

WAMPUM

Wampum is the name for purple or white beads made of quahog or whelk shells. Wampum is highly valued for ceremonial purposes and used either in wampum strings or woven into wampum belts.

Traditionally, wampum belts were used to symbolize treaties and agreements. An example of one such agreement is the *Kaswentha*, or Two-Row Wampum, which represents a treaty from 1613 between the Haudenosaunee and the Dutch.



Wampum Beads



Wampum Belts

Belts also served as memory aids for prophecies and teachings. They were held by carriers whose responsibility it was to “reveal the talk” contained in the wampum.

Like oral history, wampum belts are used to transmit historical and cultural knowledge. In some nations, it is understood that each bead contains a teaching.

Source

“Wampum Belt Handout.” Wabano Centre, 2020, <https://wabano.com/product/wampum-belt-handout/>.

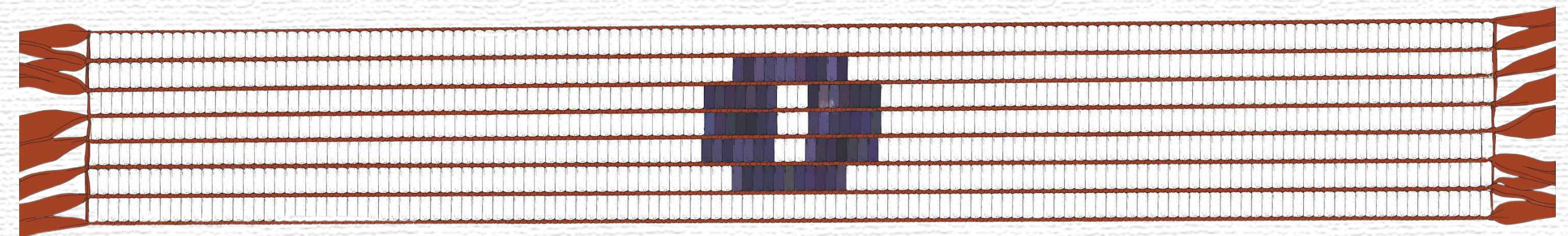
CARING AND SHARING FOR THE NEXT SEVEN GENERATIONS: ONE DISH, ONE SPOON WAMPUM

The One Dish, One Spoon Wampum represents a concept of community built on responsible thinking and action for the next seven generations.

This wampum belt originates from the creation of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy among the Mohawk, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida and Seneca nations. When the nations agreed to unite, the chiefs came together to listen to the Peacemaker share the Great Law of Peace. The Peacemaker demonstrated the principle of One Dish, One Spoon when he passed around a bowl of beavertail to the circle of chiefs. Each chief took only what he needed from the bowl, so there was enough to complete the circle. The use of a spoon symbolizes the avoidance of sharp instruments or words against one another, reminding us to carefully choose our words and approach negotiations with a good mind.

The One Dish, One Spoon principle reminds us to:

- Offer thanks
- Take only what we need to sustain ourselves and our family
- Leave food and resources for the future, ensuring the survival of generations to come



One Dish, One Spoon Wampum Belt

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