

# Knights and Castles

## Magic Tree House Research Guide 2



Do your own activities, projects, and research as you join Jack and Annie learning about the world of knights and castles.

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Each chapter includes a reading comprehension worksheet and lower primary worksheet or activity.

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## The Medieval Banner



During the early Middle Ages warriors had a hard time trying to identify who they were fighting in battles and tournaments. The knights of the 1100's decided to solve this problem by creating special designs called Coat of Arms for their shields. The knight picked almost any design he liked including pictures of lions, dragons, eagles, falcons, crowns, diamonds, and other shapes. Coat of Arms were later added to tunics and shoulder guards worn by the knights. They were also embroidered or woven onto banners that were carried by the knights into battle.

Fathers passed down their Coat of Arms to their oldest sons. Younger sons wore a version of their father's arms. The rule was that the younger son had to change the design somewhat. If the warrior died without a male heir, his daughter was allowed to combine her father's coat of arms with her husband's.

Design your own shield. For ideas, check out the site called [Shields, Knights, and Heraldry](#). You can print out designs [here](#).

