



Westminster
Abbey



Coronation Club

What is the Coronation Regalia?

This activity pack is inspired by the second Coronation Club episode.
You can use it alongside the video to take part in the activities as you go
or as a stand-alone resource to explore coronations.

Either way, there are plenty activities for children to enjoy while supporting their learning.

Contents

- [What might you expect to see at a coronation?](#) (p.3 & 4)
- [A Closer Look: The Coronation Regalia](#) (p.5)
- [Our Roving Reporter Investigates...](#) The Tower of London (p.6 & 7)
- [An Abbey Tale](#) (p.8)
- [A Closer Look: The Coronation Chair](#) (p.9 - 11)
- [Design your Own Chair](#) (p.12 & 13)
- [A Priests' Perspective: Anointing](#) (p.14)
- [Everything you need to know about the Coronation Regalia](#) (p.15 - 17)
- [Monarch and Regalia poster](#) (p. 18)
- [Recall the Regalia](#) (p. 19 & 20)
- [Sing a Song: Crowns, sceptre, orbs and spurs](#) (p. 21)
- [A Queen's Quiz](#) (p.22, [answers](#) p.23)
- [Create a Craft: Make a coronation crown](#) (p.24 - 27)
- [Coronation Regalia colouring in sheets](#) (p. 28 - 31)
- [Useful links](#) (p. 32 & 33)





We're going to take a look at some of the special items and objects used during a coronation.

What would you expect to see?



Discuss with someone.
(Hint: there're more than just a crown!)



Some of the objects are called the ...

Coronation Regalia

They're part of the Crown Jewels and they're special objects used during coronations.

What do you think of when you hear 'Crown Jewels'?

This painting shows Richard II with some of the regalia.

It's fair to say that most people think of the crown but in this pack we'll find out about lots of other objects too.



A Closer Look: The Coronation Regalia

Could these be the Crown Jewels? Look how sparkly they are! Well, actually they look like the Regalia but they're a set of replicas, or copies, which are kept at Westminster Abbey.

The Regalia did used to be kept at the Abbey but they aren't here anymore. Let's find out where they are kept now ...



Our Roving Reporter Investigates... The Tower of London

Welcome to the Tower of London, one of the most famous buildings in the world. Built as a fortress by William the Conqueror 1,000 years ago and used as both a palace and a prison. The walls are four metres thick in parts - no wonder this place was used as a prison!



There have been some really famous prisoners kept here over the years including two of Henry VIII's wives, his daughter Princess Elizabeth and also Guy Fawkes. But it's not just *people* who have been kept behind these walls, they guard some very special objects too...

Our Roving Reporter Investigates... The Tower of London

The Jewel House is *literally* where the most famous jewels in the world are kept - the Crown Jewels! Amongst them are the Regalia, the famous, beautiful jewels used on coronation day.



Lou

There is one piece in the collection, it's not as fancy as the rest. It's 800 years old and it's my favourite piece, **the Coronation Spoon**. It's the one piece in the Regalia that links all coronations back through the ages to medieval kings and queens, and is used at the most sacred moment of the coronation.



An Abbey Tale

Close your eyes. Imagine a king, or a queen. What are they wearing? How do they look? How can you tell they're royalty? What's that thing on their head?

Noooo – it's not a hat. It's a crown! It's the bling!

That's how you can tell a queen's a queen and a king's a king.

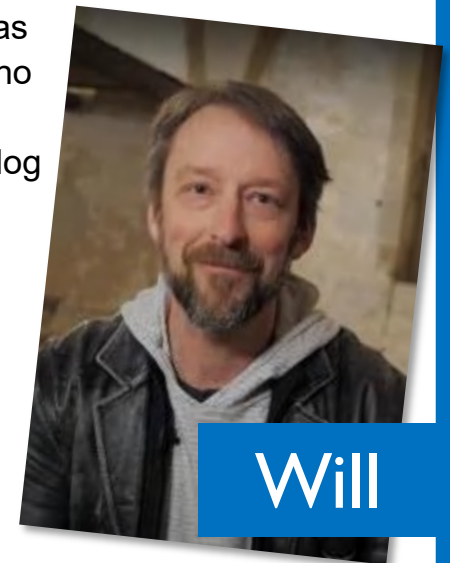
When it comes to kings and queens it's not just their crown that sets them apart, there's a whole collection of priceless treasures. For hundreds of years the Regalia was kept here at Westminster Abbey safe and secure behind locked doors in solid chambers. Makes sense, right? After all, this is where we crown our kings and queens.

Actually, when I say 'safe and secure', there was a robbery here at one time. A fellow by the name of Richard Puddlicote managed to pinch some of Edward I's treasure. I can tell you, when he was caught, he didn't do it again... Naughty Puddlicote.

But that wasn't the only time the Regalia was lost and, second time round, pretty much everything went, except for a spoon. The culprit? **Oliver Cromwell**, Lord Protector and leader of the Parliamentarians who beat **King Charles I** in the English Civil War.

Cromwell declared the time for kings and queens was at an end. So, what was he to do with all this gold and silver? After all, what use is a crown if there is no monarch to put it on? Good for fancy dress I know but I don't think Cromwell was much of a party goer. He had a drastic plan. Melt everything down and flog it. No more Regalia - and he could pocket the cash! Neat solution. Clever Cromwell.

But there was one little problem, the old King Charles had a son and, only 11 years later, he became king, **Charles II**. But now Charles had a problem – no regalia. He could have started a new fashion of monarchs without any jewels but, unlike Cromwell, Charles was a bit of a party goer and loved dressing up. So, about 350 years ago he commissioned a whole new set of jewels for his coronation, the ones we see today.



A Closer Look: The Coronation Chair

We have a really special piece of furniture at the Abbey which is used during coronations: the Coronation Chair.

Take a close look. What do you see?

Do you have any questions?

Why not talk to someone about what you've noticed?





A Closer Look: The Coronation Chair

Ewen and Gemma loved getting up close to the Coronation Chair.



Ewen



Gemma

It looks really old! And like it's made from wood.
I wonder if it would be comfortable to sit on?

Yes it's definitely old.

It's been used in coronations since 1308, that's over 700 years.

Wow, that is old. I hope they use a cushion!
Do you think it would have looked more regal in the past?

Yes, it was painted with gold leaf and elaborately decorated with coloured glass.
It would have looked so shiny – perfect for a king or queen!

The monarch sits on this chair when they receive the regalia,
which is a special part of the ceremony called the Investiture.

Have a think about the kind of chair you would like to sit on.

How might it look?

[You can design your own.](#)

If you have more questions about the Coronation Chair,
you might be able to [find out more.](#)

A Closer Look: The Coronation Chair



Can you spot a difference with the Coronation Chair in this image when it was set up for the coronation of George VI?

You can see the king did get a cushion! Thank goodness.

What can you see under the seat?

Gemma told us that this chair has been used for over 700 years. It was built on the command of Edward I. He needed somewhere to store a big stone that he had taken from Scotland. The stone was said to be used for the coronation of Scottish monarchs.

The stone is known as:

The Stone of Destiny

What a brilliant name, try saying it in a really over the top way and see who can be the most dramatic!

The stone was stolen in 1952, but came back to the Abbey for Elizabeth II's coronation. It was returned to Scotland in 1996 and now lives in Edinburgh Castle.

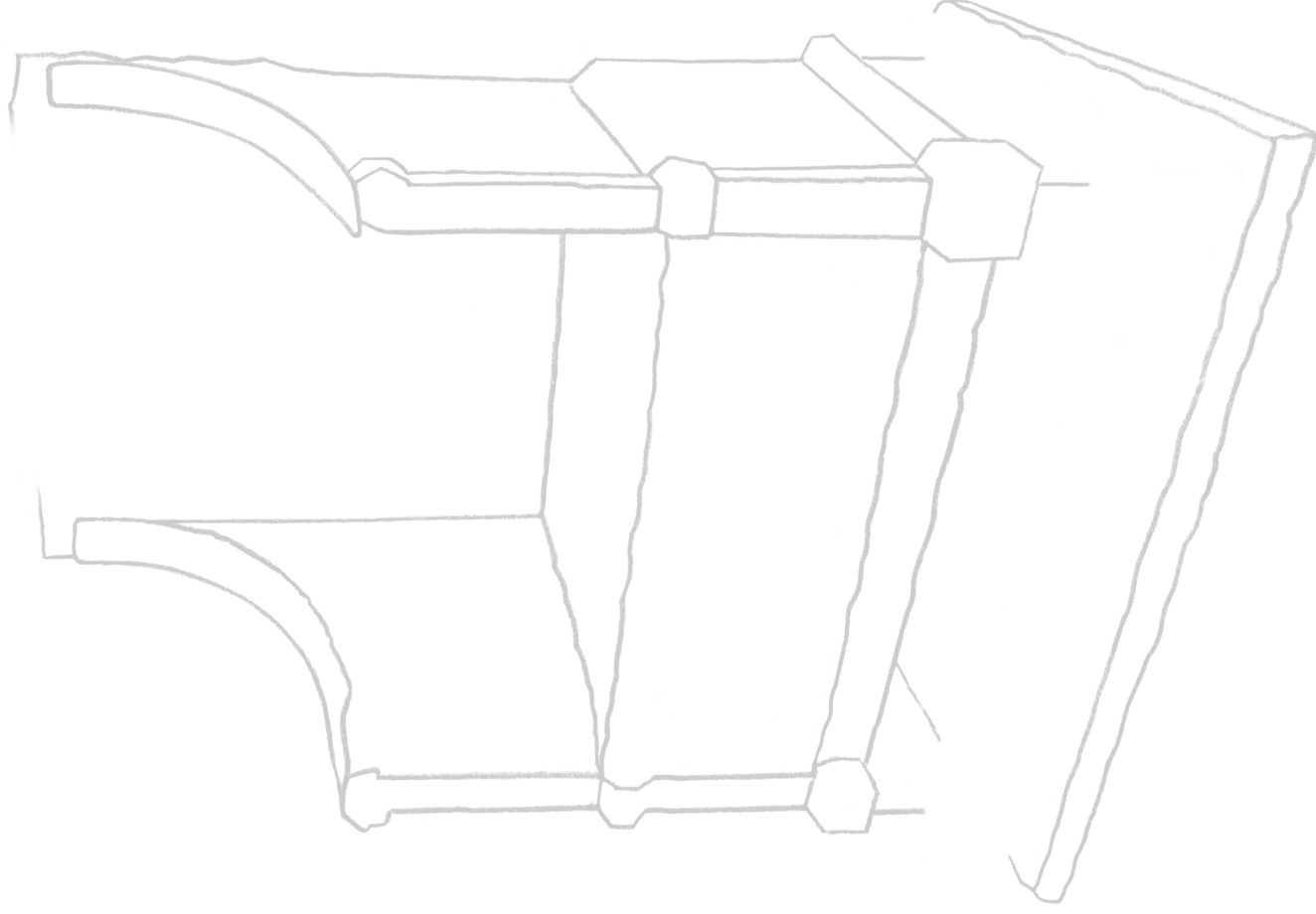
It still comes back to the Abbey for coronations.



Design Your Own Chair

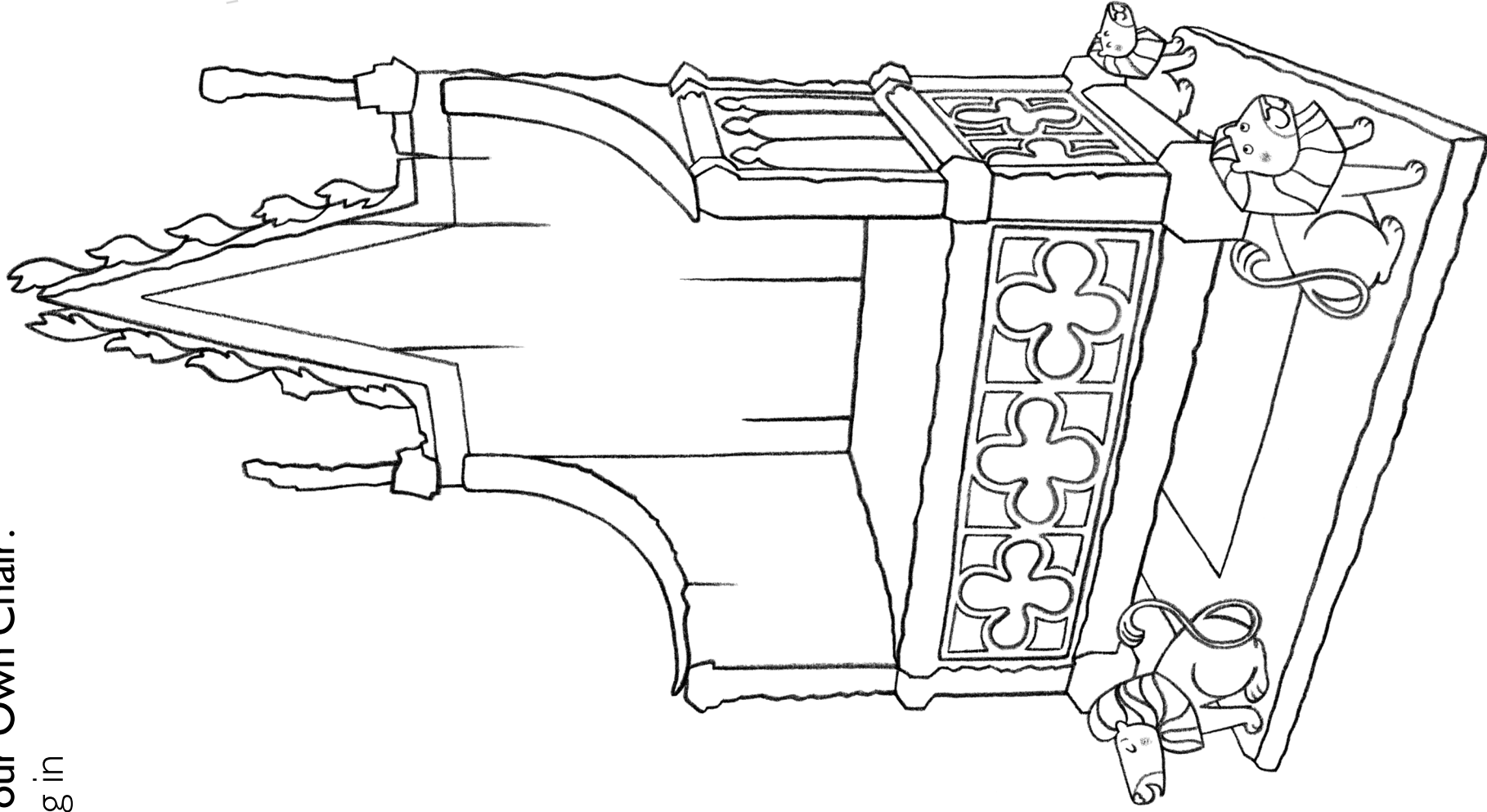
Using this basic framework from the Coronation Chair, you might want to add:

- A dramatic headrest
- Some animal supporters
- Patterns and designs





Design Your Own Chair:
Colouring in



A Priest's Perspective

How are the Coronation Spoon and the ampulla used during a coronation?

For over a thousand years when kings or queens have been crowned in this Abbey they have been anointed as part of the ceremony. A thousand years!

But the practice of anointing goes way back beyond that, right back to Biblical times.

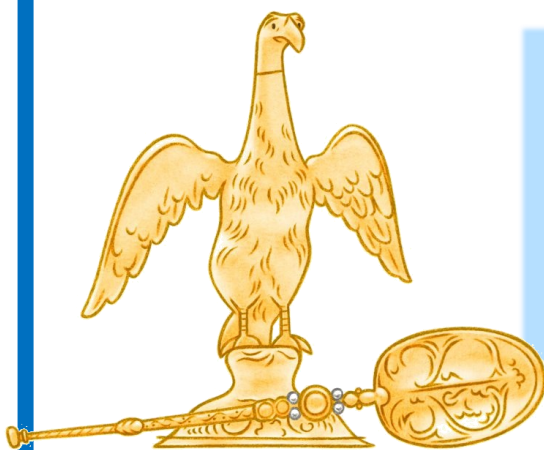
In this tradition a person is anointed by having special, sacred oil rubbed or poured over them.

In a coronation at Westminster Abbey, the oil is poured from the mouth, or beak, of **the Ampulla**. That's a special flask shaped like a golden eagle. The oil is poured into **the spoon** so that the archbishop can put their thumb in it to put the oil on the new monarch's hands, chest and the crown of their head.

From King David, the Biblical shepherd who became a king, to today anointing involves setting a person apart for special and divine service. Kings and queens are anointed for the divine service they are to undertake but so too are others. Priests for example. When a priest is ordained, the bishop will anoint their head and hands with oil. Just as important is that when an adult or a child is baptised as a Christian they too are anointed with oil as a sign that they are to live for God's purposes.



Canon Tricia



A moment for reflection ...

Stop for a moment and remind yourself that you are special. Think about all the people who love and support you and whom you love and support in return. How do they make you feel special and how do you return that feeling? How do you remember to do your best and try your hardest every day?

Everything you need to know about the Coronation Regalia...

After the Anointing comes the Investiture. The Investiture is when the monarch receives special objects which act as symbols to communicate to everyone the different powers and responsibilities the monarch has. There are lots of objects and we won't mention them all.

The Sword of Offering



This jewelled sword represents the monarch's 'knightly' duty to protect good and punish evil.

Another part of the regalia that shows this are **the spurs** – which a king might wear on his boots.



The Sovereign's Orb



This golden globe with a cross over it is a symbol of God's power over the world, shown by the symbol of the cross above a globe.

Everything you need to know about the Coronation Regalia...

The Sovereign's Ring



A ring represents the monarch's 'marriage' to the country. Rubies have been used since medieval times to represent dignity.



The Sovereign's Sceptre with Cross

A symbol of the monarch's power.



The Sovereign's Sceptre with Dove

Represents the monarch's religious role. The dove is a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

We can think of these two sceptres as representing Church and State.

Everything you need to know about the Coronation Regalia



The **St Edward's Crown** is used by the Archbishop of Canterbury to crown the new monarch – it's only used at the moment of crowning. It's very heavy, the same weight as five bags of sugar, so is only worn for this part of the service.



Later, before they process out of the Abbey, the monarch will remove St Edward's Crown and wear the lighter **Imperial State Crown**.



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Recall the Regalia



Recall the Regalia

This is a straightforward memory game. You might have played something similar before.

- On the next page is much of the regalia.
- Take a look at them for a short time.
- Then look away and see how many you can remember.

Decide how long to look at them for. The shorter the time the harder the challenge.

5 seconds? 10 seconds? 30 seconds?

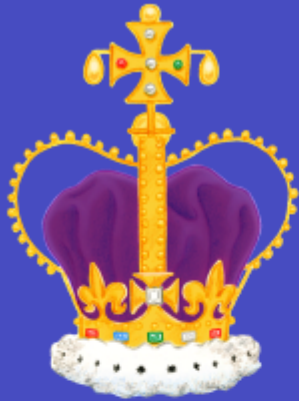
If you don't get them all the first time, you can try again!



Recall the Regalia



Sceptre
with Dove



St Edward's
Crown



Imperial State
Crown



Sword of
Offering

Ampulla
and Spoon



Sceptre
with Cross



The Spurs

Sovereign's
Orb



Sovereign's
Ring



Sing a Song: Crowns, sceptres, orb and spurs

(sing along to the tune of heads, shoulders, knees and toes)

Crowns, sceptres, orb and spurs, orb and spurs!

Crowns, sceptres, orb and spurs, orb and spurs!

And swords and spoon and a royal ruby ring...

Crowns, sceptres, orb and spurs, orb and spurs!

Actions/mimes:

Crown yourself, hands as fist in front of you, one open hand at your waist, dip down toward your heels.

Hold a sword safely at your side, take a big spoonful of cereal, and point to a finger.





A Queen's Quiz

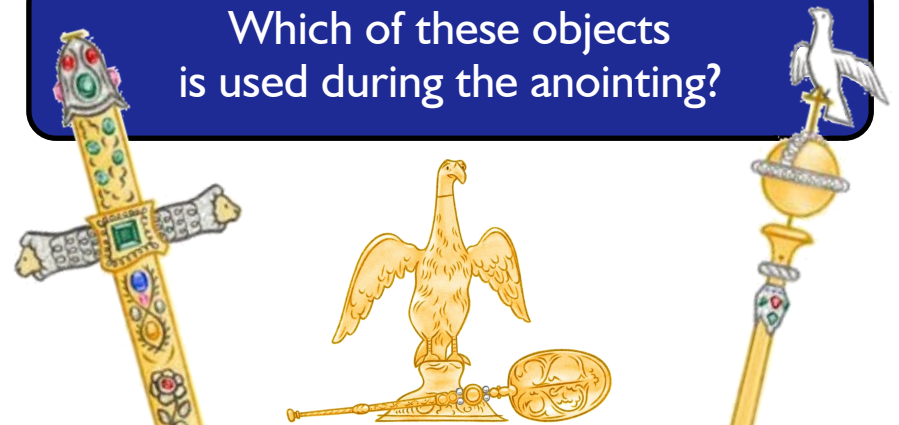
Where are the Coronation Regalia kept?



Which of these regalia objects is the oldest?

- a) St Edward's Crown
- b) The Coronation Spoon
- c) The Sovereign's Orb

Which of these objects is used during the anointing?





A Queen's Quiz

Where are the Coronation Regalia kept?

The Tower of London

Which of these regalia objects is the oldest?

b) The Coronation Spoon

Which of these objects is used during the anointing?



The Ampulla and spoon

Create a Craft: Make a coronation crown

Inspired by St Edward's crown (pictured) and the Imperial State Crown, both used in the coronation, why not make your very own beautiful crown. You'll find templates on the next pages.

You will need:

- Thick paper or card
- Colouring pencils or pens
- Scissors
- Stapler or glue
- Long strip of paper
- Decorations (optional)

Step one:

Start by printing a crown template or sketching a design of your own.



Step two:

Colour in your template or design in any way you wish. Get creative!



Make a Coronation Crown

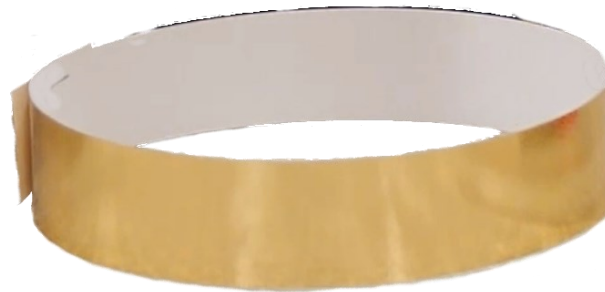
Step three:

Cut around the dotted line or your design. Leave, or create, a tab strip along the bottom of the crown:



Step four:

Measure a strip of paper around your head and staple in place. Fold the tab backwards then staple, or glue, the crown to the strip.



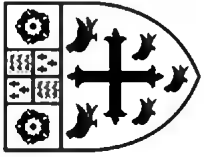
Step five:

You can customize your crown with sparkly decorations using foil, sequins, magazines, food packaging, cotton wool, or whatever else you think of.

Step six:

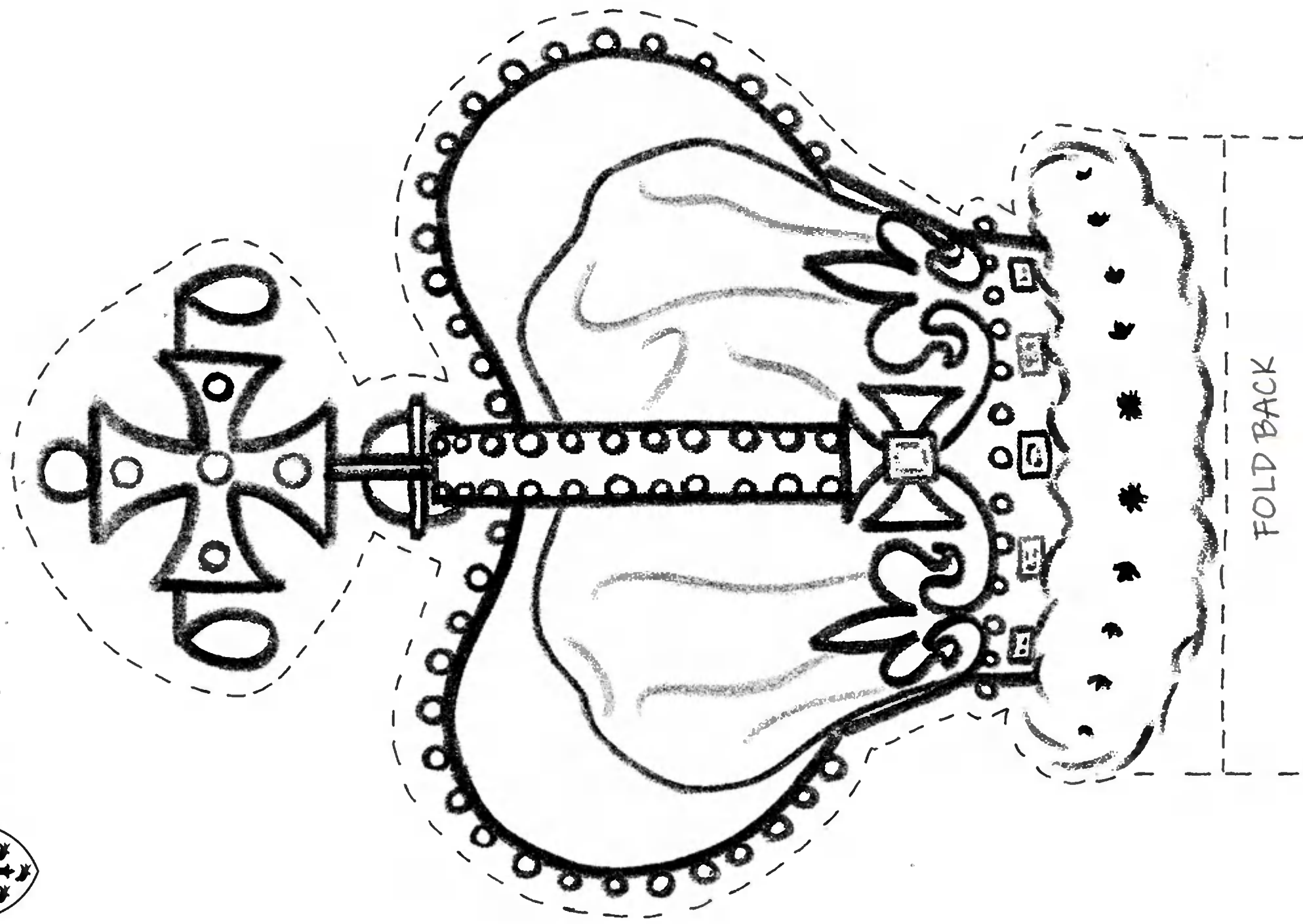
Get someone to crown you and then practice your royal wave!

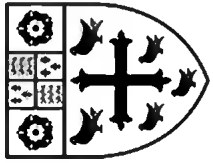




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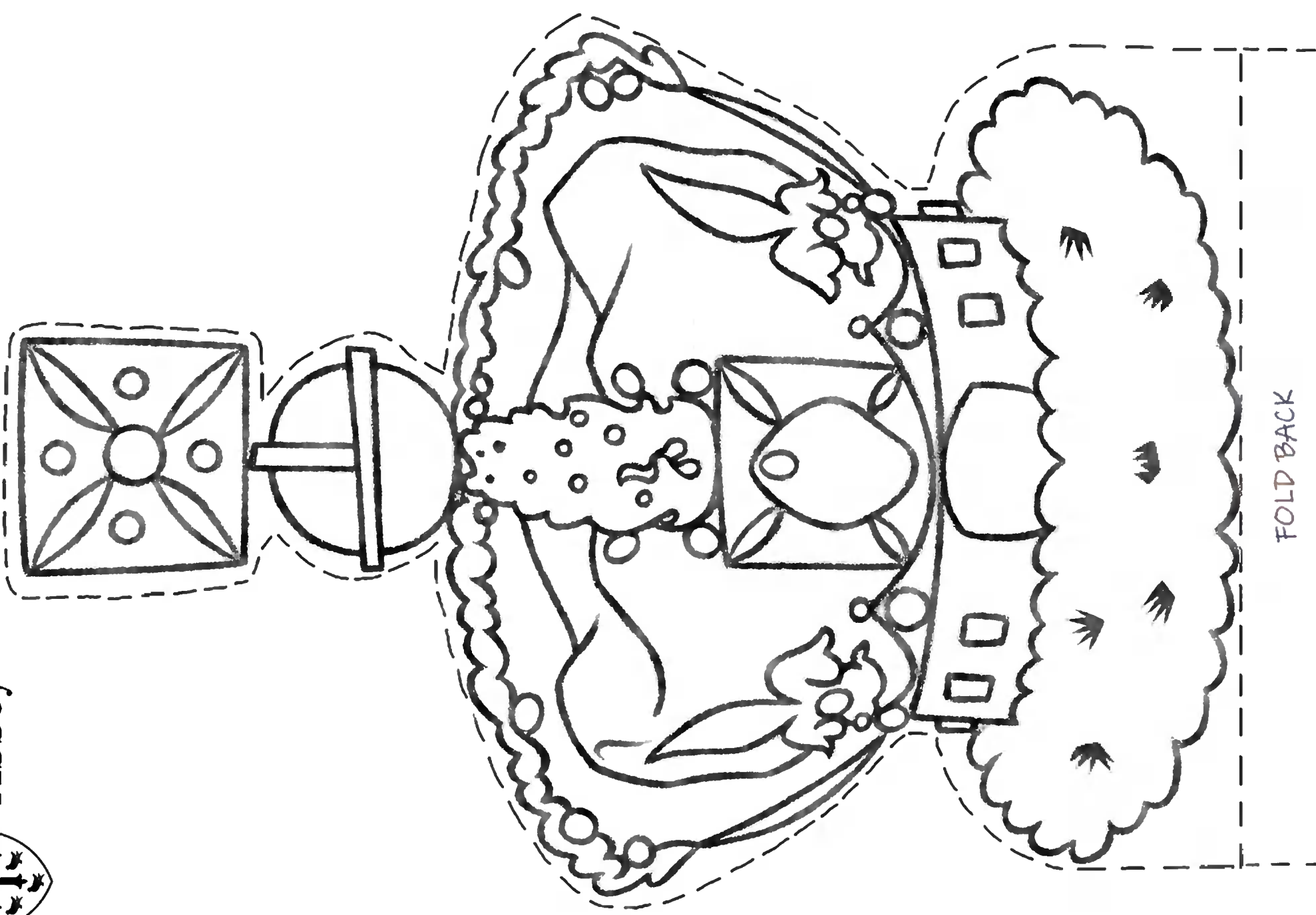
St Edward's Crown





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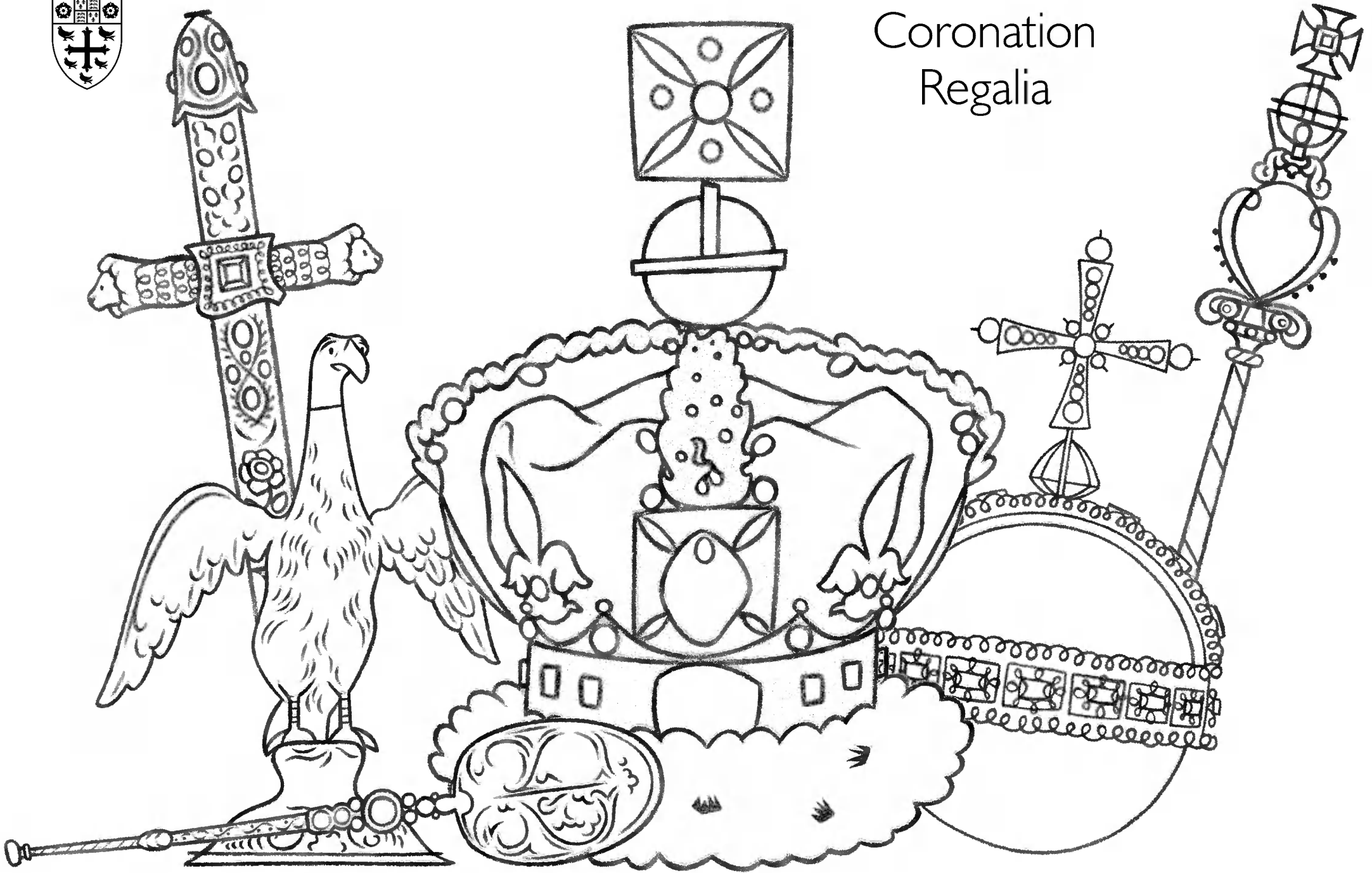
Imperial State Crown



FOLD BACK



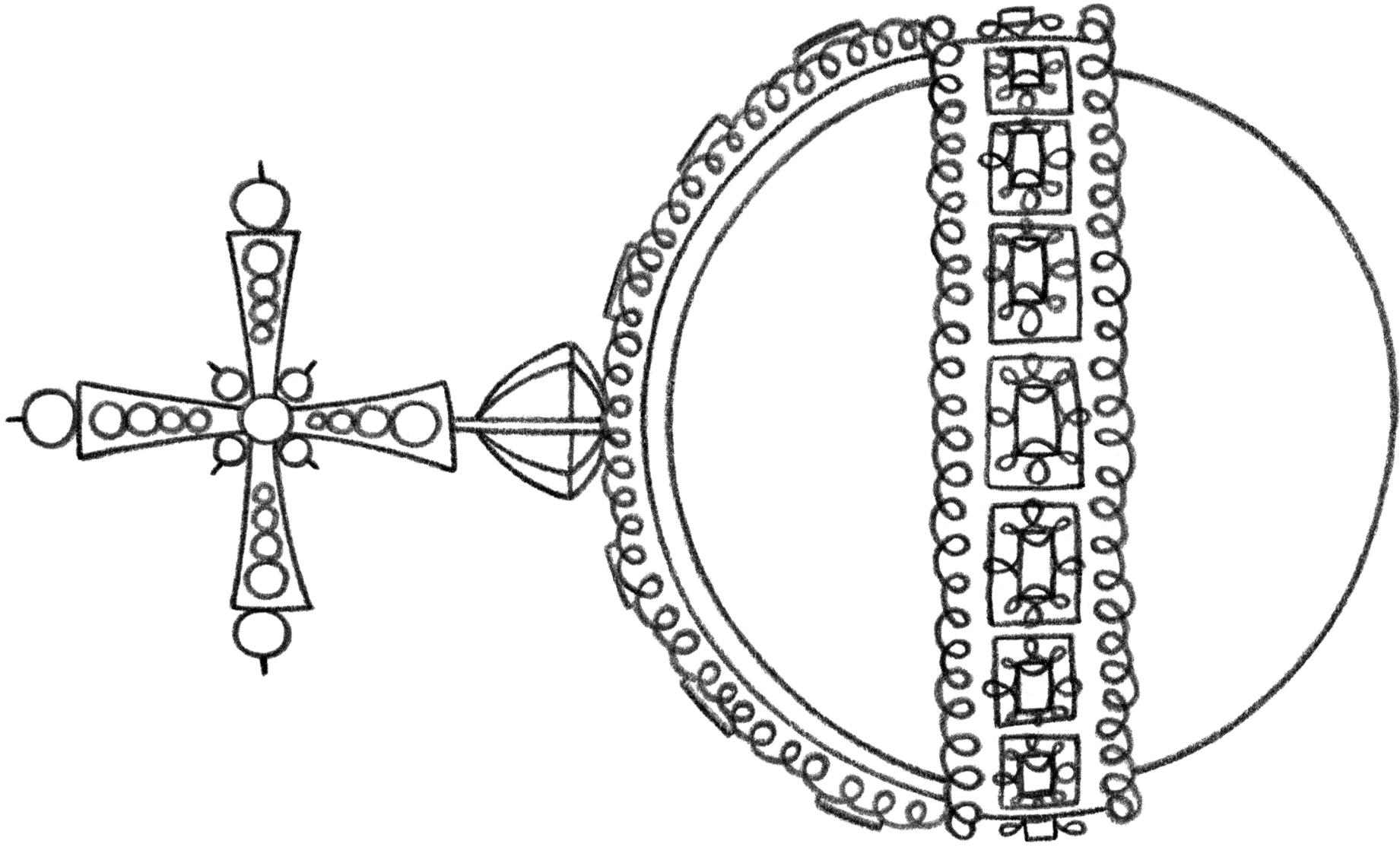
Coronation Regalia





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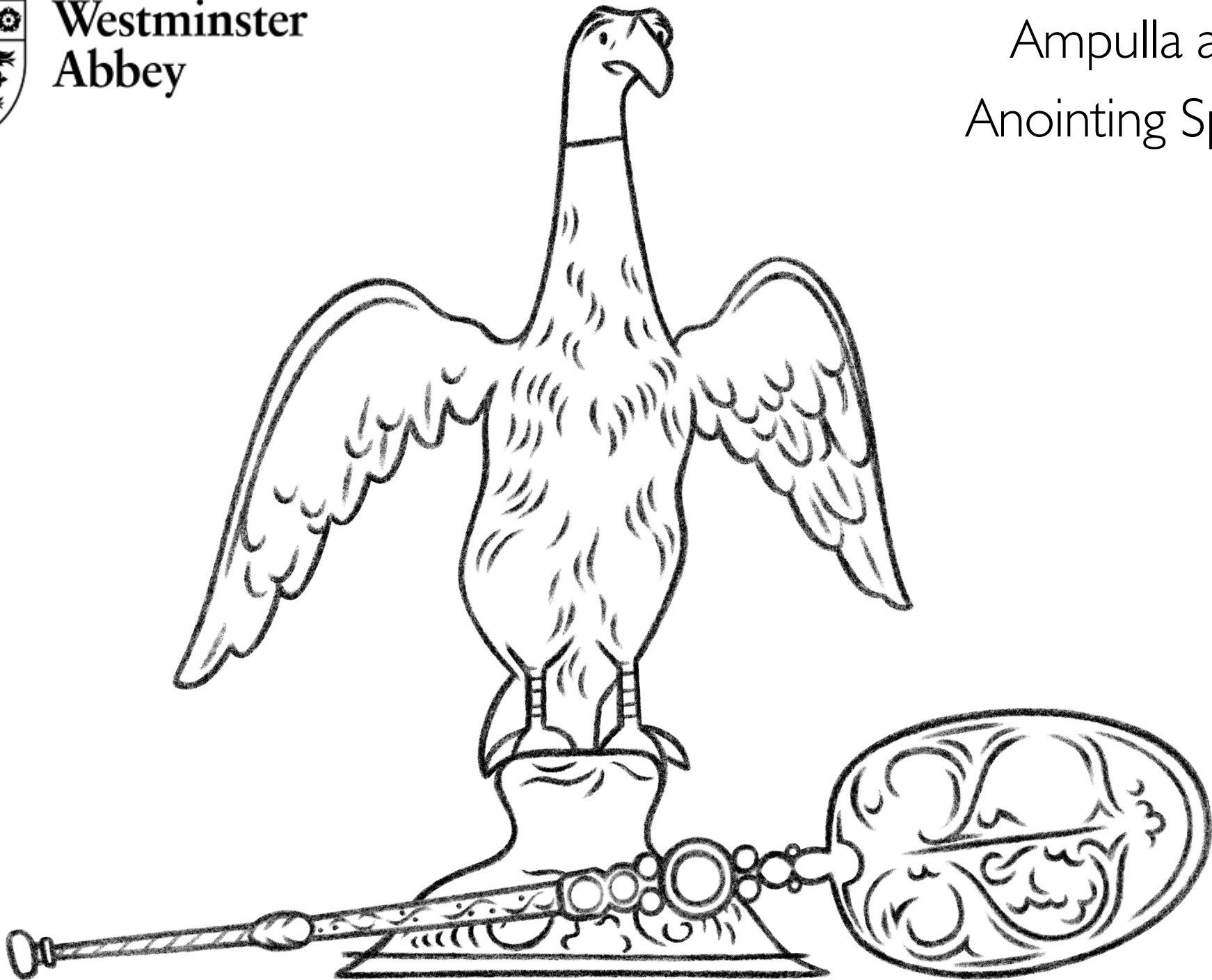
Sovereign's Orb





Westminster
Abbey

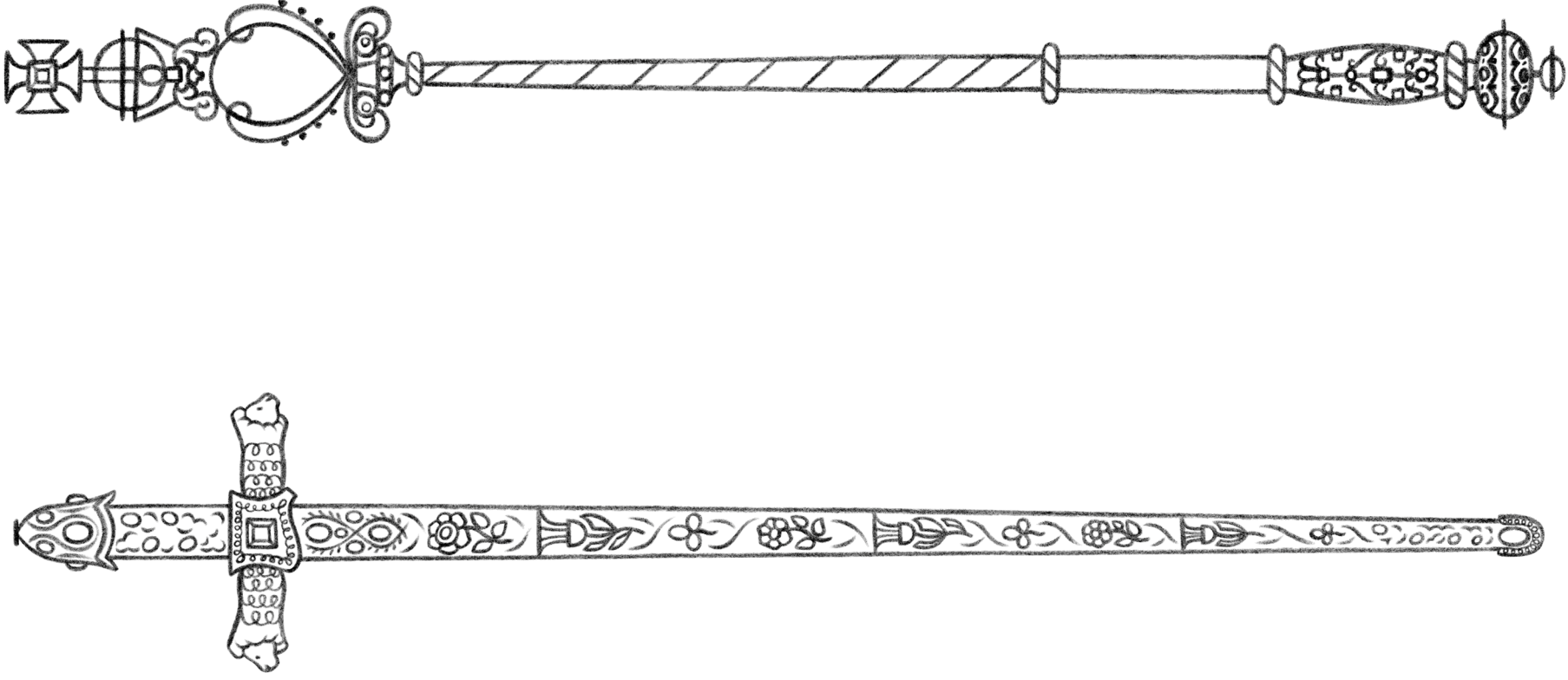
Ampulla and
Anointing Spoon





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Sword of Offering & Sovereign's Sceptre





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Thank you for joining in with Coronation Club.

Share your makes and experience with Westminster Abbey on social media using [#CoronationClub](#).

You can find the other episodes and activity packs, when available, on our [Coronation Club page](#).

Our website also has lots more about coronations that is targeted at [children and young people](#), as well as [plenty for adults too](#).

Useful Links

Links to find out more from the Abbey:

[Royal regalia | Westminster Abbey \(westminster-abbey.org\)](https://www.westminster-abbey.org/visit-us/what-to-see/royal-regalia)

[Coronation Chair | Westminster Abbey \(westminster-abbey.org\)](https://www.westminster-abbey.org/visit-us/what-to-see/coronation-chair)

[The Coronation Chair | Westminster Abbey \(westminster-abbey.org\)](https://www.westminster-abbey.org/visit-us/what-to-see/the-coronation-chair)

[Ampulla and spoon | Westminster Abbey \(westminster-abbey.org\)](https://www.westminster-abbey.org/visit-us/what-to-see/ampulla-and-spoon)

Resources for adults and educators to use at home or in the classroom:

[Coronation objects factsheets | Westminster Abbey \(westminster-abbey.org\)](https://www.westminster-abbey.org/visit-us/what-to-see/coronation-objects-factsheets) (KS1)

[Coronations image bank | Westminster Abbey \(westminster-abbey.org\)](https://www.westminster-abbey.org/visit-us/what-to-see/coronations-image-bank) (KS1/2/3)

[History of Coronations | Westminster Abbey \(westminster-abbey.org\)](https://www.westminster-abbey.org/visit-us/what-to-see/history-of-coronations) (KS3)

[Royalty | Westminster Abbey \(westminster-abbey.org\)](https://www.westminster-abbey.org/visit-us/what-to-see/royalty) (Families at home)

Explore more about the Crown Jewels from the Tower of London

[The Crown Jewels | Tower of London | Historic Royal Palaces \(hrp.org.uk\)](https://www.hrp.org.uk/visit-us/what-to-see/the-crown-jewels)

[The Crown Jewels Up Close | Tower of London | Historic Royal Palaces \(hrp.org.uk\)](https://www.hrp.org.uk/visit-us/what-to-see/the-crown-jewels-up-close)

[Coronations Past and Present | Tower of London | Historic Royal Palaces \(hrp.org.uk\)](https://www.hrp.org.uk/visit-us/what-to-see/coronations-past-and-present)