

African Symbols Trinket Box

Celebrate African American Heritage Month by decorating a papier mâché box with West African symbols.

You will need:

- Papier mâché box of your choice (An 8" X 8" X 4" box was used in this project.)
- Masking tape or artist's tape
- Black acrylic paint and painting supplies
- (Optional) Sheet of carbon paper used for copying
- Black permanent marker
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Copy of [African Symbols](#)



Print a [picture of a finished box](#) to show crafters or to post on your bulletin board to create interest in the activity.

To make a box:

1. Cut 4 pieces of masking tape about 4" long and tape off a small window area in the center of the lid. This is where you will paint your symbol.
2. Cut more pieces of masking tape. In order to make symmetrical patterns on the box, cut groups of similar lengths.



3. Use the pieces of tape to make a design on the top and sides of the box. When you are happy with it, smooth out the edges so there are no gaps or bubbles.
 4. Select an African symbol that is meaningful to you. Transfer the symbol to the top of the box, either by drawing it freehand with a pencil or enlarging it on a copier to the proper size and then tracing over it with a sheet of carbon paper underneath. Use a permanent black marker to fill in the design.
 5. Use black paint to paint the entire box, except for the inside of the window area with the symbol. **Tip:** Dab the paint on in a bouncing movement as opposed to brushing it on. This method will keep the paint from sneaking under the tape.
 6. When the paint has dried, peel off the tape. Use a black marker to fix any edges that are not as smooth or straight as you would like.
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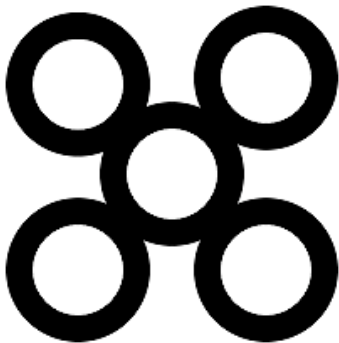
Independence



Harmony



Hope



Loyalty



Humility & Strength



Peace



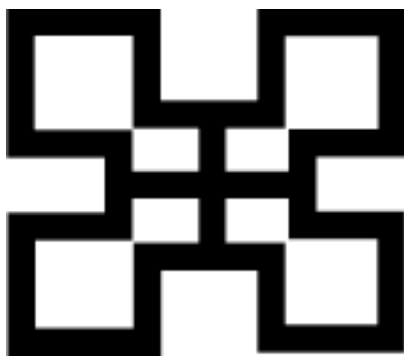
Understanding



Charisma & Leadership



Power of Love



Genuineness



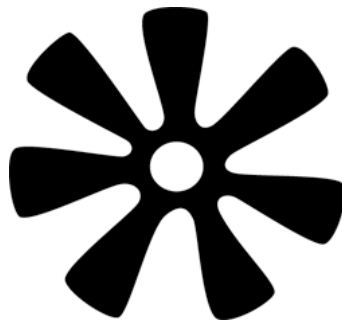
Perseverance



Togetherness



Intelligence



Wisdom



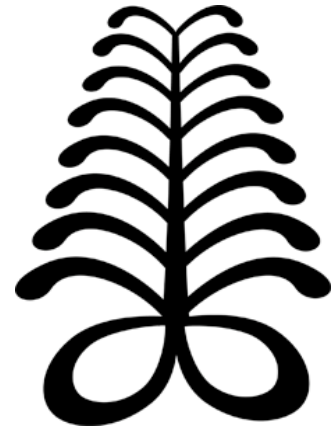
Unity



Friendship



Cooperation



Resourcefulness



Bravery



Hardiness



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