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Knowledge & Vocabulary Organiser

ART & DESIGN

ADINKRA SYMBOLS



KEY KNOWLEDGE

Adinkra signs, symbols and cloths are designed and made by the **Ashanti** people who come from the **Ivory Coast** and **Ghana**. Sometimes the signs and symbols are repeated to make effective lengths of fabrics originally worn by royalty and other important people in society. Symbols are mostly **positive** and are seen as strong and important and used to **tell stories and legends**. Many symbols are about **animals and plants**, other symbols may be about **feelings and personal qualities**. Now symbols are used and worn by everyone.



KEY VOCAB

Adinkra - a people of West Africa, part of the larger Ashanti tribe.

Symbol - an abstract shape or image that represents or stands for something else.

Abstract - Something that is not realistic.

Print block - a surface or shape that can be used to make an image again and again.

Composition - The arrangement of shapes, colours etc in a piece of art work.

Informal pattern - a random repeat called a **Motif** design.

Formal pattern - a design that is a regular and structured repeat.

Harmony colours - colours that are next to each other on the colour wheel.

Accent colour - a colour from the opposite side of the colour wheel.



FURTHER LINKS/RESOURCES/RESEARCH

Adinkra symbols – Textile printing - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MawceWucCfc>

History of Adinkra symbols - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQgXc0-aYRQ>

Adinkra printing - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VaBbaswx4_I