



Nkeoma By Ivy & Livy

Ohio, USA 45324

<https://nkeoma.com/>

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT KENTE



?

Kente is a fabric made from silk and cotton, interwoven in strips. It originates from the Akan tribe in Ghana, West Africa, and is made in Akan lands like the Ashanti (also known as Asante) Kingdom and Akans in Ivory Coast. It's also worn by other groups



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who have taken inspiration from the region, including the Ewe people who were originally under Ashanti rule.

WHAT DOES KENTE LOOK LIKE?

Kente is instantly recognizable due to its multicolored patterns, bright colors, geometric shapes and bold, dazzling designs. It's a royal and sacred cloth that's traditionally worn during important times. It's considered to be a cloth of Akan kings and is held in extremely high esteem.

There are lots of different patterns and designs that have certain cultural significance to different regions of Africa. Cloths are chosen for their colors and patterns, usually identified by the patterns found present in the lengthwise thread of the fabric.

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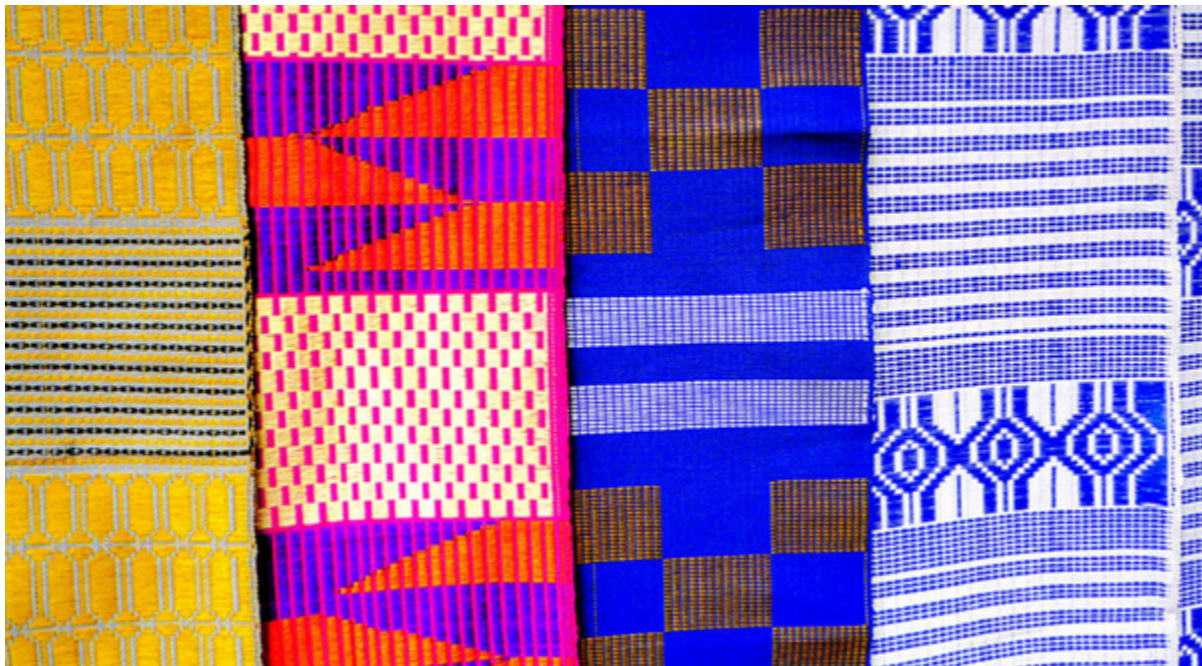
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WHERE DOES THE NAME KENTE COME FROM?

The word kente comes from the word kenten, which means basket in the Akan dialect, Asante. In the local region, kente is referred to as nwentoma which means 'woven cloth'. The names of different types of kente are usually taken from historical events, proverbs, literature, achievements, leading figures and the natural world - there isn't always a correlation between the name and the way that the fabric looks.

HISTORY OF KENTE



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The origin of kente is steeped in history and legend. The most popular legend that explains how kente came to be originates from the Ashanti people in Ghana. The legend tells how two young men, named Ota Karaban and Kwaku Ameyaw, watched a spider weaving its web and were amazed by the designs that sparkled in it in the moonlight.

The spider, called Ananse, showed them how to weave in exchange for completing some favors. Their new-found skill was reported to the first ruler of the Ashanti kingdom and he adopted the cloth as a royal cloth reserved for special occasions.

Kente was originally used by royalty only, and though this is no longer the case, it's still associated with wealth, status and sophistication. It's also found in shrines to mark spiritual power.

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