

WAMPUM BELT CRAFT



SEND A MESSAGE WITH A WAMPUM BELT

Wampum beads, purple or white beads made from seashells, can be woven to form a belt that commemorates agreements between different communities. The wampum keeper is responsible for interpreting the belt's designs to remember what was discussed or agreed between the two groups.

Write a message of friendship to your neighbors and family using the symbols below.

MATERIALS

- Scissors & Tape
- Crayons or Colored Pencils
- Printout of Wampum Belt Worksheet

DIRECTIONS

1. Color the beads to design a Wampum belt using typical symbols. Use the examples below for inspiration.
2. Cut the strips apart and tape them together for a longer belt.

SHAPES AND FIGURES

Human figures, diamonds or squares can represent nations (Britain, France, the United States, the Oneida nation and others) or communities like a town or village.

COLOR

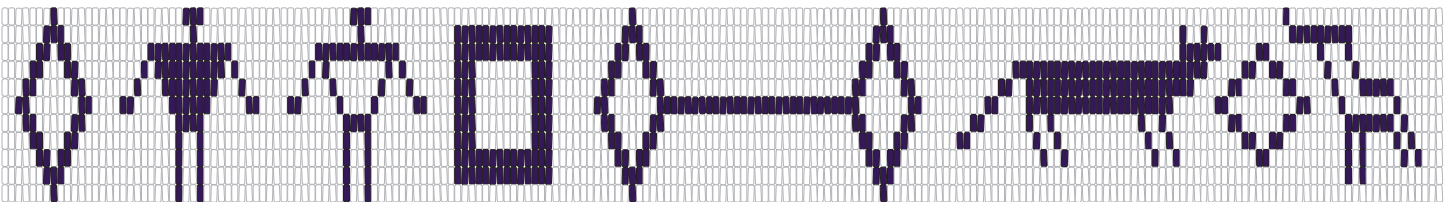
Purple and white beads are sometimes used to indicate whether the figure represents people of European or Native American descent.

CONNECTING LINES

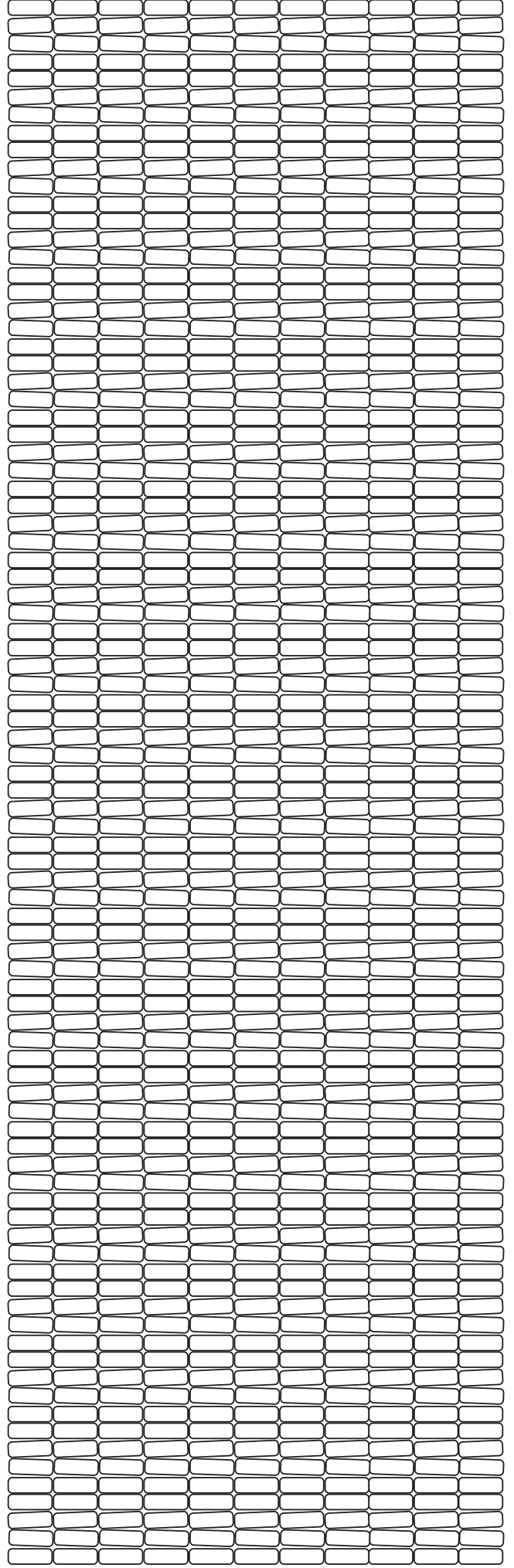
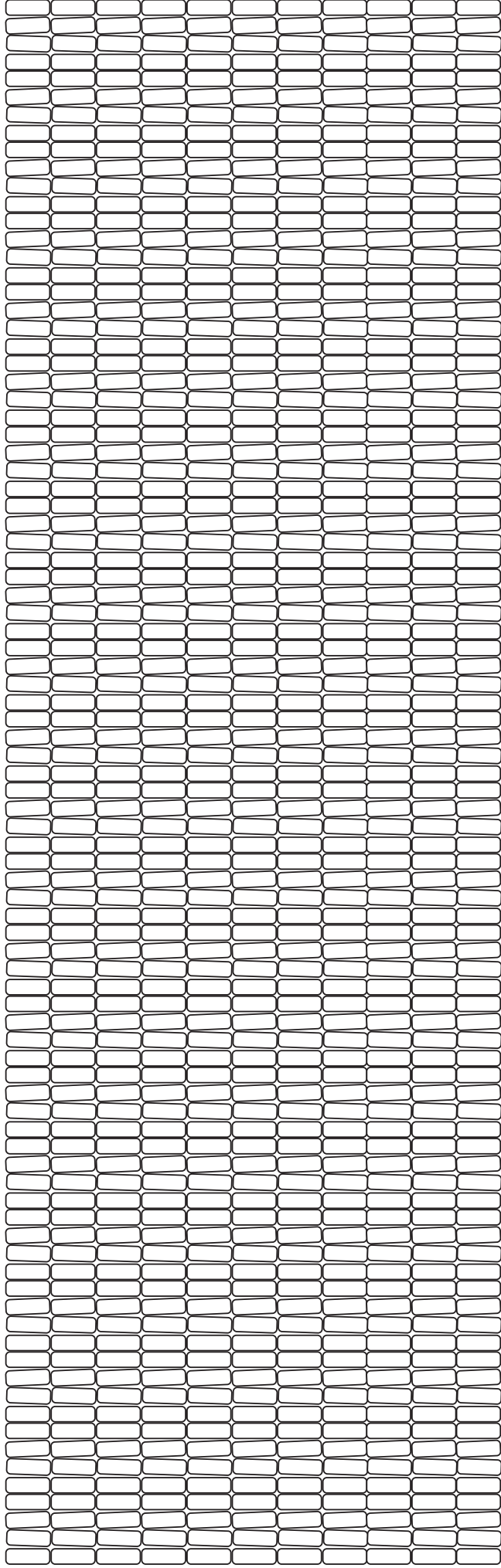
Lines connecting figures can represent paths or connections, such as a chain of friendship, political ties, or economic ties between two nations or communities.

ANIMALS

Animals and birds can represent a specific clan or family. The image below shows the two groups sitting on opposite sides of a council fire represented by the diamond.



DESIGN A WAMPUM BELT USING TYPICAL SYMBOLS



Name: _____

Wampum Belts

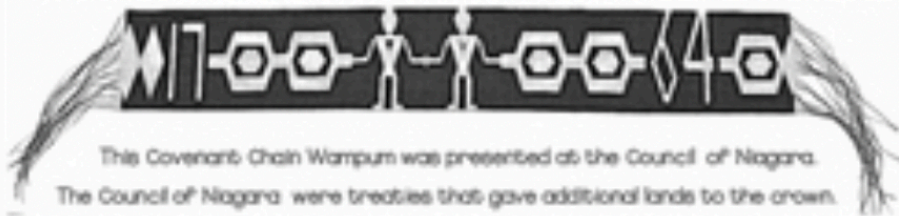
Native Americans from the east coast made beads out of white and purple shells. The beads were kept on a string made of deer hide or sinew. Native Americans used the wampum as a way to record stories and historic events. The beads were given as ceremonial gifts.

Some of the bead strings that are still around today are in the form of a belt. They have beautiful designs. The designs sometimes have repeated patterns and sometimes they tell a story.

On the grid below, create a design of your own. Will it be a pattern or a story? Use beautiful colours.



What does your wampum belt signify? _____



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Wampum Belts

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