

# Bath Time Travellers

## The Tudors

Queen Elizabeth I gave Bath its Royal Charter on 4<sup>th</sup> September 1590. This means that Bath could now be a free and independent city, and could hold regular markets.

This also meant Bath could apply for a coat of arms for the city, to show everyone how special it was and to show parts of its history. Here it is.

There are lots of different parts to the Bath Coat of Arms.

The shield in the middle shows the history of the city. For Bath, it shows the River Avon, the medieval city wall, and the sword of St Paul who is one of the patron saints of Bath Abbey.



The shield is held by animals which tells us about the people in the city. People from Bath (in Tudor times) were like lions (for bravery) and bears (for strength) and they stand on acorn branches. In Bath's founding myth, Bladud was feeding acorns to his pigs before they ran to be healed in Bath's hot spring water.

The helmet and the space above it show one important event for the city. The crown held above the helmet is the crown of King Edgar, the first king of all England. He was crowned in Bath Abbey in 973.

A motto is a sentence that tells you about the city and what makes it special. The motto for Bath is "Aquaesulis" which means "The waters of the goddess Sulis" and is the Roman name for the city of Bath, because Bath is famous for its hot springs.

Design your own coat of arms!

Have a closer look at the Bath Coat of Arms, and have a go at designing a coat of arms for yourself, your family, or for where you live.

Things to think about:

- What special objects or places would you put on the shield?
- Which animals would hold your shield? Why did you pick them?
- What would your motto be? Would it be in English or another language?
- What colours would you use?
- Do you have special people who need to be honoured? How could you fit them in?

A coat of arms can be placed on anything. Try turning your coat of arms into a badge, a flag, a poster or a fridge magnet. What else could you make it into?