

Design your own Wampum

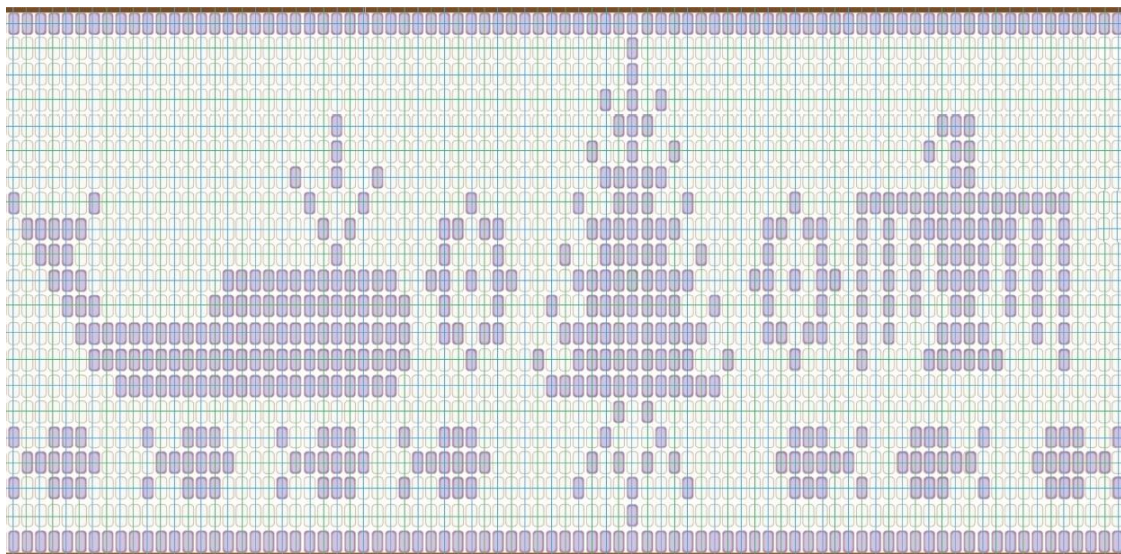
During the summer holidays we have an exhibition on called Wampum: Stories from the Shells of Native America. People of the Wampanoag Nation of the north-east USA have made Wampum items for hundreds of years. Wampum are beads made from the shell of a quahog or whelk, and are purple and white. Here is a Wampum belt being made by people of the Wampanoag Nation today using 5000 beads.



Here is the pattern for the central part of the design.

“The White Pine in the centre tells of our creation story. We came from her roots more than 12,000 years ago. On either side of the White Pine are two symbols that represent the ‘Common Pot’ - the earth herself. Our obligation is to preserve and protect her, to live in balance with her gifts...

“The legend of [the giant] Maushop is represented by the whale, and the herring that swim below teach us of life’s ever continuing cycle. There is also a totem of the eagle that we honor as the one that flies nearest to our creator.”



Make your own design with your own story on the next page.

