



What do rhinoceroses, unicorns, kings, and gold have to do with each other? Read on to discover something new!



## Unicorns



Did you know that the tales of unicorns have been around for a very long time? Drawings and stories of this creature have been found in Greece, Israel, Babylon, Persia, and Asia many centuries ago. The unicorn was described as a horselike creature with a beard and feet like a goat, a lion's tail, and a tall, twisted horn that had magical powers against poison. During the Middle Ages a legend arose that the Virgin Mary was the only one that could tame the wild beast. Unicorns became popular in religious art. In Celtic mythology the unicorn represented innocence, purity, life, and healing powers. It was also thought to be a wild creature that could only be tamed by an innocent maiden.

Marco Polo, an explorer, described what he thought was a unicorn as an ugly creature a little smaller than an elephant with hair like a buffalo, feet like an elephant, a single large black horn, a head like a wild boar who spent its time wallowing in mud. He was really describing a rhinoceros!

The Unicorn of Scotland was carved on the Coat of Arms sometime before the 15th Century and first appeared at Rothesay Castle. During the reign of King James III (1466-1488) gold coins were made with a Unicorn on one side. When Scotland and England became united through the marriage of King James IV of Scotland and Margaret Tudor of England in 1603, the Royal Coat of Arms changed to include both a unicorn (Scotland) and a lion (England). A British nursery rhyme was penned during that time to record the not-so-friendly union.



Royal Coat of Arms Of the United Kingdom



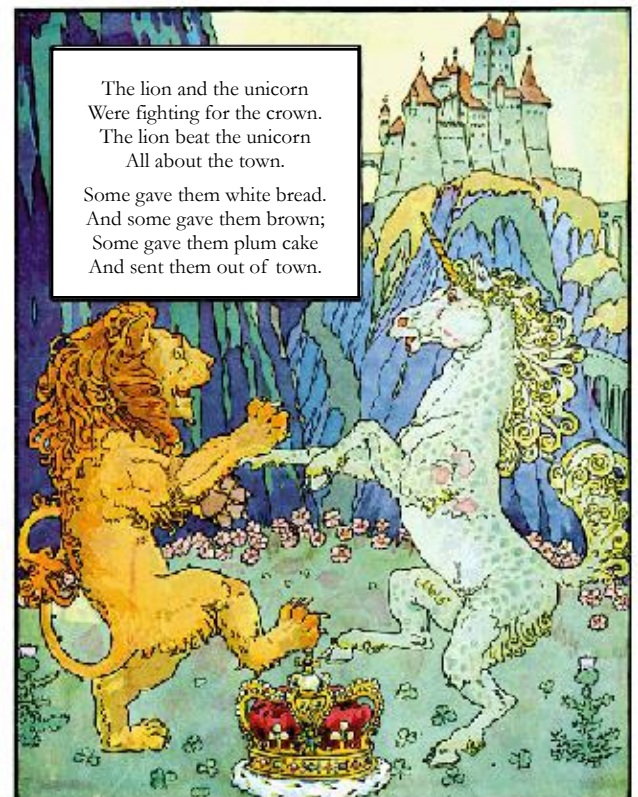
Royal coat of arms of the United Kingdom for use in Scotland



Scottish Coat of Arms



Scottish gold coins issued during reign of James III (1484-88). On one side is a unicorn wearing a crown around its neck and on the other is a wavy star or sun with fleured ends.



The lion and the unicorn  
Were fighting for the crown.  
The lion beat the unicorn  
All about the town.

Some gave them white bread.  
And some gave them brown;  
Some gave them plum cake  
And sent them out of town.



## Book Nook~

*The Coming of the Unicorn: Scottish Folk Tales for Children (Kelpies)*

by Duncan Williamson (140 pages, ages 8+)

The author, the seventh of sixteen children in a Travelling family, spent his childhood roaming Scotland to sell wares. His collection of family stories, poems, and songs will be sure to delight listeners and readers from age 5 to 99.

*The Midnight Unicorn* by Neil Reid (picture book, ages 4+)

Millie loves unicorns. One day the unicorn statue in the park comes to life under Millie's touch and an adventure begins. The book is beautifully illustrated with spot lamination of glitter that almost makes the unicorn seem real.



## PUZZLED?

 Cut out pieces, scramble, and reassemble to make your own Coat of Arms.



Glue onto paper to display as you want.

Hint: Use the picture on the first page to help you put your puzzle together.



So what does everything mean?

Motto:

"Nemo Me Impune Lacesit" : No one attacks me with impunity=No one can harm me unpunished

Unicorn with crown:  
symbol of Scottish throne

Lion with crown:  
symbol of English throne

Shield in middle:

(Divided into four parts) Top left: Scotland (red lion), Top right: England (3 lions), Bottom left: Northern Ireland (harp),  
Bottom right: Scotland (red lion)

Thistles are flowers of Scotland and recall the story of the defeat of some Scottish enemies who stepped on a thistle and gave away their surprise attack.