



Longwood Center for the Visual Arts
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Professional Development Teacher Workshop
Power and Beauty: New in the African Art Collection
October 5th, 2012

Lesson: *Printing in Adinkra Style*
Grade Level: 7th grade

Adinkra printing is an art form used primarily in Western Africa by printers who create symbolic designs, carve them into stamps and then print these stamps onto fabric to be worn. Students should get to see a variety of African symbolism but should come up with their own symbols that reflect their ideals, emotions, and beliefs, then carve and print their own symbols on fabric to be worn. It is important for the students to realize that the symbols in Africa represent the ideals and beliefs of that culture while their designs should represent their own.

Goals	Virginia Standards of Learning
The students will create symbols that reflect their own cultures, ideals and beliefs	7.14 The student will use problem-solving skills to create a work of art that communicates ideas or emotions.
Students will look at examples of Adinkra Printing a discuss why how they relate to African culture and their art practices	7.19 The student will explore and identify subjects, themes, and symbols as they relate to meaning in works of art
Students will describe how the Adinkra printing reflects the African culture and how the symbols give the art meaning	7.26 The student will analyze and describe how factors of time and place influence visual characteristics that give meaning and value to a work of art
Students will be able to show in their symbols how their social and cultural beliefs influenced their responses to their finished piece.	7.28 The student will describe ways that social and cultural beliefs can influence responses to works of art.

Supplies and Materials:

- Sketchbook for creating symbols
- T-Shirts or fabric
- Stamp surfaces to be carved (balsa foam, potatoes, rubber stamp, linoleum etc.)

- Cutting tools (linoleum cutting tools)
- Fabric paint to use for printing symbols
 - Jacquard textile paints are a good option on Dickblick.com
 - Colors should be browns, russet, or yellow ochre if you want your students to stay in a traditional sense of Adinkra printing

TEACHER AND STUDENT PROCEDURE

TIME	TEACHER PROCEDURE	STUDENT PROCEDURE
MIN		
First class period		
10 minutes	The teacher shall facilitate questions to see what students know about printmaking	The students should use educational guesses or background knowledge of art to answer questions or show a general understanding of printmaking processes.
5 minutes	The teacher shall introduce the process and history of Adinkra printing on fabrics and the upcoming project.	
10 Minutes	The teacher can show the following videos of the process of Adinkra printing <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. http://youtu.be/tHOdSO6Rbb0 2. http://youtu.be/sAmJEMsbAU0 3. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WmNLKEbl3Z4&feature=share&list=ULWmNLKEbl3Z4 	
10 Minutes	The teacher shall show examples of Adinkra symbols for students to view, then facilitate a discussion as to why the students think that these symbols are important to the African culture. Notice the repetition and patterning involved in Adinkra printing.	Students should be able to explain why they think the symbols are important to the African culture and give examples of symbols that are important in their culture. (Examples: Four leaf clovers are symbols of good luck, doves mean peace, hearts mean love, a cross for religion)

Remainder of class	The teacher shall facilitate classroom work time and show an example of your own created symbols. (For Example a teacher may create symbols for “artistic and creative” “knowledgeable” and “kind and patient”)	Students should use the remainder of class to sketch and create their own symbols and add meanings to them
Second Class Period	Teacher will facilitate classroom work time	Students should begin to carve their symbols
Third Class Period		
10 Minutes	Teacher shall give a demonstration on how to print the symbols onto the T-shirt or fabric	Students shall take notes in their sketchbooks on how to print their symbols.
Remainder of class	Teacher should facilitate classroom work time	Students should finish their carvings or start printing their symbols
Fourth Class period	Teacher should facilitate classroom work time	Students should finish their printings so they can be dry by the next class period.
Fifth class period	Teacher should facilitate a class discussion about the symbols that the students made.	Students should explain why they created their symbols and what they mean and how they represent their culture and their personal lives. They should explain their reasoning for their patterns and repetition of their symbols.

References:

- <http://youtu.be/tHOdSO6Rbb0>
- <http://youtu.be/sAmJEMsbAU0>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WmNLKEbl3Z4&feature=share&list=ULWmNLKEbl3Z4>
- http://www.adinkra.org/htmls/adinkra_index.htm

Adinkra Symbols

	<u>ADINKRAHENE</u>	"chief of adinkra symbols"	greatness, charisma, leadership
	<u>AKOBEN</u>	"war horn"	vigilance, wariness
	<u>AKOFENA</u>	"sword of war"	courage, valor
	<u>AKOKONAN</u>	"the leg of a hen"	mercy, nurturing
	<u>AKOMA</u>	"the heart"	patience & tolerance
	<u>AKOMA NTOSO</u>	"linked hearts"	understanding, agreement
	<u>ANANSE NTONTAN</u>	"spider's web"	wisdom, creativity
	<u>ASASE YE DURU</u>	"the Earth has weight"	divinity of Mother Earth
	<u>AYA</u>	"fern"	endurance, resourcefulness
	<u>BESE SAKA</u>	"sack of cola nuts"	affluence, abundance, unity
	<u>BI NKA BI</u>	"no one should bite the other"	peace, harmony
	<u>BOA ME NA ME MMOA WO</u>	"help me and let me help you"	cooperation, interdependence

	<u>DAME-DAME</u>	name of a board game	intelligence, ingenuity
	<u>DENKYEM</u>	"crocodile"	adaptability
	<u>DUAFE</u>	"wooden comb"	beauty, hygiene, feminine qualities
	<u>DWENNIMMEN</u>	"ram's horns"	humility and strength
	<u>EBAN</u>	"fence"	love, safety, security
	<u>EPA</u>	"handcuffs"	law, justice, slavery
	<u>ESE NE TEKREMA</u>	"the teeth and the tongue"	friendship, interdependence
	<u>FAWOHODIE</u>	"independence"	independence, freedom, emancipation
	<u>FIHANKRA</u>	"house/compound"	security, safety
	<u>FOFO</u>	"a yellow-flowered plant"	jealousy, envy
	<u>FUNTUNFUNEFU DENKYEMFUNEFU</u>	"siamese crocodiles"	democracy, unity in diversity
	<u>GYE NYAME</u>	"except for God"	supremacy of God



HWEMUDUA

"measuring stick"

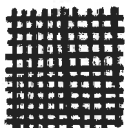
examination, quality control



HYE WONHYE

"that which cannot be burnt"

imperishability, endurance



KETE PA

"good bed"

good marriage



KINTINKANTAN

"puffed up extravagance"

arrogance, extravagance



KWATAKYE ATIKO

"hairstyle of Kwatakye, a war hero"

bravery, valor



MATE MASIE

"what I hear, I keep"

wisdom, knowledge, prudence



ME WARE WO

"I shall marry you"

commitment, perseverance



MFRAMADAN

"wind-resistant house"

fortitude, preparedness



MMERE DANE

"time changes"

change, life's dynamics



MMUSUYIDEE

"that which removes ill luck"

good fortune, sanctity



MPATAPO

"knot of reconciliation"

peacemaking, reconciliation



MPUANNUM

"five tufts" (of hair)




priestly office, loyalty, adroitness



NEA ONNIM NO SUA A, OHU

"he who does not know can know from learning"

knowledge, life-long education

	<u>NEA OPE SE OBEDI HENE</u>	"he who wants to be king"	service, leadership
	<u>NKONSONKONSON</u>	"chain links"	unity, human relations
	<u>NYAME DUA</u>	"tree of god"	God's protection and presence
	<u>NKYIMU</u>	the crossed divisions made on adinkra cloth before printing	skillfulness, precision
	<u>NKYINKYIM</u>	"twistings"	initiative, dynamism, versatility
	<u>NSAA</u>	type of hand-woven cloth	excellence, genuineness, authenticity
	<u>NSOROMMA</u>	"child of the heavens"	guardianship
	<u>NYAME BIRIBI WO-SORO</u>	"God is in the heavens"	hope
	<u>NYAME NNWU NA MAWU</u>	"God never dies, therefore I cannot die"	life after death
	<u>NYAME NTI</u>	"by God's grace"	faith & trust in God
	<u>NYAME YE OHENE</u>	"God is King"	majesty and supremacy of God
	<u>NYANSAPO</u>	"wisdom knot"	wisdom, ingenuity, intelligence and patience
	<u>ODO NNYEW FIE KWAN</u>	"love never loses its way home"	power of love

	<u>OKODEE MMOWERE</u>	"talons of the eagle"	bravery, strength
	<u>ONYANKOPON ADOM NTI BIRIBIARA BEYE YIE</u>	"By God's grace, all will be well"	hope, providence, faith
	<u>OSRAM NE NSOROMMA</u>	"the moon and the star"	love, faithfulness, harmony
	<u>OWO FORO ADOBE</u>	"snake climbing the raffia tree"	steadfastness, prudence, diligence
	<u>OWUO ATWEDEE</u>	"the ladder of death"	mortality
	<u>PEMPAMSIE</u>	"sew in readiness"	readiness, steadfastness
	<u>SANKOFA</u>	"return and get it"	learn from the past
	<u>SESA WO SUBAN</u>	"I change or transform my life"	transformation
	<u>TAMFO BEBRE</u>	"the enemy will stew in his own juice"	jealousy
	<u>WAWA ABA</u>	"seed of the wawa tree"	hardiness, toughness, perseverance
	<u>WOFORO DUA PA A</u>	"when you climb a good tree"	support, cooperation

Works Cited

MacDonald, Jean. "ADINKRA INDEX." *Adinkra Symbols of West Africa*. Well Tempered Web Design, 2007. Web. 18 Sept. 2012. <http://www.adinkra.org/htmls/adinkra_index.htm>.

