

UNDERSTANDING HOW SYMBOLS COMMUNICATE STORIES AND MEANING



ARTS CENTER

OF COASTAL CAROLINA

The Geometric Signs of Ice Age Europe



Asterisk



Aviform



Circle



Claviform



Cordiform



Crosshatch



Cruciform



Cupule



Dot



Finger Fluting



Flabelliform



Half-Circle



Line



Negative Hand



Open-Angle



Oval



Pectiform



Penniform



Positive Hand



Quadrangle



Reniform



Scalariform



Segmented Cruciform



Serpentiform



Spanish Tectiform



Spiral



Tectiform



Triangle



Unciform



W-Sign



Y-Sign

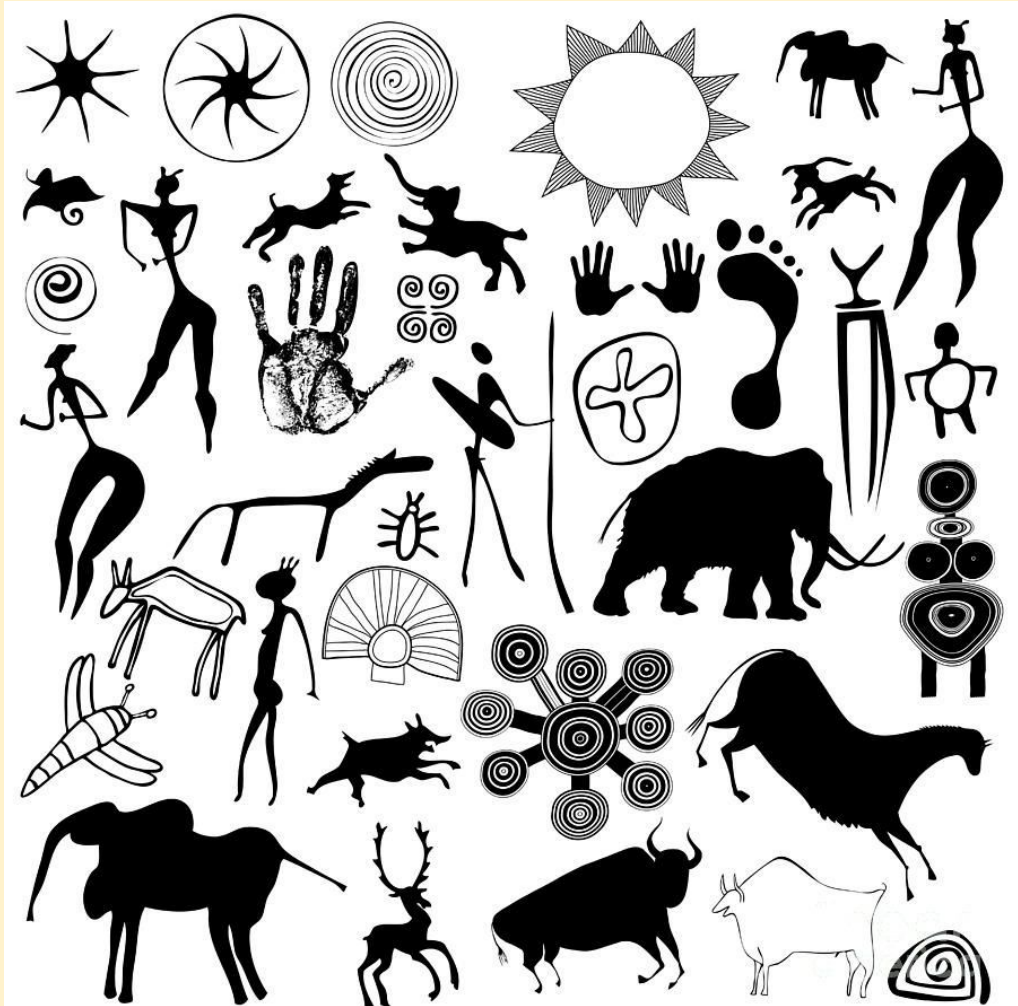


Zigzag

SYMBOLS

Cave art is among the earliest form of graphic communication. In the earliest of images from as far back as the Ice Age, we see mostly geometric signs mixed with a few representational shapes.





What shapes do you recognize?

People from all different continents have used symbols to communicate stories and meanings.



AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL SYMBOLS



Meeting



Child



Coolamon



Dingo



Emu



Campfire



Woman



Yundee



Man



Kangaroo



Bushbannana







Fire sticks



Witchetty grubs



Goanna

 BEAR ALIVE	 BEAR DEAD	 BEAR IN THE HOUSE	 BIG VOICE	 BIRD TRACKS	 BLANKET	 BOY	 BROTHERS	 BUFFALO	 CAMP
 DAY	 DEACTION	 EVENING	 NO FOOD	 PLENTY FOOD	 CAMP FIRE	 HEAR	 STARVATION	 HORSE TRACKS	 MOUNTAIN
 ISLAND	 LAKE	 LIFE	 DEATH	 LIGHTNING	 MAN ON HORSE	 WISE MAN	 MAN	 MOON	 NIGHT
 3 NIGHTS	 NOON	 MORNING	 RAIN & CLOUDY	 RAN	 REST	 RIVER	 TRIBUTE FLOOD	 ROAD	 SEE
 SEA	 SICK	 SKY	 SNAKE	 COLD & SNOW	 SPIRIT	 SPIRITS ABOVE	 GONE	 SPRAKS	 STORM & WINDY
 STARS	 SUN	 TALK TOGETHER	 THREE YEARS	 WEATHER CLEAR	 TORNADO	 CORN	 WOMAN	 DEAD	 I DID IT!
 I OR HE	 PRAYER	 STRONG	 TURTLE	 CLOUD	 COME	 CANOE	 DISCOVER	 FEAR	 DEER TRACKS
 BUFFALO TRACKS	 TIPPI CENTER	 RIVER WITH ISLANDS	 MAN GRIEVES	 WAR	 POWER	 GEESE	 TORCUPINE	 HOUSE	 WIND

NATIVE AMERICAN SYMBOLS



Kente Cloth is a woven textile traditionally made and worn in Ghana. The colors and patterns have special meanings.

Kente Colors & Their Meanings



Gold: royalty, wealth, spiritual purity



Yellow: royalty, wealth, holy, precious



White: purity, healing, festive occasions



Blue: peace, harmony, love



Green: harvest, growth, spiritual renewal



Red: blood, strong political & spiritual feelings



Maroon: mother earth, healing



Purple: earth, healing, femininity



















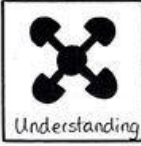









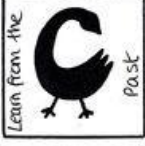








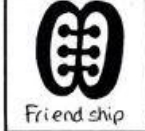





Black: maturation, spirits of the ancestors

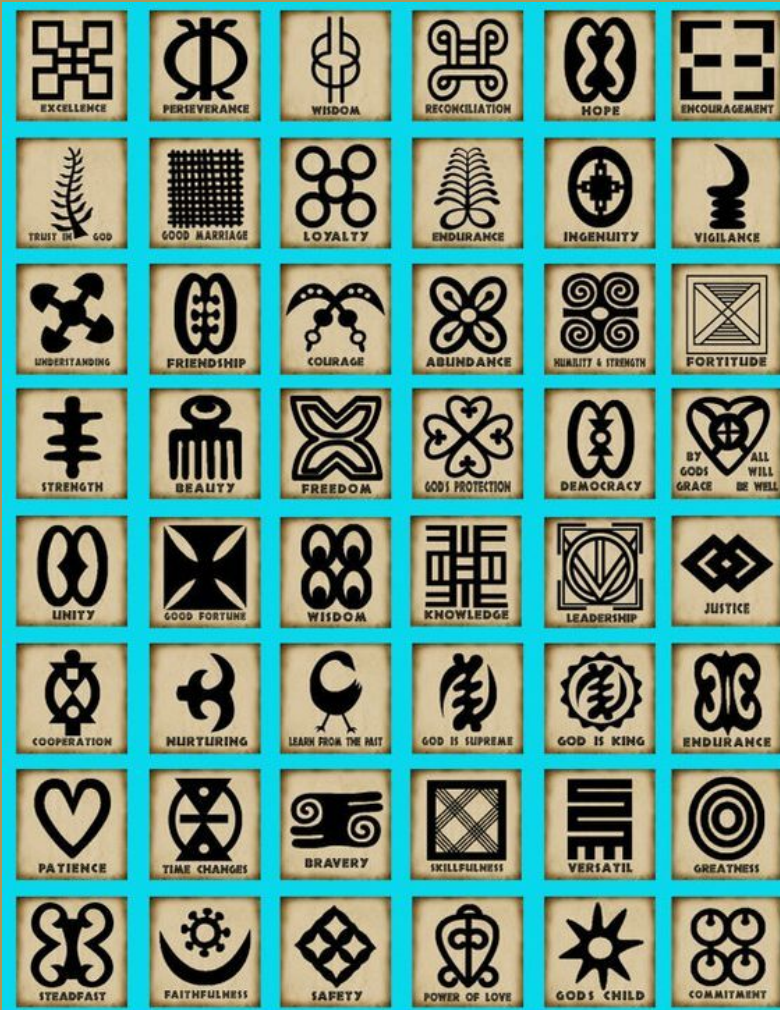
What kind of symbols do we use to communicate
in modern-day America?



ADINKRA SYMBOLS

Adinkra are visual symbols, originally created by the Ashanti. Adinkra are used in fabrics, pottery, logos and advertising. They are engraved into walls and other architectural features. fabric adinkra are often made by woodcut printing or screen printing.

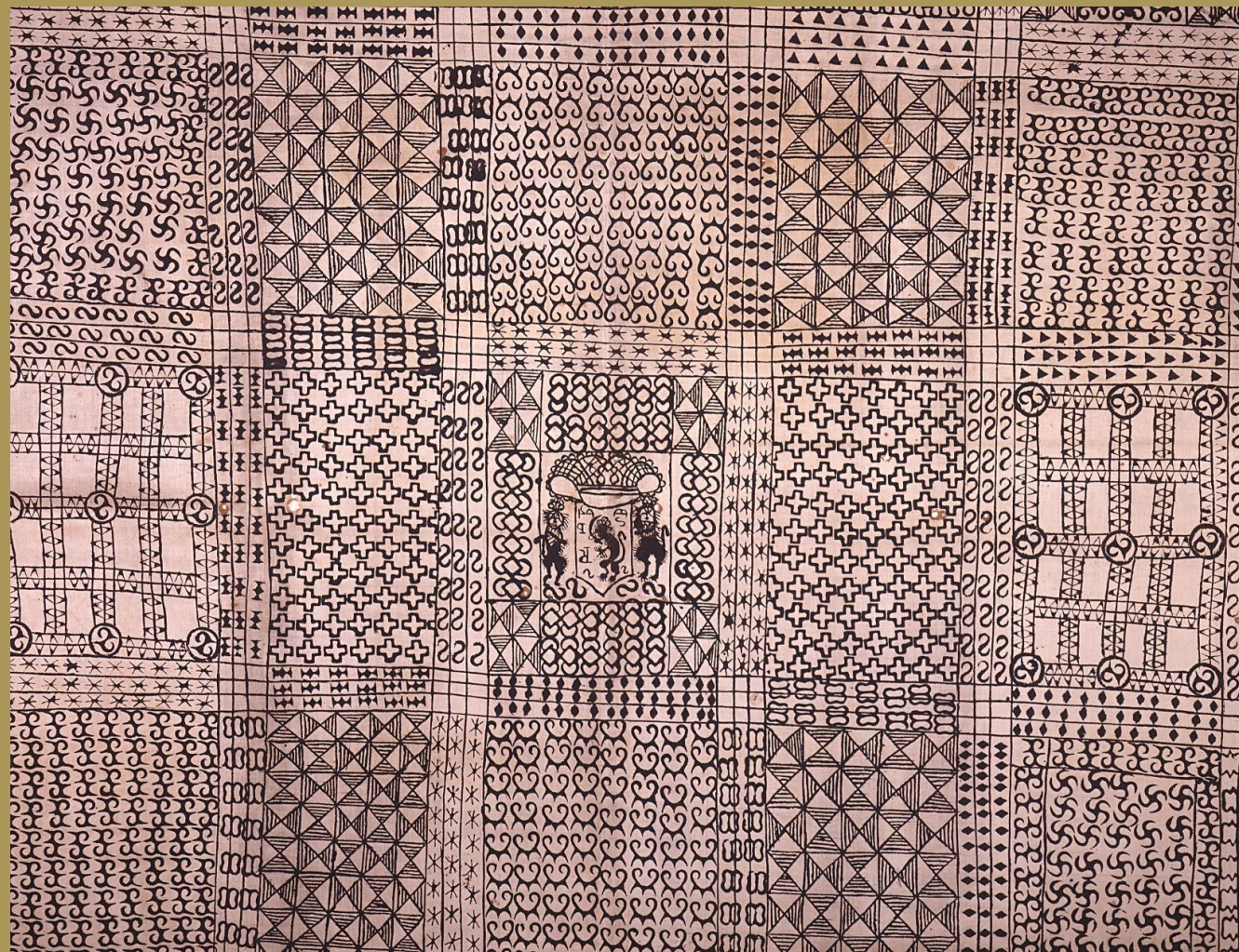
 Trust in God	 Loyalty	 Vigilance	 God's child	 Patience	 Nurturing	 Encouragement	 Good marriage	 Beauty
 Good fortune	 Power of love	 Versatile	 Justice	 Perseverance	 Democracy	 Fortitude	 Unity	 Understanding
 Freedom	 Knowledge	 God is supreme	 God is king	 Skillfulness	 Faithfulness	 Commitment	 By God's grace all will be well	 Endurance
 Learn from the past	 Cooperation	 Strength	 Abundance	 Wisdom	 Hope	 Greatness	 Bravery	 Courage
 Excellence	 Wisdom	 Time changes	 Friendship	 Reconciliation	 God's protection	 Endurance	 Tender ness	 Jealousy



WEST AFRICAN ADINKRA SYMBOLS



Notice the use of **PATTERN** and **REPETITION** in this Adinkra Cloth design.



Imagine what modern day Adinkra Cloth would look like!



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