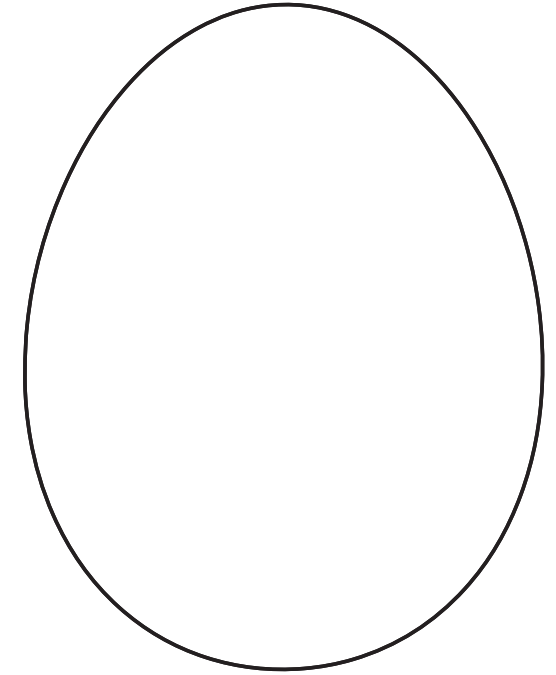
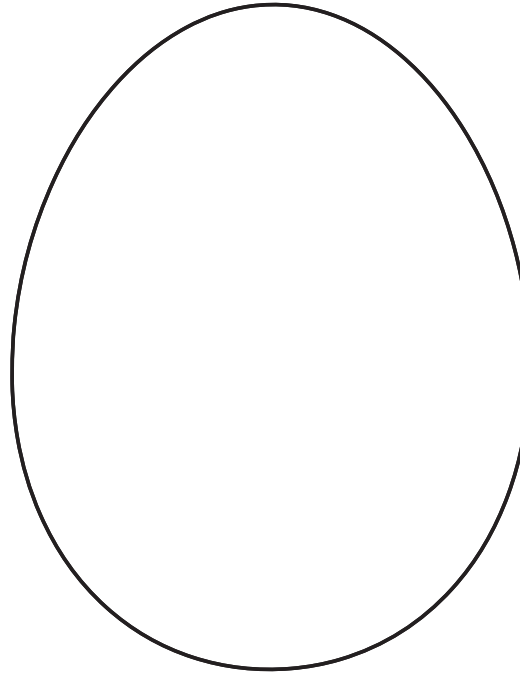
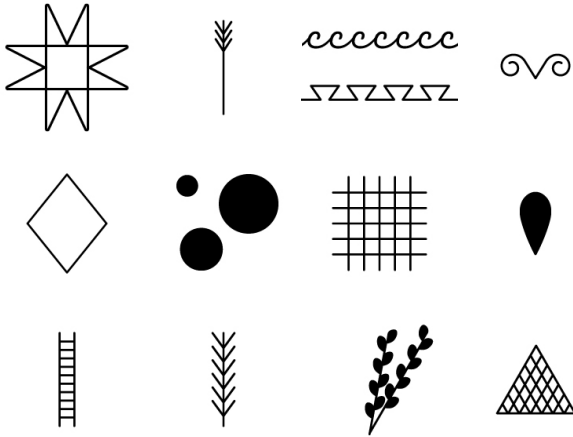


PYSANKA SYMBOLISM

Every colour, motif or pattern on a pysanka is deeply symbolic and meant to bestow specific wishes on the receiver. There are thousands of ancient symbols and motifs and many interpretations exist about their meanings. The egg itself represents rebirth and new life.



Triangles	the Holy Trinity; birth, life, death; air, fire, water; or heaven, earth and hell
Nets	a reference to Christ being a fisher of men
Diamonds	knowledge
Dots	represent cuckoo birds' eggs, the first sign of spring
8-pointed star	the sun, the stars, beauty, wisdom and love
Ladders	accomplishment, ascent to heaven, prayer, overcoming problems
Pine boughs	youth, long life, health, and stamina
Wheat	good health, a bountiful harvest
Curls	represent rams horns: strength, defense, protection
Flowers/petals	beauty, fertility
Waves	everlasting life, or water
Pussywillows	Ukrainians bless pussywillow branches on the Sunday before Easter (Palm Sunday). Branches are kept all year to protect the household from evil spirits.
White (eggshell)	purity, light, birth, innocence
Yellow	the colour of sunshine, youth, warmth and hope
Orange	endurance, strength, ambition
Red	happiness
Blue	good health
Green	nature, hope for a good harvest
Black	the earth that nourishes us all, eternity

