

KRISTOF ABRATH · CLASSROOM ICEBREAKERS

Coat of Arms

An Identity & Creativity Icebreaker

A creative, personal icebreaker for building classroom community. Students draw a picture in each section of a shield to represent who they are, then share their shield with a partner or small group.

Kids / Pre-teens

15–20 minutes

Speaking · Drawing

Coat of Arms — How to Run This Activity

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15–20 min

Individual → Pairs/Groups

Materials: shield worksheet, colouring pens/pencils

Activity Description

A creative identity-based activity where students draw a personal coat of arms that represents who they are. It builds classroom community through self-expression and visual storytelling.

How to Play

- 1 **Explain.** Show students the blank shield. Tell them it will represent who they are — not how well they can draw.
- 2 **Ask.** Ask the five questions below, one at a time. Give students a minute to think and draw a picture for each answer, one per shield section.
- 3 **Share.** In pairs or small groups, students take turns explaining their five drawings to each other.
- 4 **Display (optional).** Put the finished shields up on the wall for a class gallery.

The Five Questions

Ask one question per shield section. Adapt the wording for your class's age and level.

1. What's something you love?
2. What's a goal you have?
3. What's your favourite place?
4. What's an important memory?
5. What's a value you believe in?

EXAMPLE

A student draws a book (loves reading), a globe (wants to travel), a tree (favourite place: forest), a birthday cake (important memory), and a handshake (value: kindness).

ATTENTION

Some students may feel self-conscious about drawing or sharing personal details. Emphasise that artistic skill isn't important, and let students skip or modify a question if needed. Have printed examples or word prompts ready for inspiration.

What's on the Next Pages

Six shield designs to choose from — some quartered for the 5-question version above, some plain or with a ribbon banner if you'd rather adapt the number of questions. Pick whichever style suits your class, or let students choose their own. No instructions or text on them, since the questions are asked aloud by the teacher. Print one copy per student.













