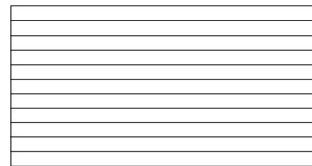


# Make a Wampum belt panel.

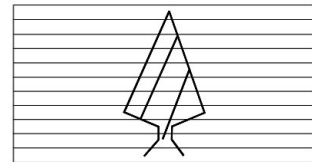
The Wampum belt of Massasoit was very important to the Wampanoag people because it held a record of their peoples history and represented their constitution as a nation.

Wampum belts are woven from rows of carefully made white and black beads to form pictures that tell the story of important events. We are going to make our own wampum belt panel and by adding several panels together we can make a belt.

To help you we have created a template which is composed of 11 lines, each one 1.5cm wide. These represent the horizontal lines of thread that the beads are woven into. For beads we are going to use black and white rectangles of card, 1.5cm high and 1cm wide.



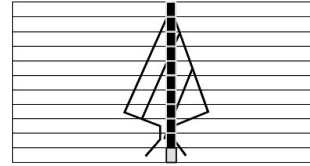
First draw your design on the Wampum belt template provided. This can be something from nature, a picture representing an event or place, or it can be a shape or pattern. Where your pencil lines are, you will be putting on black beads. You might want to gently shade any areas that you want to be black.



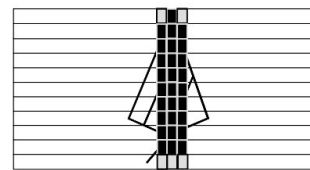
To create the pattern, you have to stick black and white beads onto the template until the whole template is covered with beads. The black beads will make the lines and shapes of your picture and the white beads form the background.

Traditionally, Wampum belts are started in the middle and wove outwards. The middle is the most important image and is often the Great White Pine that is central to the Wampanoag's story of creation.

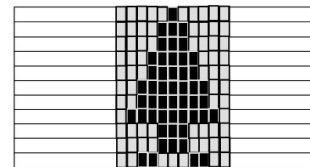
Where ever you start your picture, you should start by making a vertical line of beads, one in each line of the template. If part of your drawing is in the space where you are putting a bead, it should be a black bead, if there are no pencil marks you can use a white bead. Check you are happy that the beads are in the right place, then glue them down.



Once you have stuck down your first line of beads, make a second line, next to and touching the first line. Again you should put black beads where there are pencil marks and white beads where there is a blank space. As you add each vertical line of beads, your pictures should be overlain with black beads and the blank areas with white beads and a black and white picture should form.



Continue until you have covered the entire template, this is your panel. See how your panel looks next to another from your group. Could you put them in a sequence to tell a story?



When everyone has finished you can glue your panels in a long line on a strip of black paper to make a whole belt.