

What is Two Row Wampum and what does it symbolize?

Year of the treaty: 1601



This belt symbolizes the agreement and conditions under which the Haudenosaunee welcomed the newcomers to this land. “You say that you are our father and I am your son.” We say, 'We will not be like Father and Son, but like Brothers'." As the Onondaga Faithkeeper the Two Row Wampum agreement was created **to agree on how the nations would relate to one another.** When the Dutch suggested that the Mohawk call them “father,” the Mohawk suggested an alternative “brother” to indicate a more equitable and autonomous relationship.

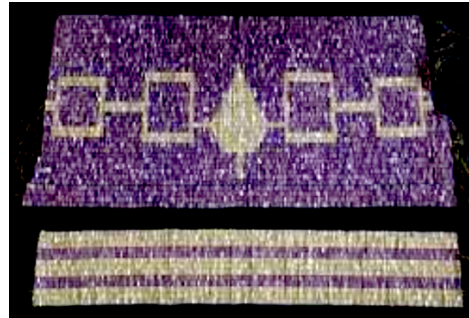
What is it made out of?



The Two Row Wampum belt is made of white and purple fresh water Quahog shells. **The white beads denote truth.** Our record says that one purple row of beads represents a sailboat. In the sailboat are the Europeans, their leaders, their government, and their religion. The other purple row is the original people in their Canoe with their constitution and spiritual believes. One should not rock the other and respect each other.

What does wampum mean?

beads of polished shells strung in strands, belts, or sashes and used by North American indigenous nations as money, ceremonial pledges, and ornaments.



Guswenta

The first agreement between the Haudenosaunee and the Europeans who were coming into Turtle Island was completed and recorded by the Haudenosaunee. It is called **Guswenta**, the Two Row Wampum belt... This is an agreement between the two peoples. This agreement is still in effect because the grass is still green.

