

## ACTIVITY!

## DESIGN YOUR OWN Official Seal

Now that you have some ideas for symbols for your country, use them to create your micronation's official coat of arms

and a **seal**. Seals were originally designs pressed into a soft piece of wax with a mold. A seal put on a document shows that a person or government official has approved it.

Today seals are usually stamped on with an inkpad or pressed

into a piece of paper with a special tool so that it leaves a raised mark. This project makes a rubbery stamp for putting an inked seal on important documents.

### WORDS TO KNOW!

**seal:** an official symbol that shows that a document or other object belongs to the government.

### SUPPLIES

- 🕒 paper and pencil
- 🕒 marker
- 🕒 craft foam
- 🕒 scissors
- 🕒 glue
- 🕒 pieces of cardboard, flip flop, or blocks of wood small enough to hold
- 🕒 inkpad, or paint on a disposable plate

**1** Start by sketching out your micronation's coat of arms. First draw the outside border of your design. Make it thick like the frame on a painting. It can be a circle, a shield, or any shape you like. Then choose some of your micronation's symbols and arrange them inside the border. Keep the symbols simple, and make sure they don't touch each other or the outside border.

**2** To make the stamp, copy your coat of arms onto a sheet of craft foam. To make the backing, take your cardboard, foam backing from a flip-flop shoe, or wood and lay it on the table with the stamping side facing up.

**3** Cut around the outside shape of your craft foam seal. Turn it over so the drawing on it is facing down. You do that because your stamp must be a mirror image of the final version. Place it on the backing, then trace around it to show where it will go.



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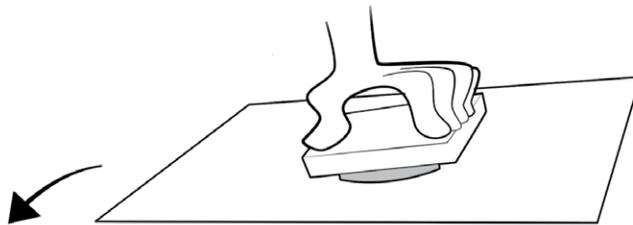
**FASCINATING FACT**

The Great Seal of the United States shows an eagle holding arrows symbolizing war in one claw and an olive branch symbolizing peace in the other.



**4** Carefully cut out the symbols of your seal from the craft foam. Glue the outside shape onto the backing, again making sure that the side with the drawing is facing down onto the backing. Then glue the symbols inside, also facing down.

**5** When it's dry, test your seal with a sheet of scrap paper before you put it on any important documents. Press it onto an inkpad or into a very small amount of paint poured onto a disposable plate. Then press it onto the scrap paper to see how it looks. If you want your seal to appear in different colors, you can carefully brush a thin coat of paint onto just one section or symbol at a time using the colors you would like for your coat of arms. You can also try swirling a few colors around on the plate, keeping them separate, for a multicolor effect.



**WALTER-LAND**