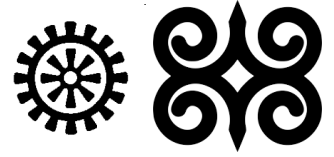
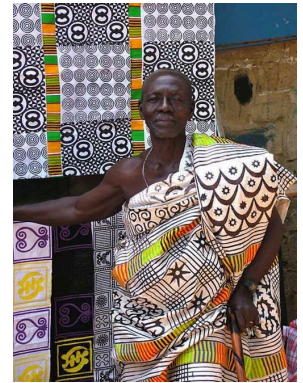


Adinkra Symbols



What are Adinkra Symbols?

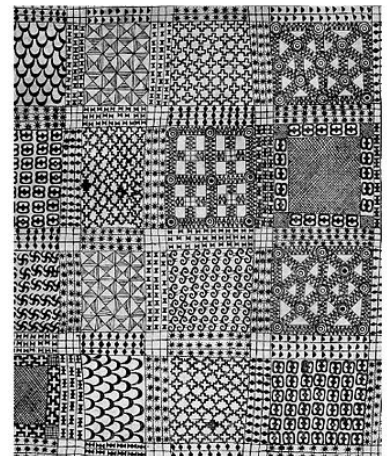
Adinkra are visual symbols that represent words or concepts. They were originally created by the Akan people in Africa. The symbols were carved into stone or wood that could be woven or pressed into cloth or pottery to create patterns and tell stories.



Adinkra symbols were created by the Akan and Asante people in Africa, in the area that is now Ghana. The symbols are said to have represented the power of the kings. In the past, Adinkra cloth was worn by royalty to represent their power and wealth. Today, anyone can wear Adinkra cloth with pride.

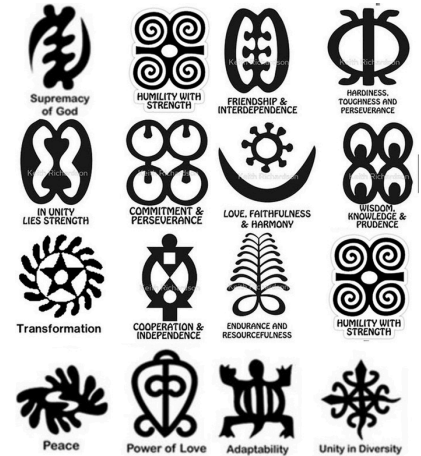
History of Adinkra

Some historians think that Adinkra could be almost 1,500 years old but the oldest piece of surviving Adinkra cloth is over 200 years old and is in the British Museum in London.



What do Adinkra mean?

Each Adinkra symbol represents an important concept like *love* or *creativity*. The symbols could be printed or woven into cloth or pressed into pottery to be jewelry to be worn to represent what the person believed in, or protect them in battle. The colors of the cloth also have meaning, Red means war, yellow means riches, white means joy, green means groth and blue means love.



Adinkra Symbols Today



While Adinkra symbols are very old, they are becoming more popular today! Adinkra were featured in the movie *Black Panther* in the clothing, jewelry and architecture.

Celebrities often have made Adinkra symbols more popular by wearing them on their clothes.

Learning Check!

1. How old is the oldest piece of Adinkra cloth? _____
2. In what modern day country did Adinkra Symbols originate? _____
3. What color does Blue mean in Adinkra Cloth? _____