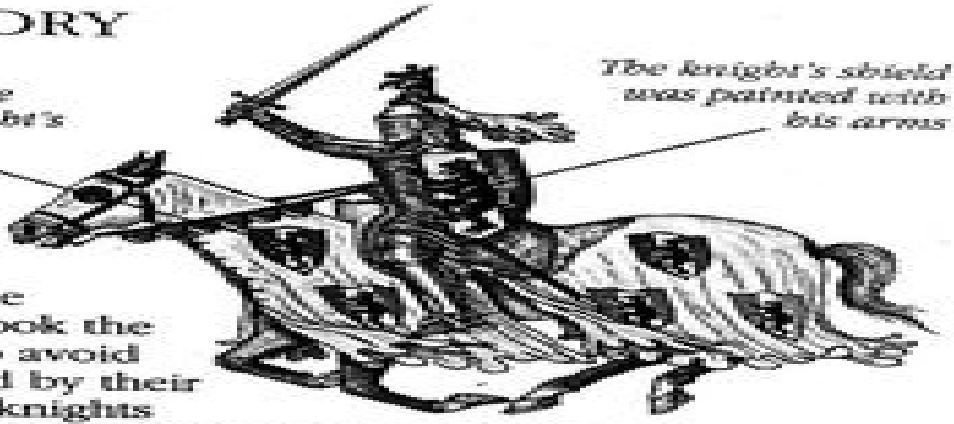
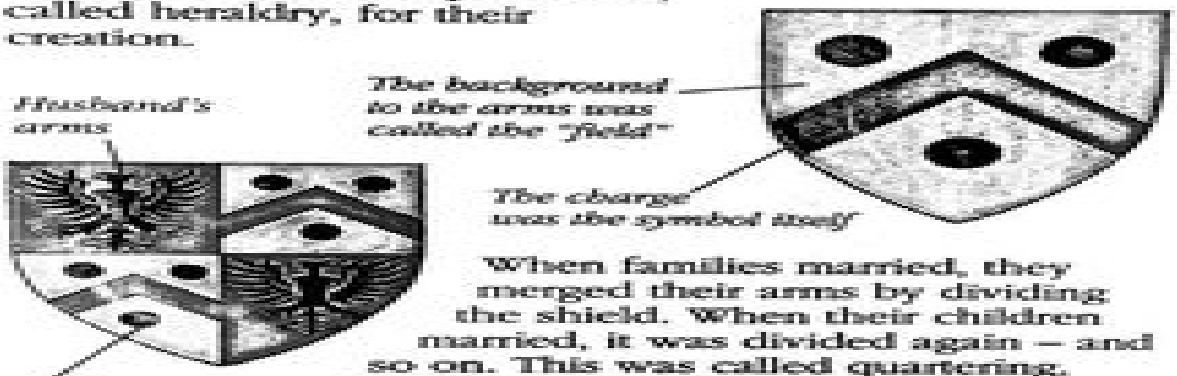
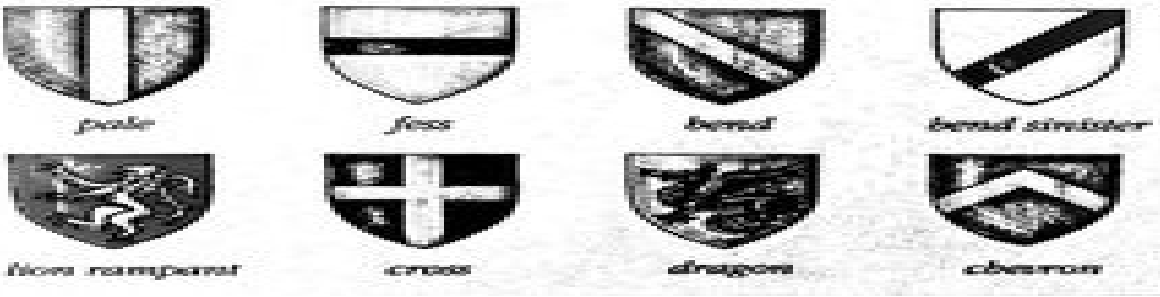
HERALDRY



Armor made everyone look the same, so to avoid being killed by their own men, knights decorated their outfits with distinctive patterns called arms. The patterns became very elaborate, and there were complex rules, called heraldry, for their creation.



When families married, they merged their arms by dividing the shield. When their children married, it was divided again — and so on. This was called quartering, and by the 14th century, only heralds could understand the complex system.

HERALDIC CHARGES