Wampum beads, purple or white beads made from seashells, can be woven to form a belt that commemorates agreements between different communities. The wampum keeper is responsible for interpreting the belt’s designs to remember what was discussed or agreed between the two groups.

You are a representative of the Oneida Indian Nation who wants to express friendship with the United States. What symbols would you use in your message?

DESIGN A WAMPUM BELT USING TYPICAL SYMBOLS.

**SHAPES AND FIGURES**
Human figures, diamonds or squares can represent nations (Britain, France, the United States, the Oneida nation and others) or communities like a town or village.

**COLOR**
Purple and white beads are sometimes used to indicate whether the figure represents people of European or Native American descent.

**CONNECTING LINES**
Lines connecting figures can represent “paths” or connections, such as a chain of friendship, political or economic ties between two nations or communities.