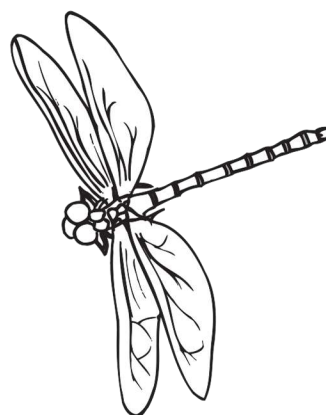
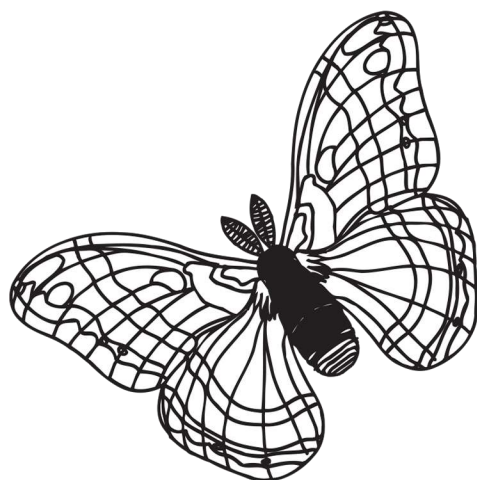
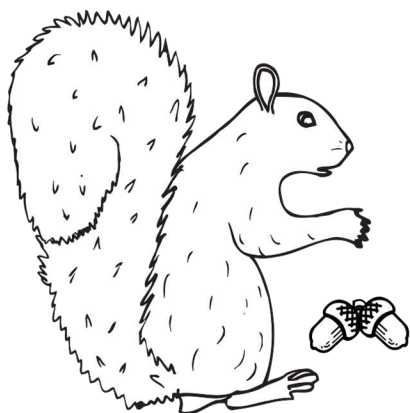




welcome to the woodlands

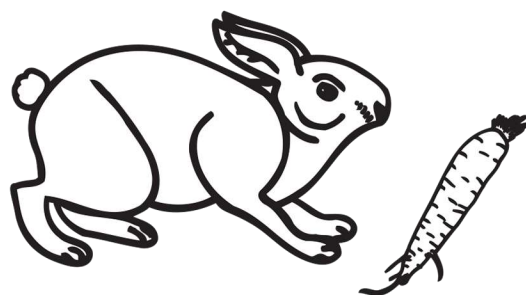




Squirrel's habit of storing nuts to ensure a supply of food for the winter makes him a symbol of thrift, caution and conception. It occurs in many English coats of arms and it is always depicted sejant (in a sitting position), though with a squirrel the arms are always raised, and very frequently, cracking a nut.

The acorn, the seed of the slow growing oak tree, denotes antiquity, strength, and potential. Acorns were a symbol for life, fertility, and immortality in Medieval Scandinavian and Celtic cultures. The acorn can also indicate independence in its bearer. The acorn can be found slipped and leaved: the acorn-sprig is not uncommon as a crest: and acorn-caps may also be represented alone.

The hare was probably introduced into heraldry to as a symbol for one who enjoys a peaceable and retired life and the rabbit likewise. Also, since rabbits and hares reproduce prodigiously, they have become symbols for lust and great fertility. The Hare is much less common than the rabbit, which is also called a coney.



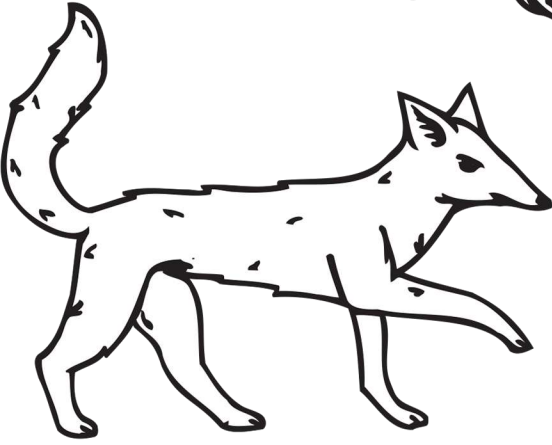


he stag or hind has a variety of symbolic meanings. It can indicate someone skillful in music and a lover of harmony. It may also indicate a person who foresees opportunities well. In the latter case it is a symbol used for one who is unwilling to assail enemies rashly, who would rather stand his own ground than harm another wrongfully, and one who will not fight unless provoked. Harmony, polity and peace are particularly associated with the female deer, called a hind or a doe. Antlers represent strength and fortitude. The stag or hart is also an emblem of purity and fleetness. The stag was associated with healing, for he knew which medicinal plants to take in order to shake off the hunter's arrow. The person bearing this symbol was considered impervious to weapons. Other names for a deer include a brocket, which is a young stag, a buck, roe, roebuck, and a fawn.

Sejant means that a creature is sitting. If it is a beast it has both front paws on the ground, with the exception of the squirrel whose forepaws are always up and often carrying a nut.

Statant indicates that the beast or bird is standing with all feet touching the ground.





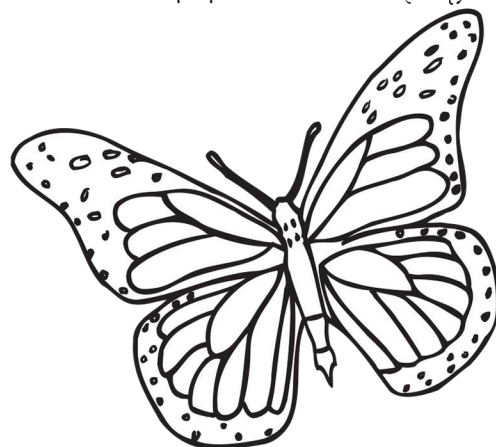
he fox was a common symbol for the devil during the middle ages. One of the oldest tales about the fox describes it feigning death in order to trap fowl. This fox is a symbol of the devil tempting man: therefore, it may be a reminder to the bearer to stay alert and resist temptation. The fox was also used to symbolize the struggle of the ordinary common folk against the feudal baron. It is therefore a symbol of one who will use all his shrewdness, sagacity, wit or wisdom for his own defense. It occurs quite frequently as a heraldic charge.

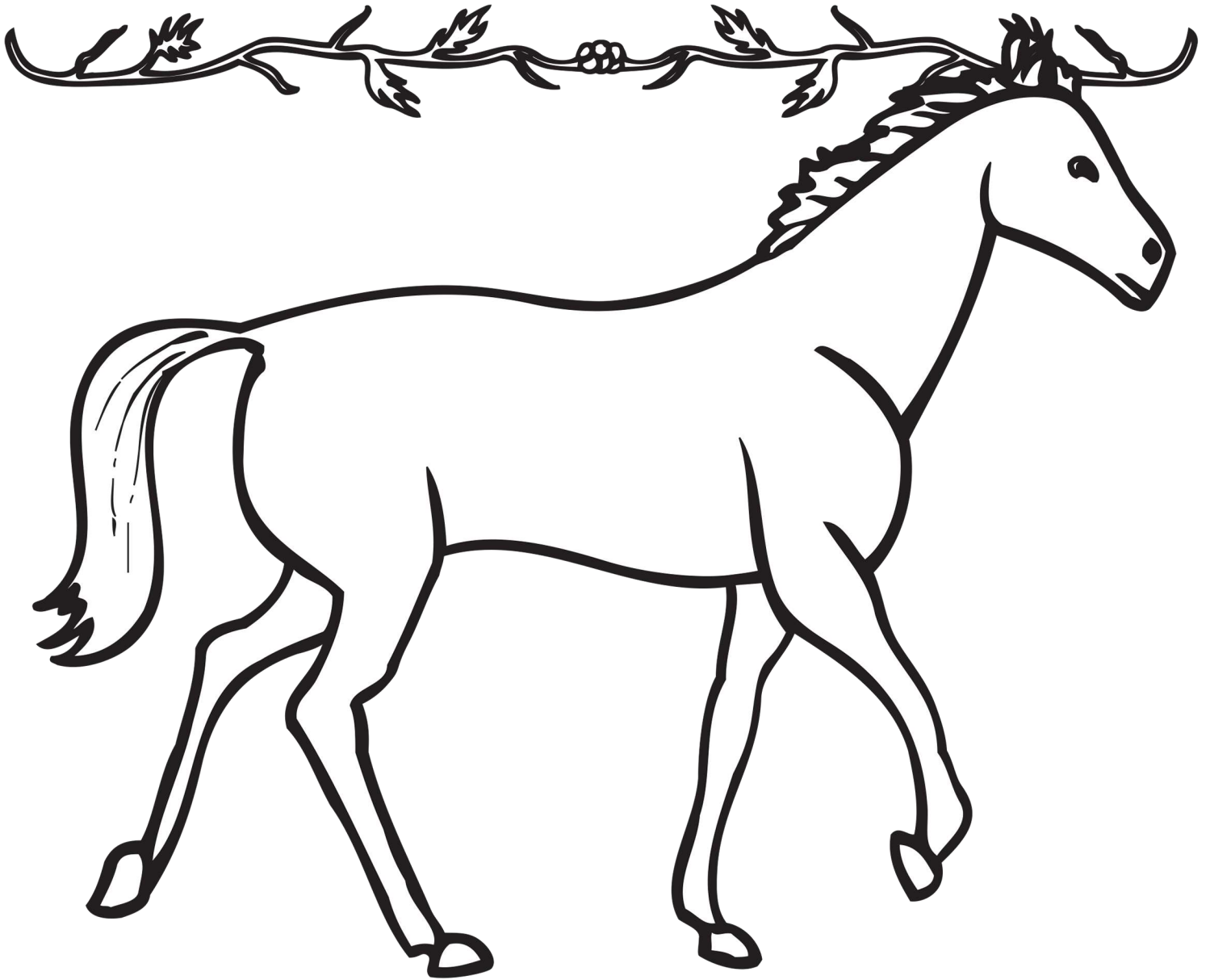


elicans were rarely be found 'close,' (with its wings folded) and is generally drawn vulning itself, often surrounded by its young: it is a symbol of maternal solicitude. Vulning is the term describing the belief that the female pelican would wound her breast with her long, curved bill, drawing blood to feed her young. There are some birds, that during the nestling season, grow red feather's upon their breast, which may be where the legend came from. For this noble act, the bird became a symbol of piety, self-sacrifice, and virtue associated with the Holy Eucharist. The pelican in heraldry does not traditionally have the large pouched beak of the natural bird though modern representations have given it a more realistic appearance. Also, when blazoned 'proper' (meaning in its natural colors) the pelican is traditionally given the colors and plumage of an eagle instead of its natural white. A cormorant is a member of the pelican family and was likely intended to have the same symbolic meaning.

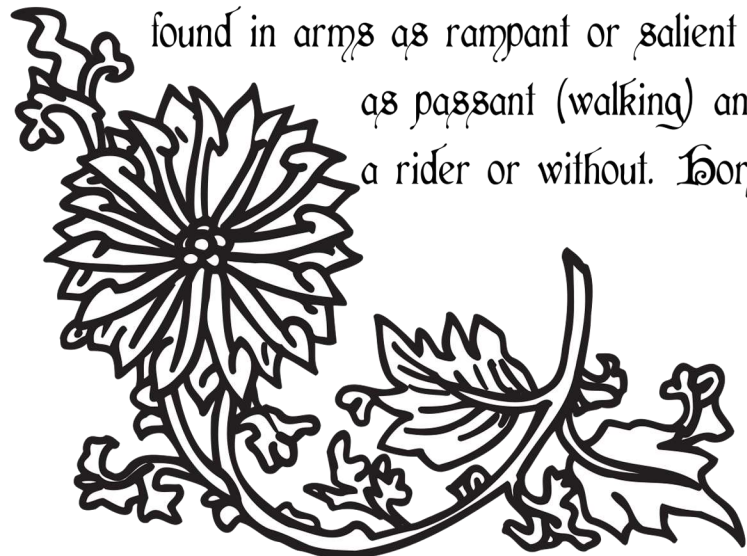


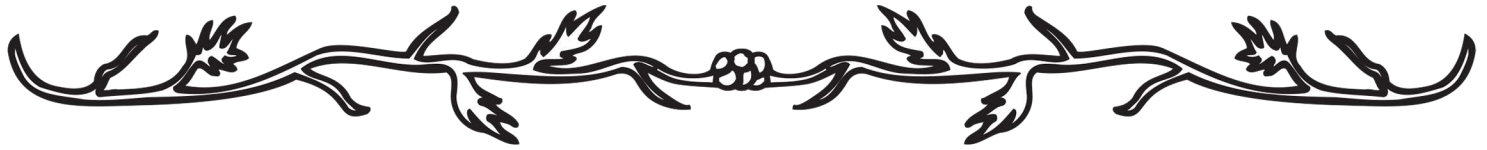
utterflies were the Greek emblem of the Psyche or Soul. It is usually drawn "volant en arriere," as seen in the example with its wings open.



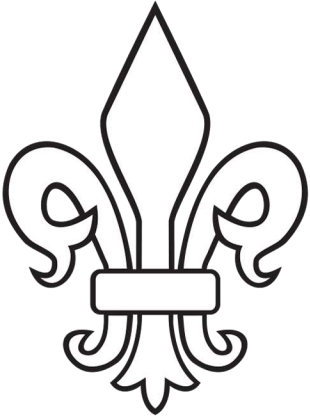


Horses are considered very spirited, powerful and beautiful animals. They were thought of like brave warriors; highly skilled fighters who loved victory and were miserable when conquered. The horse signifies readiness to act for one's country. It is also a symbol of speed, intellect and virility. As a result the horse will be found in arms as rampant or salient (in a fighting position), and courant (running), as well as passant (walking) and trotting. It may be drawn saddled and bridled, with a rider or without. Horses are also often found as supporters on a crest.

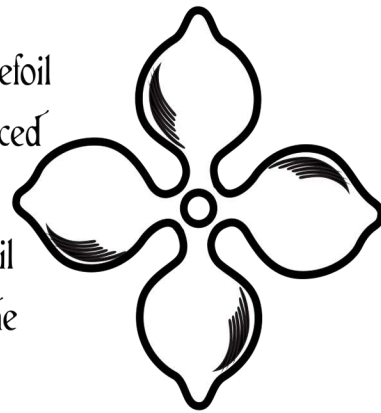




he fleur-de-lis is a very ancient and widely used symbol. It is found in East Indian, Egyptian and Etruscan decorations, as well as Roman and Gothic architecture. It may originally have been intended to represent a lily or white iris, or an arrow or spearhead. In Christian symbolism, the fleur-de-lis is used as a symbol of the Holy Trinity and as an ensign of the Virgin Mary. In heraldry, it is also said to signify faith, wisdom, and valor. Fleurs-de-lis are now most commonly associated with France. In ancient times they may have signified a connection with that country through war, marriage or property rights. In English arms it was sometimes used as a mark of cadency for the sixth son.



quatrefoil is a four leaved plant. Generally, they appear similar to the trefoil, but with a leaf instead of the stem of a slipped trefoil. The quatrefoil can also be pierced, that is, showing a hole in the center. Architects placed this symbol on churches to signify that the gospel, the harbinger of peace and immortality, was preached there. In British rules of inheritance, the double quatrefoil signified the ninth son. The poppy in heraldry is represented by a red quatrefoil. The poppy has been the symbol of the dead and of sleep since antiquity: in more recent times, it has become a symbol of sacrifice, remembrance, and hope.



oses are a symbol of hope and joy: it is first among flowers and expresses beauty and grace. With a red blossom, it is a symbol of martyrdom. The white rose expresses love and faith: in Christian symbolism, it signifies purity. The yellow rose is a symbol of absolute achievement. The conventional form of a heraldic rose displays five petals that mimic the look of a wild rose on a hedgerow. The famous Wars of Roses, between the red rose of the house of Lancaster and the white rose of the house of York, ended after the succession of the Tudors to the throne. After this, the heraldic rose developed a double row of petals which was obviously in effort to combine the rival emblems. During the reign of the Tudors there was a more naturalistic trend in heraldry, and stems and leaves were sometimes added to the rose. Heraldry has accomplished what horticulture could not, and roses can be found tinted blue, black and green, in addition to the more natural colors.

