

Activity Four

Heraldry

Suggested Learning Intentions

Children are learning:

- that surnames have origins and meanings;
- that surnames link us with our families and the past; and
- about the significance of clan crests and mottos.

Suggested Learning and Teaching Activities

Use relevant websites such as www.surnamesdb.com and www.behindthename.com

Research information about surnames in the class. If unsuccessful on these sites, try a Google search entering the name and the words 'origin' or 'meaning'.

- Ask the children to write a short statement on their surname, including where it is from, what it means and any other relevant information.

Many surnames have a *coat of arms*, which was once a logo or design on a knight's shield so he could be easily identified on the battlefield. Many Scottish surnames have a traditional clan crest, which is a bit like a family badge, with a picture and a motto.

- Go online to look at several examples of clan crests, such as Campbell, Kirkpatrick and Wallace.
- Suggest reasons why these particular pictures and mottos were used by each family. In groups, the children could create a storyboard or write a script/short story about how one of these families earned their crest; for example, the story behind how the Campbells ended up with a boar's head as their family insignia.

- Using the blank template provided in Resource 2 ask the children to design their own personal clan crest. Encourage the children to think about:
 - pictures that best represent them as individuals; and
 - what their personal motto or slogan would be. Remind them it has to be short and catchy, and should reflect something about their personality or interests.

