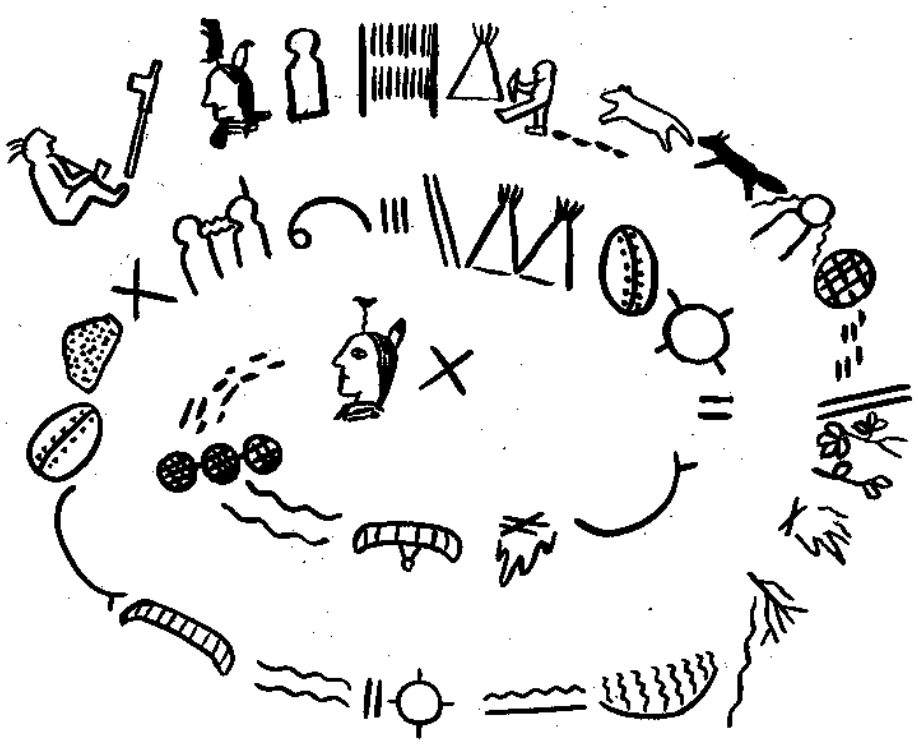
WINTER COUNT



WINTER COUNT refers to a practice of a Native American tribe. Traditionally the tribe would spend every winter evening recounting the important events of the day. When the tribe decided on the most important event that occurred that day, they would choose a symbol to serve as a reminder of the event. They would keep a running daily account of their winter by weaving or drawing the symbol onto a cloth. The symbols for each day would be placed on the cloth **in spiral fashion, beginning with the center and spiraling clockwise outward**. By the end of winter, the tribe possessed a picture calendar of the events of their long winter.

For the next 9 weeks, you will do the same - take time out near the end of each week to think back on the important **personal** events of that **week**. Decide on the most significant event **for you** and choose a symbolic object to represent that event. Following the format described above, draw, weave, sew, or attach that symbol onto a piece of cloth; a **place mat** works best. By the end of the 9 weeks, you will have a record in symbols of the important happenings of your "**winter count.**" Your individual symbols must show a variety of forms, shapes, and color; don't make your symbols all alike.

You may NOT use a towel, rag or handkerchief for your Winter Count. You may NOT use any kind of paper, tickets or photos for your symbols. You may NOT use any scotch tape to attach your symbol to your cloth. All symbols must remain attached to your cloth throughout the next 9 weeks. You can NOT repeat objects or events.

You will bring in your winter count every Monday (or the first class day of the week) and present & adequately explain your symbol**. Your cloth and first symbol are due in class on Monday, January 10.** Your **final Winter Count** (with all 9 symbols) will be due on **Monday, March 7.** It will not be accepted late.