Year 2 – Autumn 1 – Awesome Africa

Art

Adinkra

In this unit, we learn about traditional Adinkra art, which is a style of cloth printing mostly found in Ghana. We explore line and shape, printing techniques and how Adinkra symbols are used to tell stories.

Key Questions

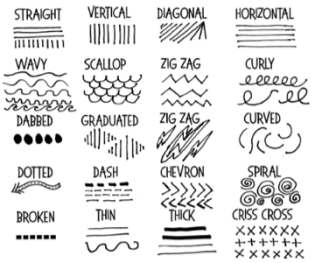
- How has traditional Adinkra art influenced modern print making styles?
- How can line be used to create pattern?
- What is a repeating pattern?
- How is my own work similar or different to traditional Adinkra printing?

Key Vocabulary:

Repeating Pattern
A series that is repeated more than one time

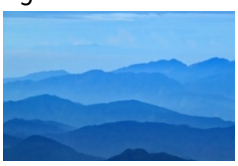
Printmaking
Art made from transferring an image from one surface to another

Line
The path left by a moving point.
It can take many forms such as horizontal, left, right, diagonal, curved etc.



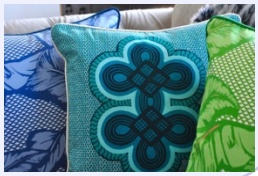
Monoprint
A way of printmaking that results in a one-of-a-kind printed image

Monochrome
Different tones or shades of only **one** colour



Adinkra Cloths
Adinkra is a cotton cloth produced largely in Ghana which has traditional Akan symbols stamped upon it. The Adinkra symbols represent popular stories or record historical events. Adinkra was originally produced by the Gyaaman clans of the Brong region and was only allowed to be worn by royalty and spiritual leaders. It was traditionally only used for important ceremonies like funerals and the word 'Adinkra' means goodbye.

Eva Sonaike
Eva Sonaike is a London-based textiles designer. She was born and raised in Germany and is of Nigerian origin. She combines artistic influence of the two cultures: colourful African clothing and European antique furniture traditions to create her textile designs.



Home Learning Suggestions

- Research the meanings of different Adinkra symbols and create a key. Use the symbols you have found to retell a story that you have heard or created. See if you can retell your story using the symbols to help you.
- Create your own stamps using cardboard and string or by carving into a surface like polystyrene. Create a repeating pattern with the stamps you have made.