry Design Attachments for Each Lesson**
- ❑ **Music & Chants Attachments**
- ❑ *Medieval Literacy a Compendium of Medieval Knowledge with the Guidance of C.S. Lewis* by James Grote (for parents, optional)

Picture Booklist by Lesson

There are a plethora of wonderful picture books featuring stories and topics from the Middle Ages. This is by no means an exhaustive list and I encourage every instructor to seek out additional living books as you see fit.

**I would like to encourage instructors to do their due diligence in previewing picture books you offer your students. I am not the author of any books listed and therefore am not responsible for each author's viewpoint or the language used. In curating these booklists, please know I did my very best to offer multiple perspectives from all walks of life.*

***Finally, I tried to offer more than one suggestion should you be unable to secure them all at your local library.*

HELPFUL TIP: I recommend gathering picture books for Lessons 1-7 before beginning lessons. I will remind you to gather books for Lessons 8-15.

Lesson 1:

- The Knight and the Dragon* by Tomie dePaola
- Knights* by Philip Steele
- The Making of a Knight* by Patrick O'Brien
- Knightology: A True Account of the Most Valiant Knights* by Dugald A. Steer
- The Squire and the Scroll* by Jennie Bishop

Lesson 2:

- Knight Owl* by Christopher Denise
- St George and the Dragon* by Margaret Hodges
- The Bravest Knight* by Mercer Mayer
- You Wouldn't Want to Be a Medieval Knight! (Revised Edition)* by Fiona MacDonald

Lesson 9

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- *When Knights Were Bold*
- *Middle Ages Coloring Pages* (younger students)
- “Helmet Design” (attached)
- Narration Notebook
- Colored Pencils and/or Watercolor paints
- Picture Books see below (optional)

**Consider breaking this chapter into two parts, pausing at “The Dominicans.”*

Ask the students what they recall from the last chapter.

Read together, *When Knights Were Bold*, chapter 9, “Hermits, Friars, and Missionaries,” and ask for an oral or written narration. Let younger students paint or color one of the *Middle Ages Coloring Pages*.

Older students: Have students draw or tell what it means to be hospitable.

Middle Grades (6-8): Have students research [Middle Ages Saints](#) and either draw a picture of one or write a few sentences about their favorite one. A few choices might be St. Francis of Assisi, St. Augustine, St. Patrick, St. Benedict, St. Catherine of Siena and St. Nicholas.

Optional: Enjoy listening to “Scenes from the Saga of King Olaf.”

After students have completed their crest and banner designs, they may begin designing their helmet (see attached information and example). We will work on our helmet designs through Lesson 10. *Younger students may use the pre-drawn helmet.*

Dictation: “He became a fearless viking, and succeeded in making his way back to Norway and getting possession of his great-grandfather’s throne.”

Picture Books for Lesson 9: *Illuminations* by Jonathan Hunt, *Stories of the Saints: Bold and Inspiring Tales of Adventure, Grace, and Courage* by Carey Wallace, *The Clown of God* by Tomie dePaola, *Patrick: Patron Saint of Ireland* by Tomie dePaola

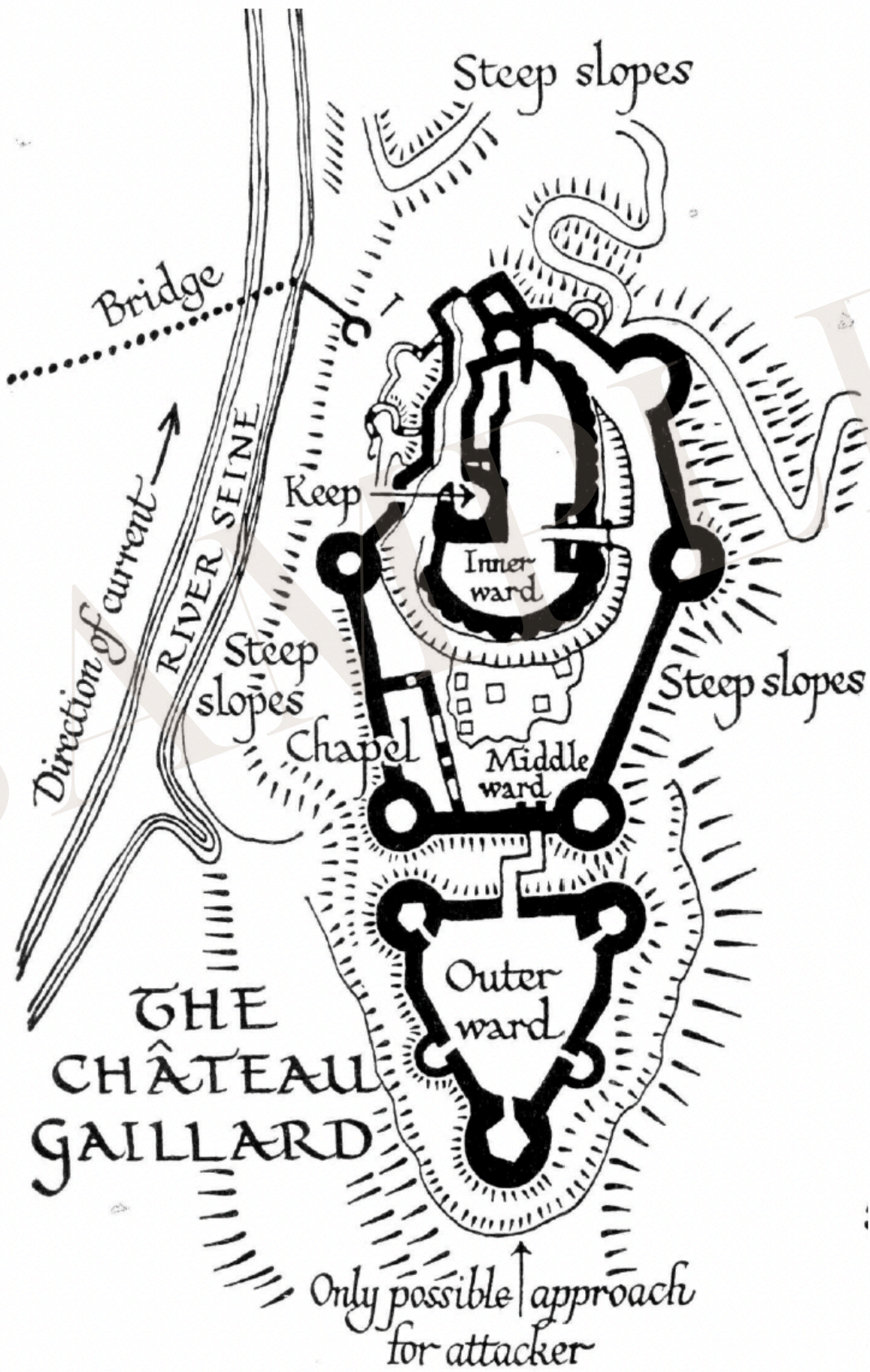
The History of Heraldry & Coat of Arms Design (Lessons 2-15)



Heraldry is a fascinating art form that allows individuals and families to express their unique identity and history through coats of arms, crests, and other symbols. An ancient art that originated in medieval Europe, heraldry was used to distinguish knights on the battlefield and to identify noble families.

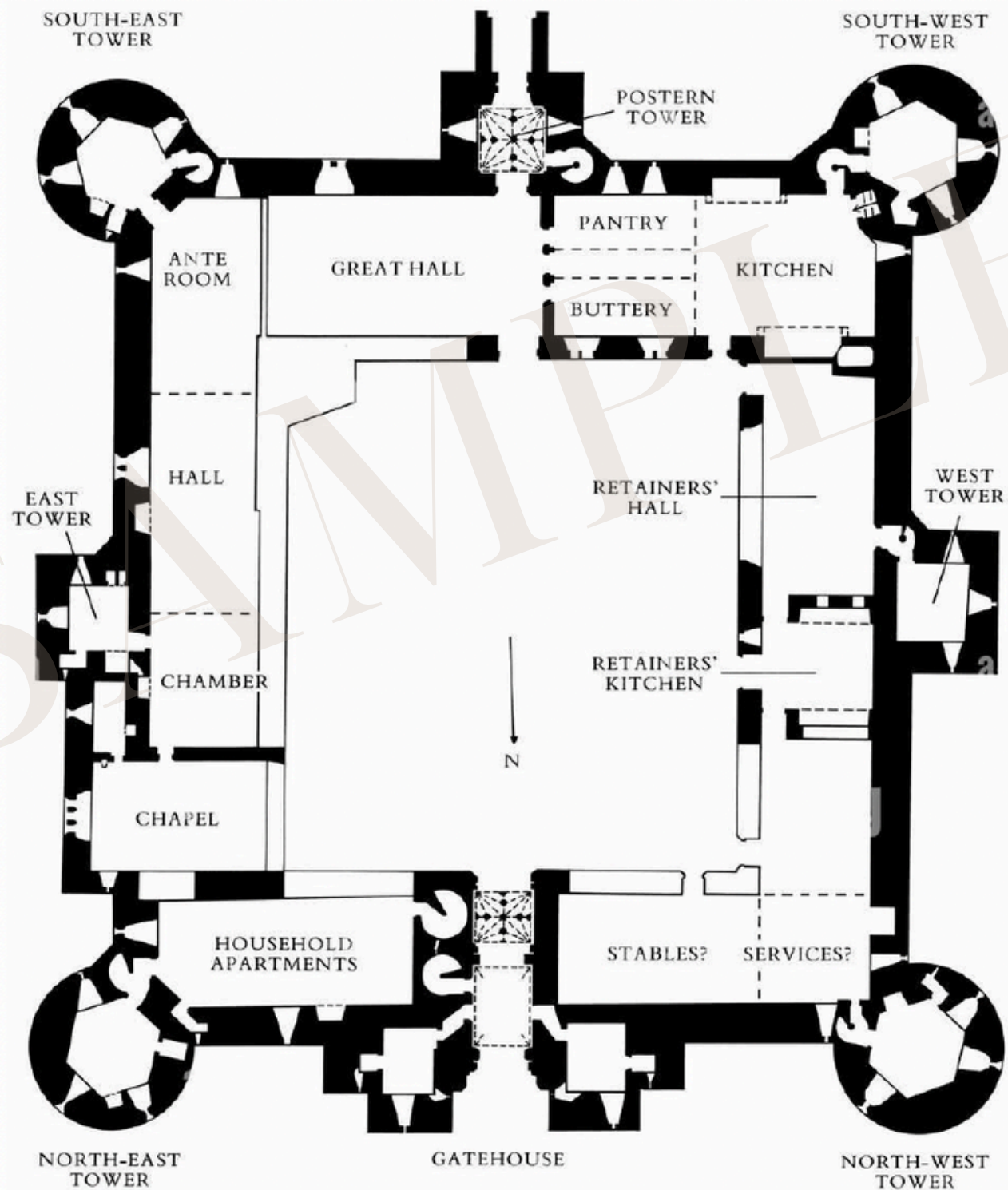
The design of coat of arms was traditionally the responsibility of heralds, who were officials employed by the monarchs or nobles to regulate the use of coats of arms and oversee their design and use.

In medieval Europe, heralds were responsible for identifying and recording coats of arms, regulating their use, and resolving disputes between families over the right to use a particular design. They were also responsible for organizing tournaments and other events where knights could display their coats of arms and engage in chivalric competitions.

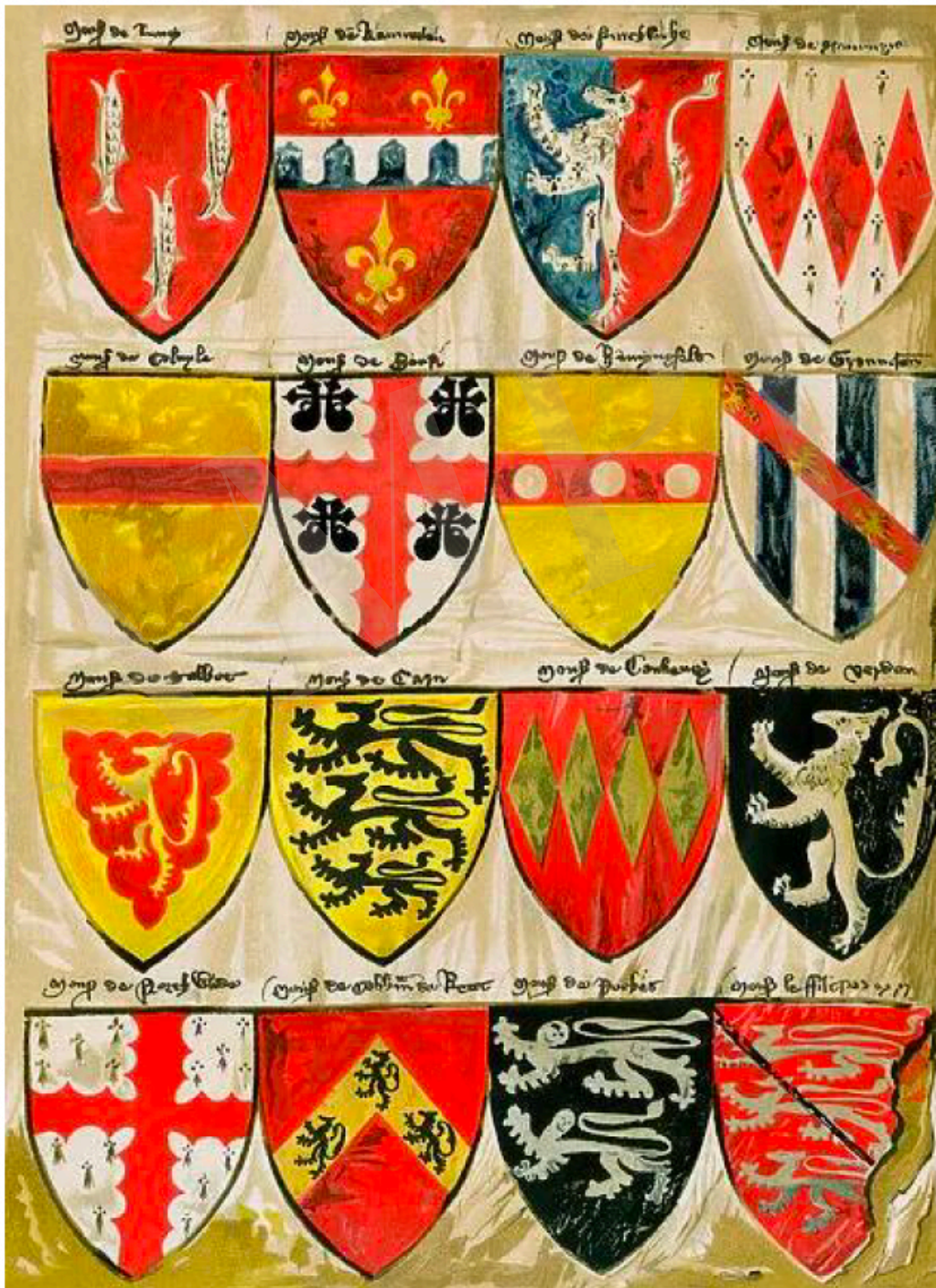


Anatomy of a Castle: Interior

(Lesson 4)

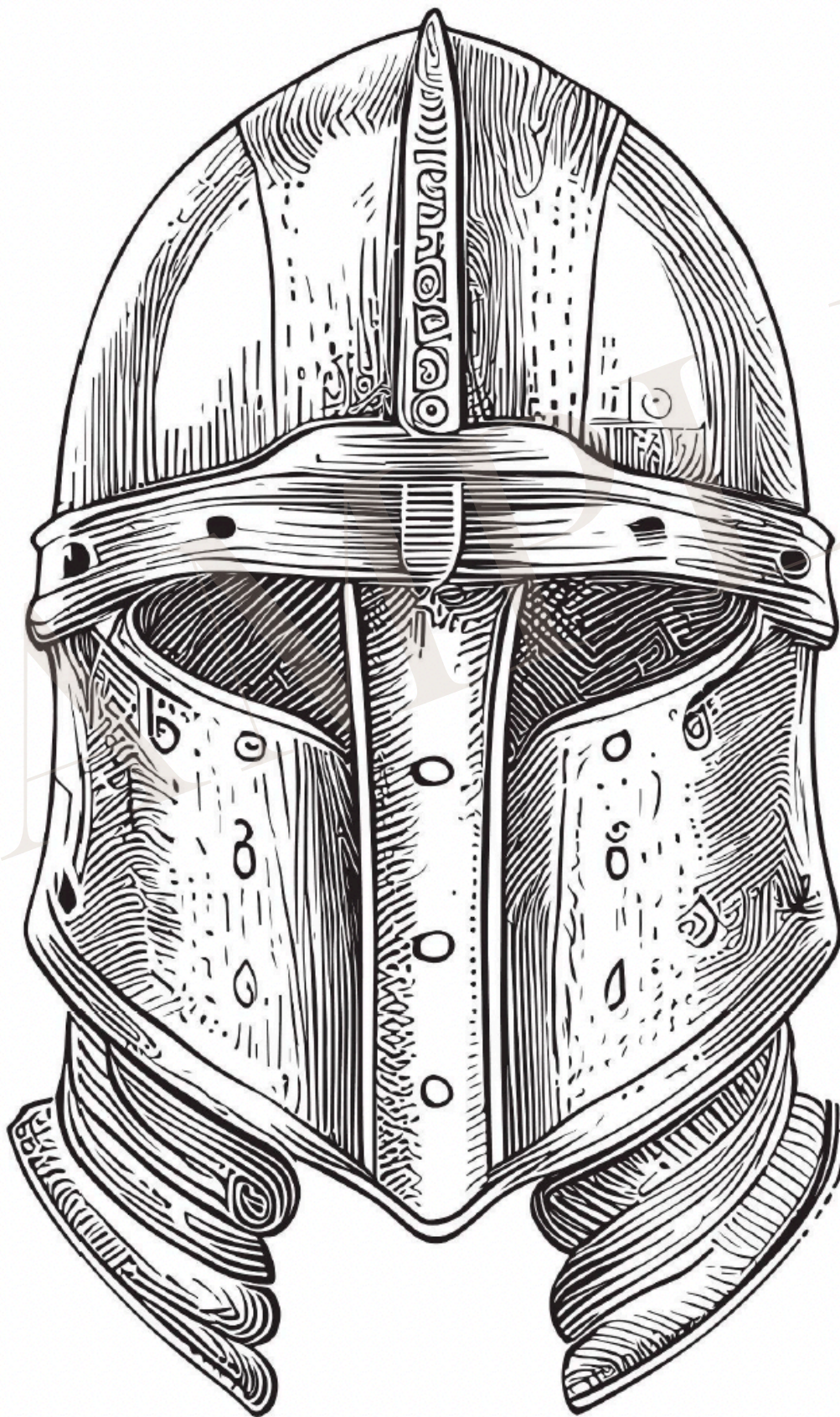


Historical Shield Examples (Lesson 3)



Shields of English knights and barons, painted during the reign of Edward III.

Helmet Design for Younger Students



Medieval Music & Chants



Medieval music refers to the music that was created and performed during the Middle Ages, which spanned from the 5th to the 15th century in Europe. It was a time of great religious and political upheaval, and the music of this period was heavily influenced by these factors.

During the early Middle Ages, most music was vocal and was primarily religious in nature. It was often performed by monks and other religious orders, who created elaborate chants and hymns that were used in religious ceremonies. These chants were monophonic, meaning that they consisted of a single melody line, and they were performed in Latin.

As the Middle Ages progressed, musical notation was developed, which allowed composers to write down their music and preserve it for future generations. This led to the development of polyphonic music, which consisted of multiple melody

LISTENING TO THE MUSIC

Early Organum

Early Organum was an early form of Western European polyphonic music that developed in the 9th and 10th centuries. It involved multiple melody lines that were performed in parallel intervals, and it was primarily used for religious purposes in churches and monasteries. The French composer Hucbald was a notable figure in the development of Early Organum, and his treatise "Musica enchiriadis" is one of the earliest surviving texts on Western music.

[Listen Here](#)

Psalm 90 / 91 - a Gregorian Chant

Gregorian chant, also known as plainchant, was the predominant form of liturgical chant during the Middle Ages. It is named after Pope Gregory I, who is said to have codified the chants in the 6th century. Gregorian chant is characterized by a single melody line and is sung in Latin. It is monophonic, meaning that there is only one melody line, and it is often sung in unison by a choir or congregation.

[Listen Here](#)

Ambrosian Gloria

Ambrosian chant is a variant of Gregorian chant that developed in Milan during the early Christian era. It is named after St. Ambrose, the bishop of Milan, who is said to have composed some of the chants himself. Ambrosian chant is similar to Gregorian chant but has a more complex melody and a greater use of melismas, where several notes are sung to a single syllable.

[Listen Here](#)

Hildegard von Bingen (Lesson 15)



Biography

Hildegard von Bingen was a German Benedictine abbess, mystic, composer, and writer who lived in the 12th century. She was born in 1098 in the Rhineland region of Germany and was raised in a noble family. She entered a convent at the age of eight, where she received a rigorous education in theology, music, and herbal medicine. She later became a nun at the age of 15 and eventually the abbess of her own convent, which she founded in Rupertsberg in 1136, where she remained for the rest of her life.

Hildegard was a prolific writer and composer, and she produced a large body of work that includes music, poetry, theological texts, and medical treatises. She is best known for her music, which includes sacred monophonic chants and hymns that are still performed and recorded today. Her music is characterized by its simplicity, purity, and spiritual intensity.



SIMPLE STUDIES™

THE
**MIDDLE
AGES**



COLORING PAGES

NAME









TESTIMONIALS

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I have been searching for a few years for the right addition to our morning time. I needed something that has poetry, reading, Biblical principles and nature oriented lessons. I would find something but become overwhelmed by the amount of "fluff" and extra content. These studies are so feasible and attainable and have added a wonderful component to our Charlotte Mason homeschool! My only problem is choosing which one to do next!!!! Love them all!!! - Katie Woodruff

OUR KIDS RECENTLY FINISHED YOUR JUNGLE STUDY AND REALLY ENJOYED IT. :) — GENEVIEVE D.

We've used your guides from the beginning, gosh, so many years ago. I love how you take the cream off the top of so many different curriculum and put it together in a way that's custom fit for your family. - Miette Allison

I LOVE YOUR STUDIES. I HAVE AN 8 AND 5 YEAR OLD AND WE ARE CURRENTLY WORKING THROUGH THE FOREST ANIMALS GUIDE. IT'S SO FUN. - LYDIA JENKINS

I like all of these guides because they're simple but interesting and give just enough further resources (links, booklists, ideas) to be fun without being overwhelming, an important factor for us! - @thesunrisemama

TRULY LOVE YOUR PRODUCTS; THEY ARE A GREAT FIT FOR OUR FAMILY. I LOVE HOW THE LESSONS ARE SO FLEXIBLE. THEY CAN BE SHORT (JUST READING AND COLORING) OR WE CAN GO DOWN A RABBIT HOLE FOR THE AFTERNOON. WE ARE SO GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR CREATING THEM! — KÀRIN MANCINI

TESTIMONIALS

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We did the Simple Studies Burgess Birds and it was our favorite homeschool study we've ever done! We have kids in 8th grade down to kindergarten and all my children enjoyed doing this study together. It's amazing to see each bird that they drew in their nature journal. I printed "how to draw" pages for my youngest sons so it gave them step by step instructions on how to draw each bird. They loved that. My young ones also loved the coloring pages! We were sad when the book came to an end. I would highly recommend this study and you can make it work with a variety of ages.

– Claire Jones

US HISTORY IS FINALLY STARTING TO BE INTERESTING FOR MY 7 YEAR OLD. THANK YOU FOR CREATING AN INTERESTING, AFFORDABLE WAY FOR YOUNG CHILDREN TO LEARN ABOUT US HISTORY! – SARAH W.

My daughters and I started with Among the Meadow People and I truly appreciate your simple studies. They are enjoying them and sharing facts with family. They loved how God created the robin with a pocket of oil for when it rains. Thank you for serving the homeschool community with your time and talent. – Nicole M

JUST FINISHED COURAGE. WE LOVED IT! IT WAS OUR FIRST STUDY AND NOW I WANT TO BUY THEM ALL!! -MAGGIE MILLER

I'm officially obsessed with your studies. They've been a life-giving presence in our homeschool this year & I'm so grateful to have found them. – Hannah Connor

I AM SO PLEASED WITH WHAT I FOUND! I AM PLANNING ON INCORPORATING 3 OF THE SIMPLE STUDIES IN OUR YEAR. THEY ARE SO CUTE!! AND ARE GREAT FOR MY BROOD-- 8, 6, 3.5 AND 14 MONTHS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION. – MARIA DOUGLASS

CHECK OUT OUR OTHER PRODUCTS!

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