

Art and Design - Y5 Summer - Printing

Key vocabulary to remember and use in your learning

Word	Definition
Adinkra	Adinkra is a printed or stamped traditional cloth made by the Ashanti people in Ghana, especially in the village of Ntonso.
printing block	A printing block is a tool used for producing a repeat pattern on textiles, felt, leather, etc.
resist printing	Resist printing is a popular technique for printing colour on fabric, where a resist paste or material is imprinted on the fabric and then dyed.



Adinkra (ah-DEENK-rah) symbols have been used in Ghana on clothes, walls, pottery and as logos since the early 1800's, when King Adinkra was a king from the Ivory Coast. The symbols each had a special meaning, and some have been passed on for over 100 years.

African Art



Raphael Mayne is a Ghanaian artist who uses African Adinkra prints in his artwork.

Key knowledge to know and use

Adinkra symbols were designed by the Akan people from Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana during the early 1800s. Many Adinkra symbols use radial or reflective symmetry and express deeply symbolic proverbs related to life, death, wisdom, and human behaviour.

The Asante peoples of Ghana use Adinkra to express the connection between the verbal and the visual in Akan culture. Adinkra symbols appear on wooden prestige objects, jewellery, brass weights and, most prominently, as two-dimensional stamped designs ornamenting cloth.

Cloth is a commonly used to print onto. Printing blocks are prepared, and ink rolled onto the block. This thick ink can be repeatedly printed on to fabric to create a pattern.