

# FLINTS!

Creative Family  
Activities Inspired by  
Medieval Norwich  
and Beyond...

## GARGOYLES AND BEASTS

HISTORIC CHURCH EXPLORERS ACTIVITY BOOK #3

# CHURCH BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM

If we look closely, depictions of all kinds of animals and mythic beasts can be found in historic churches. They might represent characters from the Bible, be found on the monuments of wealthy people, or be used for decoration on a range of church features, such as stained glass, fonts or benches.

As well as animals we are familiar with there are mythological beasts like dragons, griffins, and unicorns.

[Click this link](#) to take a virtual tour of some of the churches looked after by Norwich Historic Churches Trust,

**How many beasts can you see?**  
**Where did you find them?**

Make sure to look at the windows, tombs and monuments!



Found outside St James Pockthorpe

# GHASTLY GARGOYLES

Gargoyles are a common feature of medieval and gothic church architecture, found commonly from the 1300s. These are scary, sometimes comical, stone creatures attached to the sides of buildings. As well as being fun to look at, gargoyles had a practical use as they contained water spouts and helped to prevent church walls from being damaged by the rain.

Scary faces that do not contain spouts are called grotesques. These were also used for decoration but the idea stems from the belief that scary faces could help to ward off evil spirits and therefore offered protection.



# ANIMALS IN HERALDRY

Historic churches usually contain monuments, commemorating wealthy people who were buried there. We often find animals depicted on their heraldry - a group of symbols made to represent a person and their family.

The use of heraldry started in the 1100s when knights would decorate their shields and banners with different colours and animals to let other people know who they were. This was especially important when armour hid their faces.



# ANIMALS IN HERALDRY

Different animals could represent different characteristics.

**Dogs** were believed to be loyal and reliable.

**Lions** represented bravery.

**Eagles**, nobility and power.

**Stags**, wisdoms and long life.

**Hares**, speed.

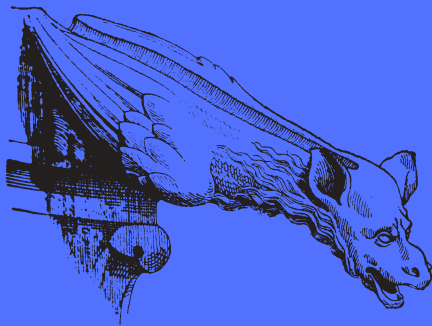
Mythical creatures were also found on heraldry:

**Dragons** were cunning and brave defenders of treasure.

**Griffins** (half lion half eagle) represented watchfulness and courage.

**A Cockatrice** (cockerel and dragon) meant protection.





ACTIVITIES TO TRY AT HOME

# DESIGN YOUR OWN ANIMAL HERALDRY

## You will need:

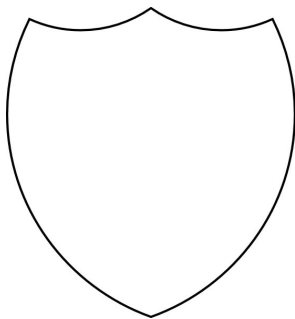
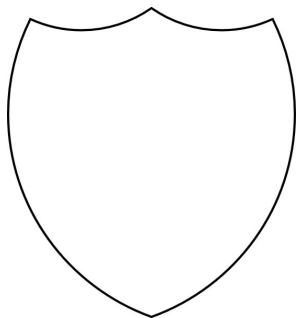
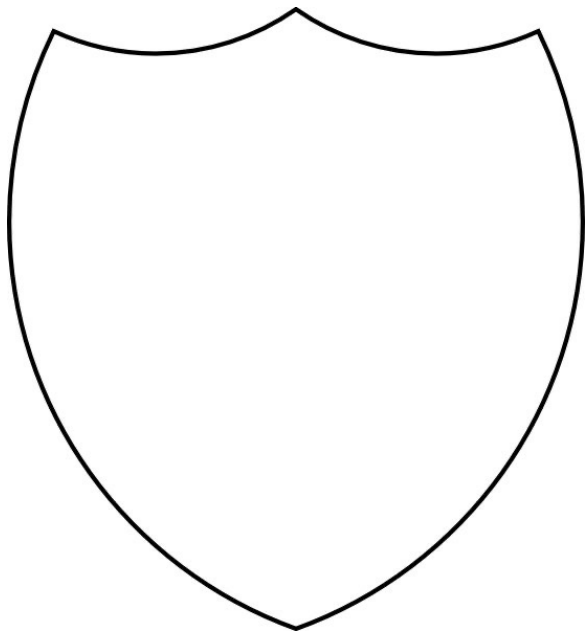
- An A4 sheet of coloured paper or card
- Plain paper or card
- A Pencil
- Scissors
- Colouring pens or pencils



## Instructions:

1. Choose the colour of card you would like for the background of your shield. Cut out a shield shape, like the ones below.
2. Think about the animal that represents you or that you like best. Sketch it out on the plain paper.
3. Cut out the animal and glue it on to the shield. If you like you can divide the shield in sections and add more animals.
4. Add colour to our design using colouring pens or pencils. Think about adding a bold outline to your animal so it can be seen from afar. You can add extra shapes by cutting them out of card.

**Tip: When you are finished, tape some household string to the back of your shield and hang it up to decorate your room.**





# MAKE EGG BOX GROTESQUES

## **You will need:**

1-3 empty egg boxes

Scissors

PVA glue

Colouring pens

## **Instructions:**

1. Separate the lid of the egg box.
2. Carefully cut up the lower half of the egg box to make lots of different shapes.
3. Arrange the shapes on the lid to make a funny face. The egg compartments make good eyes. You may wish to shape the lid to make a chin or ears.
4. Glue the shapes in place.
5. Once they have dried, use the pens to decorate your design.

**Tip: If you don't have egg boxes, try this with other recycled cardboard such as paper plates or cereal boxes.**



UNSCRAMBLE THE LETTERS TO MAKE THE NAMES OF BEASTS YOU  
MIGHT FIND IN A HISTORIC CHURCH

GRONAD

LEEGAL

NIOL

KANES



GNRIFIF

GAST

