

KENTE INSPIRATION

An Introduction to Needlepoint

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DESCRIPTION

Kente Inspiration is a comprehensive introduction to needlepoint, inspired by the Kente cloth worn by the royalty of Ghana. Just as the colors and designs of Kente cloth reflect the pride of the maker in his culture, this course will build confidence in beginning needlepointers and enable them to move on to more advanced study.

In this course, the student will study the many facets of needlepoint - terminology, tools, technique, and threads - while learning to execute basic and decorative stitches. He/she will also gain an appreciation of the ethnic art and design concepts employed in the creation of Kente cloth, and how they inspired the project design.

There are no prerequisites for this project, which is structured in four lessons. The design area of the completed piece is approximately 12" x 8.25", and it lends itself well to finishing as a pillow or tote bag.

OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, beginning students will

- Be comfortable with the terminology of canvas work;
- Know the fundamental tools of canvas work and their use;
- Know how to prepare a canvas for stitching, including taping the canvas and mounting it on a frame;
- Be proficient in basic stitching techniques, including simple stripping and laying of threads, threading a needle, starting threads, counting canvas threads, controlling tension, and ending threads;
- Know how to start and work basketweave and continental stitches, including within a curved design shape;
- Be able to read stitch diagrams and charts, and work from them;
- Recognize the major stitch families (basketweave/tent, straight, diagonal, cross, etc.) and work stitches from each;
- Understand how to compensate stitches, including those that meet at the boundary of design areas;
- Know how to work with Paternayan wool and pearl cotton;
- Know how to care for and travel with a project in progress; and
- Gain an appreciation of the ethnic art and design concepts employed in the creation of Kente cloth, and how they inspired the project design.

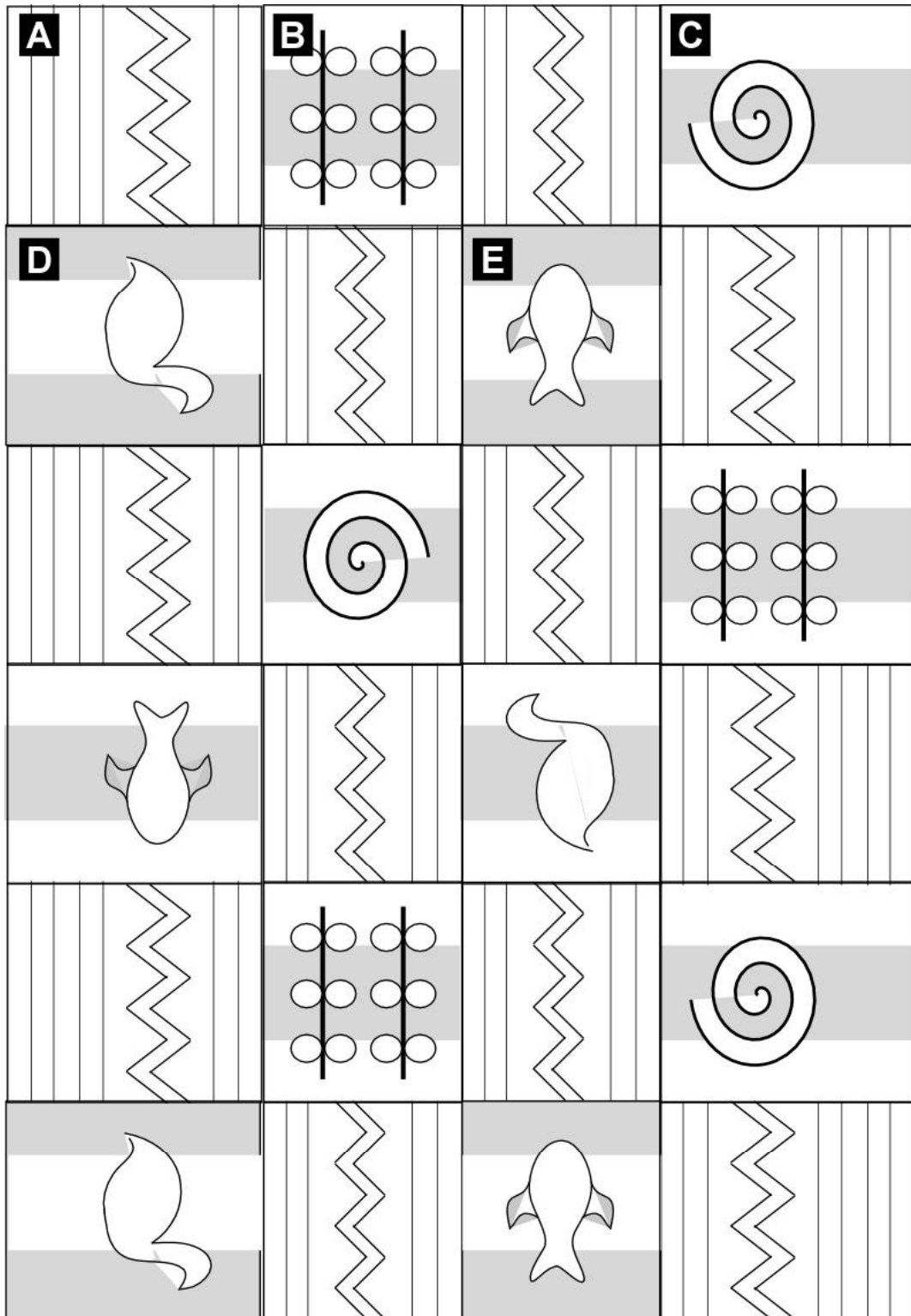
DESIGN SCHEMATIC

Not to scale. Actual design size approximately 12" x 8.25".

Key to blocks:

A Geometric **B** Leaves & Stems **C** Spiral **D** Guinea fowl **E** Fish

TOP



STITCH AND THREAD SELECTION

Key to blocks:

A Geometric

B Leaves & Stems

C Spiral

D Guinea fowl

E Fish

Block	Area	Stitches	Thread	Color
A	White stripes	Straight Gobelin	Pearl #3	Light yellow #746
A	Dark stripes	Straight Gobelin	Paternayan wool	Dark maroon #900
A	Zigzag	Straight Gobelin	Pearl #3	Light yellow #746
A	Between zigzag and stripes	Hungarian	Paternayan wool	Dark maroon #900
B	Stems	Continental	Pearl #3	Light yellow #746
B	Leaves	Diamond Ray	Pearl #3	Light yellow #746
B	Leaf/stem background	Brick	Paternayan wool	Light green #613 Medium green #612
C	Spiral	Smyrna Cross	Pearl #3	Light yellow #746
C	Spiral background	Encroaching Gobelin	Paternayan wool	Light green #613 Medium green #612
D	Guinea fowl	Basketweave	Pearl #3	Light yellow #746
D	Guinea fowl background	Parisian	Paternayan wool	Medium yellow-orange #726 Dark yellow-orange #725
E	Fish	Basketweave	Pearl #3	Light yellow #746
E	Fish background	Mosaic	Paternayan wool	Medium yellow-orange #726 Dark yellow-orange #725

MATERIALS LIST

- 14-mesh brown needlepoint canvas, 12" x 16"
- 14-mesh brown needlepoint canvas, 8" x 8" (doodle cloth)
- Tapestry needles #20 and #22
- Paternayan wool:
 - Medium yellow-orange #726; 9 yards
 - Dark yellow-orange #725; 16 yards
 - Light green #613; 16 yards
 - Medium green #612; 9 yards
 - Dark maroon #900; 50 yards
- # 3 Pearl cotton, light yellow #746; 3 skeins
- 12" x 16" stretcher bars
- 8" x 8" stretcher bars
- Tape to finish canvas edges (masking, acid-free, or bias tape)
- Tacks or stapler with staples
- Scissors
- Needle threader
- Magnification and lighting (if needed)
- Stitching stand or frame weight
- Pencil and graph paper for "practicing" stitches
- A 4H pencil or other hard lead pencil