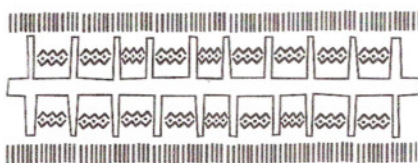


# Kente Cloth

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The Ashanti tribe of Ghana in West Africa originally made the ceremonial kente cloth for their kings and queens. Kente cloth is a brilliantly colored fabric that is made by weaving intricate patterns in 4-inch (10 cm) strips, and then weaving the strips together to form large pieces of cloth. It can be made out of silk, cotton, or rayon. Common characteristics of the kente cloth are its bright colors, geometric shapes, and bold designs.

Kente cloth is the traditional fabric of Ghana. It is used to make robes, called *kento*, that drape around the body, or turban-like headdresses called *gele*. Women wear *lapas*, which are skirts that tie around the waist. Kente cloth is hand-woven on small looms, often under the shade of a big tree. Red, green, yellow, white, blue, and black are colors found in kente cloth. The colors and patterns tell a story about the history and beliefs of the Ashanti people.



## Project

Create a bulletin board made from kente cloth design squares.

## For the Teacher

Copy one Kente Cloth Pattern (page 13) per student.

## Materials

- scissors
- Kente Cloth Pattern
- colored markers

## Directions

1. Color the Kente Cloth Pattern with markers and cut out.
2. Put the finished designs together on a bulletin board to look like a finished length of kente cloth.

