

CANADA'S COAT OF ARMS

Can you tell which are the real, original parts and which we made up?





MOTTO

“A mari usque ad mare” is Latin. It came from the Bible and means “From sea to sea.”



LION

It represents England; it holds the Union Flag of Great Britain.



CROWN

This shows that Queen Elizabeth II is Canada's head of state.



MOOSE

It represents Canada's wilderness; it holds a flag featuring the fleurs-de-lis of France.



WOLVERINE

This fierce animal symbolizes the importance of the fur trade.



HELMET

Surrounded by Canada's colours, red and white, this helmet is a symbol of royalty.



SHIELD

It depicts an inuksuk to represent the Far North, three royal fleurs-de-lis (France), the red royal lion on yellow (Scotland), the royal harp (Ireland) and three maple leaves for Canada.



FLOWERS

The floral symbols at the bottom stand for England (rose), Scotland (thistle), shamrock (Ireland) and fleur-de-lis (France).

Answer on p. 34

Our coat of arms became official in 1921. It's a collection of symbols that tell the story of Canada's past. Well, *part* of our past. Although there are some Canadian symbols, most are from England, France, Scotland and Ireland. The Indigenous people who were here first aren't properly represented, nor are the people who came to live here from all over the world. In 1994, the gold letters on the red circle were added. They say “Desiderantes meliorem patriam,” which is Latin for “They desire a better country.”