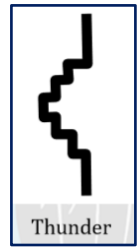


- **symbol** - something that stand for itself and something else
- **motif** - a shape or design that occurs repeatedly

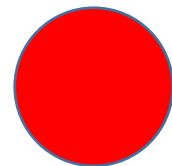
Some MOTIFS - Symbolic designs - (these are some common symbolic meanings, but some meanings can vary widely. Also different clans have their own specific symbols, i.e. paw - Bear Clan)



- zig-zag line - lightning
- steps-up & down design - thunder
- arrow - protection, the hunt
- diamond - man's life
- triangles - teepees
- hearts - mating swans, new life
- flowers - nature, beauty
- eagle feather - creation, sacred breath - wind
- pipe - peace & friendship
- horse - prosperity
- hand - touch, wearer's identity
- cross (plus sign) - four winds
- star - star, nighttime
- circle - moon, sun, community

Symbolic COLORS:

- Red - earth, day, life, blood of life, sun, fire, energy and power
- Green - grass, rebirth, enduring life
- Yellow and light colors - sunlight, prosperity
- Blue - courage, lightning, night, sky people clan
- White - sky, peace
- Black - earth (soil), smoke, death, night and moon



Sources: Bailey, Garrick Alan and Daniel C. Swan, John W. Nunley, and E. Sean Standing Bear. *Art of the Osage*. Seattle: St. Louis Art Museum in association with University of Washington Press, 2004. "Osage Art" flipbook, Osage Culture Traveling Trunk learning program, 2010, Missouri State University, Osage Nation, History Museum on the Square. Powell, Jami. "Finding our way: Osage Ribbonwork and Revival." *Lambda Alpha Journal*, v.39, p.12-22, 2009. Compiled 2018.