

In order to bring continuity and to simplify your search for the colors, stones, and flag design of the various tribes, I've put together this information based on what I've found in the Jewish Midrashim.

The [BaMidbar Rabbah 2:7](#) has a list of each tribe and its flag, with the color, stone, and symbol associated with it, which may be the original source (or one of the earliest that we'll find) for this.

Interestingly, the list is a little different than the one more commonly known. I've often seen a pair of scales as a symbol of Dan, for instance, rather than a snake. I imagine that people often have their own associations with the tribes and so there may be more than one "official" list of the 12 Tribes and their symbols. But for SOOJ's purposes we'll consider these when displaying our tribal spirit.

Anyway, here it is from the *Midrash Rabba*.

**Be'otot ["according to the standards", Numbers 2:2]:** There was a symbol for each leader [of each tribe], with a flag and a color, and the color of each flag was like the color of the precious stones that was over the heart of Aaron [the High Priest, i.e. on the breastplate]. From this the kingdoms learned to make flags and a color for each flag. Each tribe had its own leader, and the color of the flag was similar to the color of its stone.

- **Reuben's** stone was *odem* [**sardius**], and the color of his flag was **red**, and **mandrakes** were drawn on it [cf. Genesis 30:14].
- **Simeon's** [stone was] *pitada*, [**topaz**] and the color of his flag was **green**, and [the city of] **Shechem** was drawn on it [cf. Genesis 34].
- **Levi's** [stone was] *bareqet* [**carbuncle**], and the color of his flag was **one third white, one third black, and one third red**, and the *Urim veTummim* [**Light and Truth as Menorah and the Torah**] were drawn on it.
- **Judah's** [stone was] was *nofekh* [**emerald**], and the color of his flag was like the **color of the sky**, and a **lion** was drawn on it [cf. Genesis 49:9].
- **Issachar's** [stone was] *sappir* [**sapphire**], and the color of his flag was **dark blue** [lit. black like kohl], and a **sun and a moon** were drawn on it, as it is written [I Chronicles 12:33]: "And from the sons of Issachar were those who knew the wisdom of the times [i.e. astronomy and calendars]."
- **Zebulon's** [stone was] *yahalom* [**diamond**], and the color of his flag was like the moon [**white**], and a **ship** was drawn on it, as it is written [Genesis 49:13]: "Zebulon shall dwell by the seashore."
- **Dan's** [stone was] *leshem* [**jacinth**], and the color of his flag was similar to sappir [**sapphire**], and a **snake** was drawn on it, as it is written [Genesis 49:17]: "Dan shall be a snake."
- **Gad's** [stone was] *shevo* [**agate**], and the color of his flag was not white and not black but a mixture of black and white [**grey**], and a **military camp** was drawn on it, as it is written [Genesis 49:19]: "Gad shall camp in troops [Heb: *Gad gedud yegudenu*]."
- **Naftali's** [stone was] *ahlama* [**ligure**], and the color of his flag was like **diluted wine whose red** [color] was no longer strong, and a **deer** was drawn on it, as it is written [Genesis 49:21]: "Naftali is a swift deer."
- **Asher's** [stone was] *tarshish* [**amethyst**], and the color of his flag was like a precious stone that women decorate themselves with [**light purple**], and an **olive tree** was drawn on it, as it is written [Genesis 49:20]: "From Asher will be his rich bread."
- **Joseph's** [stone was] *shoham* [onyx], and the color of his flag was very black, and the [picture] drawn on it for the two leaders, Ephraim and Menasseh, was **Egypt**, because they were born in Egypt. And on the flag of **Ephraim** was drawn an **Ox**, as it is written [Deuteronomy 33:17]: "His first born is his ox;"

this is [a reference to] Joshua, who was from the tribe of Ephraim. And on the flag of **Menasseh** was drawn a **re'em [Oryx]**, as it is written [Deut. 33:17]: “and his horn will be like the horns of the *re'em*;” this is [a reference to] Gideon, son of Joash, who was from the tribe of Menasseh. [Ephraim stone was also **onyx/black** and Manasseh’s stone was **beryl/green**.]

- **Benjamin’s** [stone was] *yashpe [jasper]*, and the color of his flag was like **all the colors of the twelve colors**, and a **wolf** was drawn on it, as it is written [Genesis 49:17]: “Benjamin is like a scavenging wolf.”

To assist you in determining your tribe’s stone, colors, and symbols, here’s a compilation of the above information.

Stones and Flags of the Tribes of Israel for SOOJ 2017		
Tribe	Stone	Flag color and Symbol
Reuben	Sardius	Mandrakes on red background
Simeon	Topaz	City of Shechem drawn on a green background
Levi	Carbuncle	3 colors (white, black, red) evenly spaced with Menorah and Torah Scroll
Judah	Emerald	Blue with a lion
Issachar	Sapphire	Dark Blue with Sun and Moon
Zebulon	Diamond	White with a ship
Dan	Jacinth	Sapphire with a snake
Gad	Agate	Grey with a military camp
Naftali	Ligure	Light red with a deer
Asher	Amethyst	Light purple with an olive tree
Ephraim	Onyx	Black with an Ox
Menasseh	beryl	Black with an Oryx (a large antelope that lives in Africa)
Benjamin	Jasper	All the colors of the other tribes with a wolf