Today, the ADLaM alphabet is used by over 4 million people in Africa and around the world. But that wasn't always the case...

ADLaM began as a childhood dream of two young brothers from Guinea. Abdoulaye and Ibrahima Barry grew up speaking Pular (the language of the Fulɓe or Fulani people).
For centuries it was primarily a spoken language, sometimes written using the alphabet of other languages.

The Barry brothers dedicated their lives to changing that.

They created letters, systems, typographies and eventually literacy programs where their alphabet could be taught and learned.

This book is designed to be just one more step in realizing their life-long dream of bringing literacy to the Fulɓe people through the alphabet they devoted their entire lives making.

# ADLaM Alphabet

The ADLaM alphabet (also called Alkule ADLaM) is the special alphabet used to write the Pular language.

Pular is the language of the Fulɓe or the Fulani people.

The name ADLaM is derived from the first 4 letters (𞤀 𞤃 𞤊 𞤆 – A D L M)

**ADLaM has 28 letters in total.**

- 5 vowels (the "singing" letters)
- 23 consonants (all the other letters)

ADLaM is written a little differently than English.

Instead of writing from left to right, ADLaM is written from right to left!

# UPPERCASE ADLAM

## 𞤀𞤁𞤂𞤃𞤄 𞤅𞤆𞤇𞤈𞤉𞤊𞤋

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 𞤍 | 𞤌 | 𞤋 | 𞤀 |
| M | L | D | A |
| 𞤓 | 𞤐 | 𞤎 | 𞤂 |
| Bh | P | S | B |
| 𞤊 | 𞤑 | 𞤅 | 𞤉 |
| I | F | E | R |
| 𞤕 | 𞤚 | 𞤔 | 𞤜 |
| W | Yh | Dh | O |
| 𞤘 | 𞤃 | 𞤗 | 𞤛 |
| U | Y | K | N |
| 𞤞 | 𞤇 | 𞤙 | 𞤝 |
| Qh | H | C | J |
| 𞤢 | 𞤝 | 𞤛 | 𞤄 |
| Nh | T | Ny | G |

# LOWERCASE ADLAM

𞤊𞤵𞤢𞤤𞤪 𞤂𞤣𞤥𞤢𞤲𞤂

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 𞤍 | 𞤌 | 𞤋 | 𞤀 |
| m | l | d | a |
| 𞤎 | 𞤐 | 𞤔 | 𞤆 |
| bh | p | s | b |
| 𞤈 | 𞤏 | 𞤂 | 𞤉 |
| i | f | e | r |
| 𞤃 | 𞤇 | 𞤅 | 𞤑 |
| w | yh | dh | o |
| 𞤒 | 𞤄 | 𞤕 | 𞤇 |
| u | y | k | n |
| 𞤖 | 𞤓 | 𞤑 | 𞤌 |
| qh | h | c | j |
| 𞤗 | 𞤖 | 𞤑 | 𞤅 |
| nh | t | ny | g |

# Nasal consonants – 𞤄𞤭𞤲𞤢𞤤 𞤀𞤦𞤢𞤲𞤼𞤭𞤪𞤭𞤲

As in English, Pular has nasal consonants.

𞤲 (N) and the ADLaM apostrophe (ʼ) are the nasalization indicators.

There are four nasal consonants.

| Lowercase 𞤄𞤢𞤮𞤫𞤲𞤢𞤄 | 𞤾ʼ𞤲 | 𞤦ʼ𞤲 | 𞤨ʼ𞤲 | 𞤽ʼ𞤲 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| UPPERCASE 𞤄𞤤𞤮𞤫𞤲𞤣𞤵 | 𞤞ʼ𞤐 | 𞤜ʼ𞤐 | 𞤠ʼ𞤐 | 𞤝ʼ𞤐 |

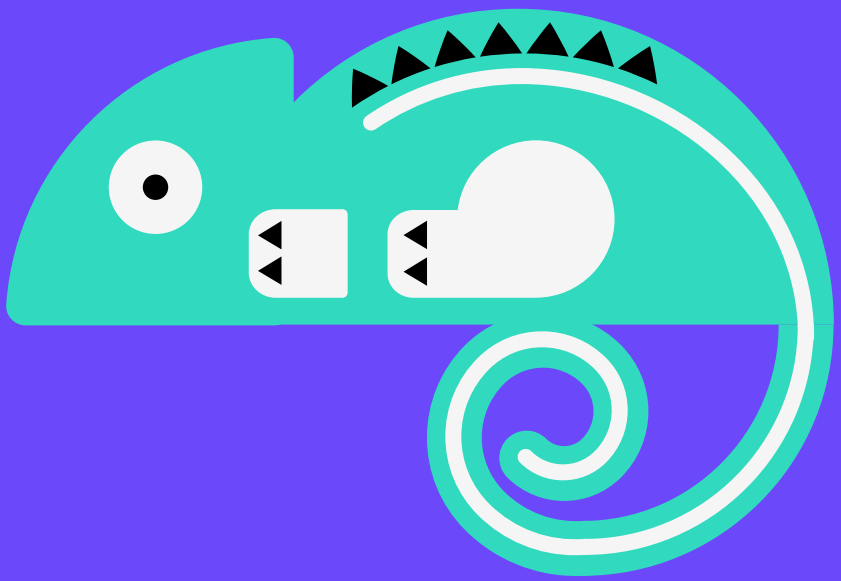


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HORN

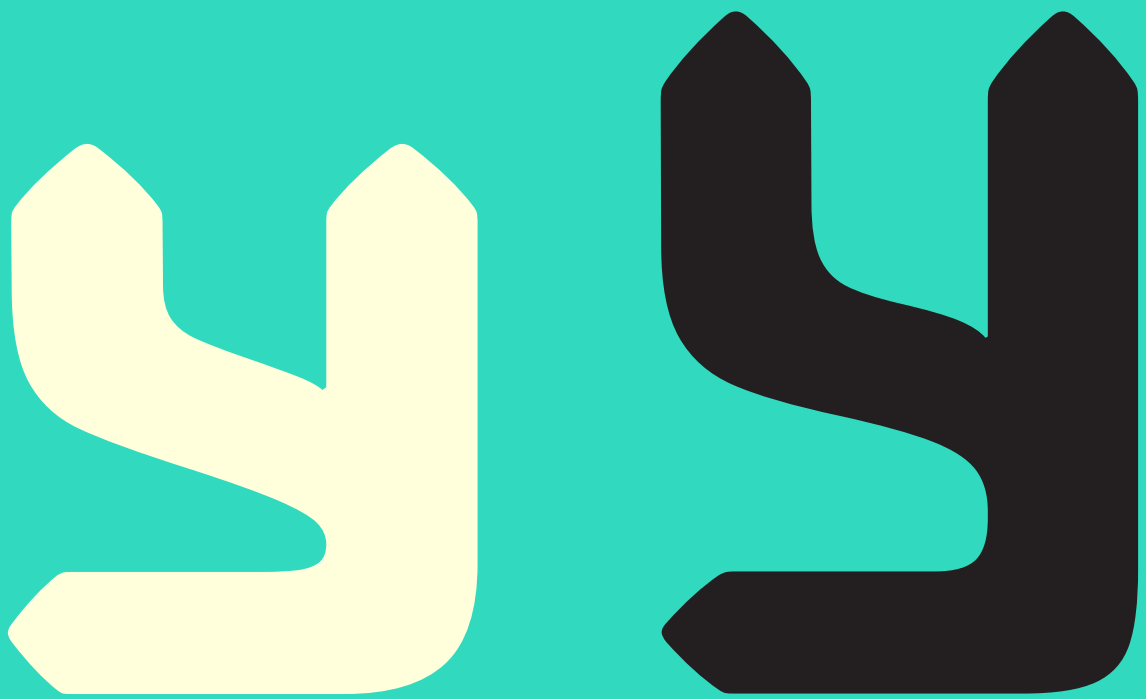


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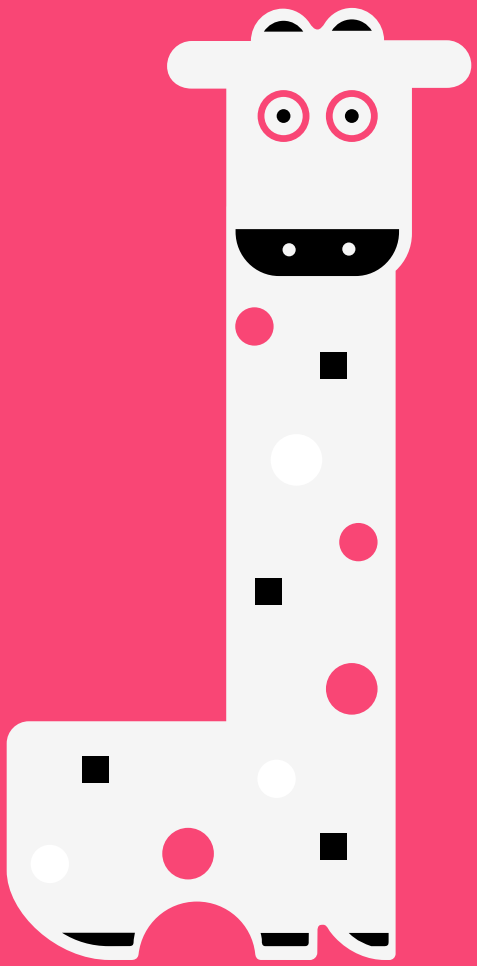


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**CHAMELEON**



DA



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GIRAFFE



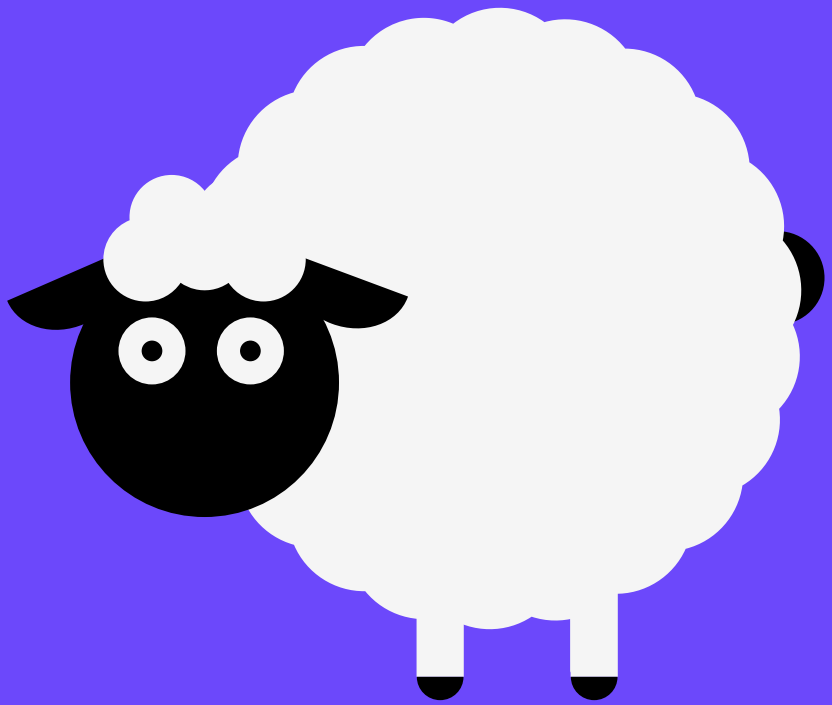
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ELEPHANT



MA



# ಎಎಳೆ

**SHEEP**



BA



# 𞤆𞤵𞤤𞤢𞤲𞤭 𞤐𞤵𞤼𞤢

**FULANI FLUTE**



SA

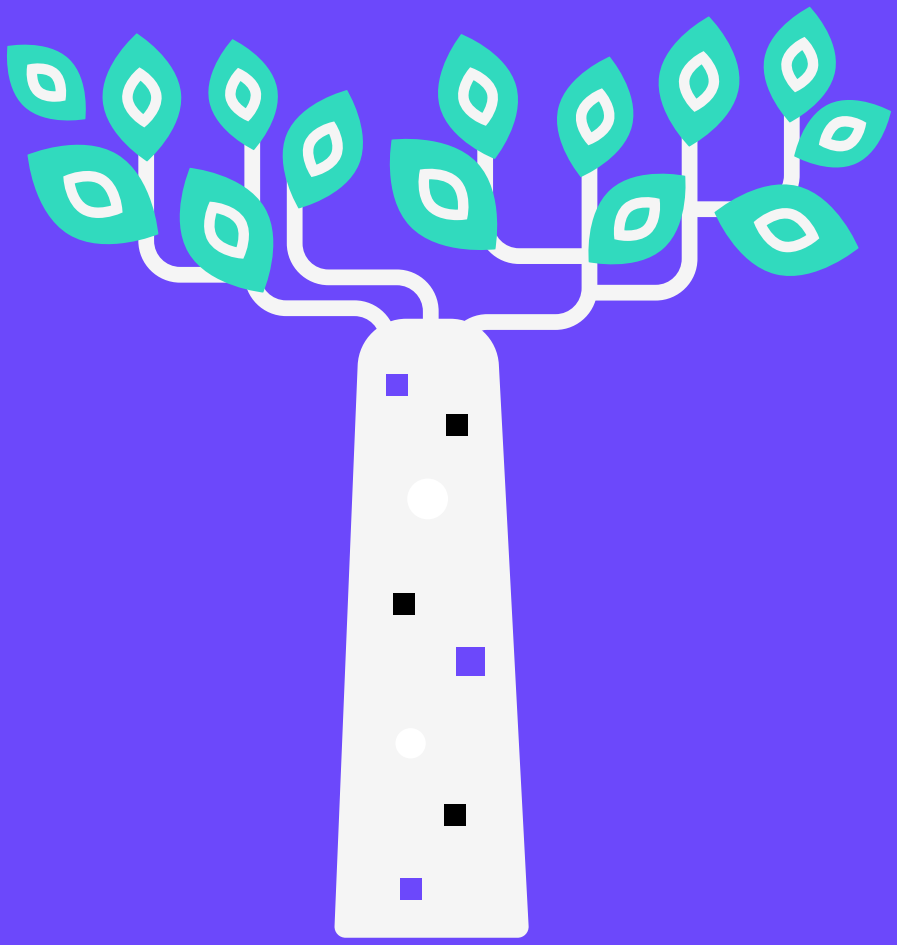


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**FULANI KUFI**



PA



# ಬಾಬಾಬ್

**BAOBAB**



BHA



# ดศดัรคษ

**FARMER**



RA

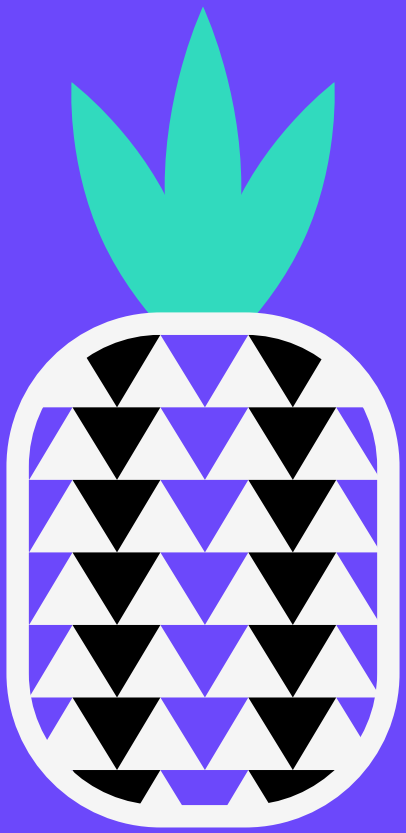


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**AFRICAN BUFFALO**



E



# ឆមជ័ន្ធ

**PINEAPPLE**



FA

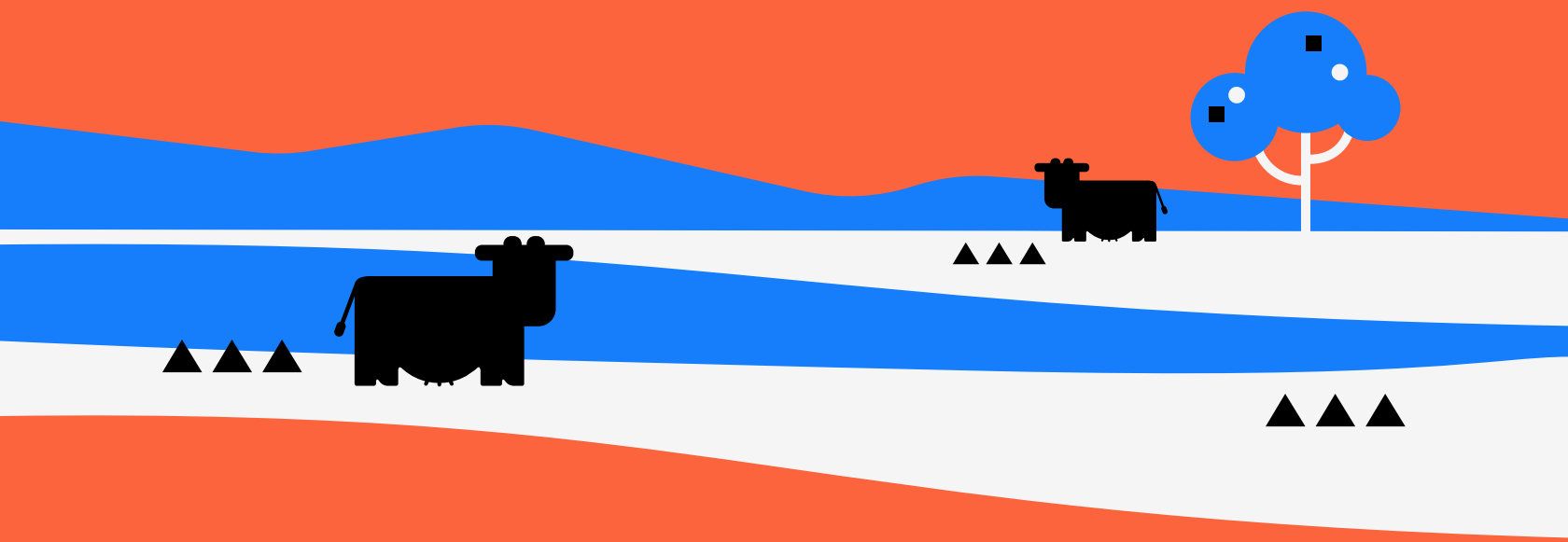


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**STREAM**



u

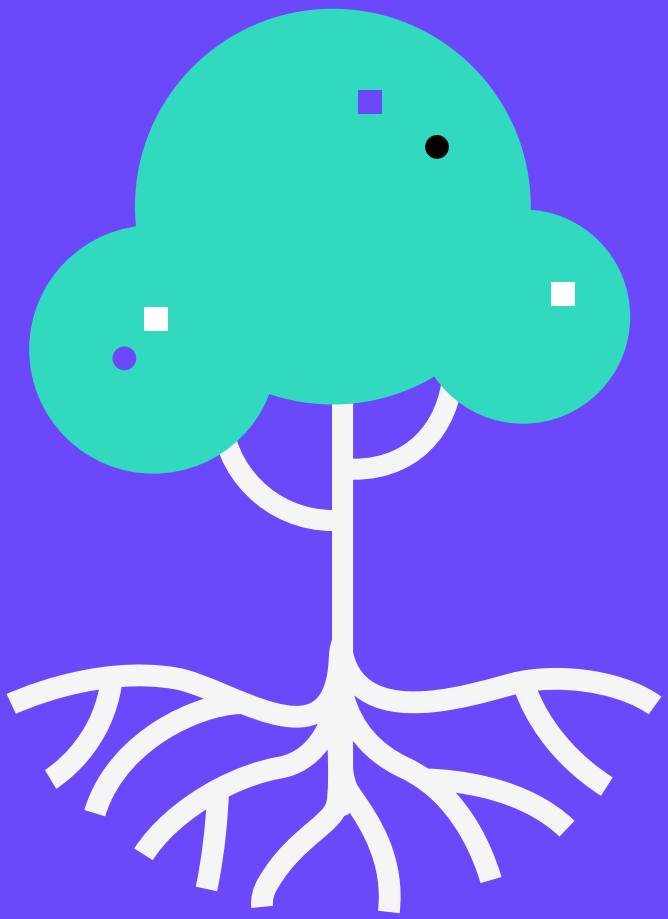


# ᏣᎳᎩᏱ

**PASTURE**



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# ROOTS



# DHA



# ಜಾರ್ಜ

**DUNES**



# YHA

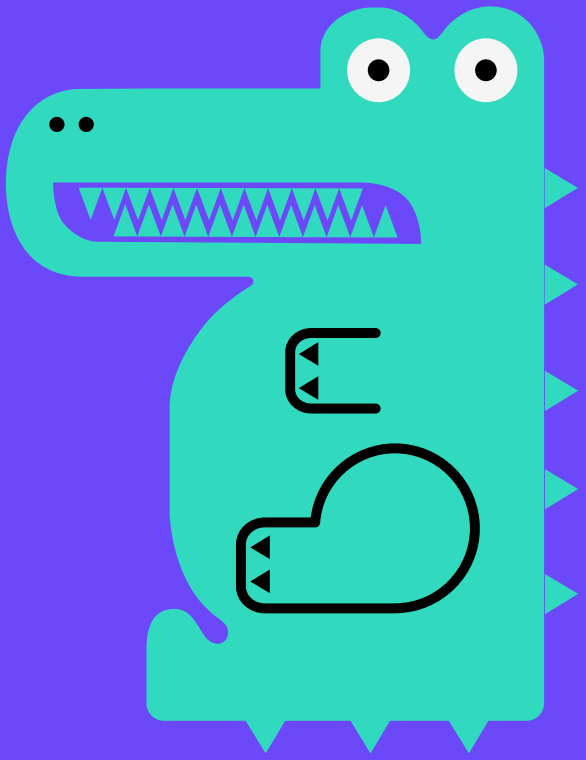


# বানর

**MONKEY**



WA

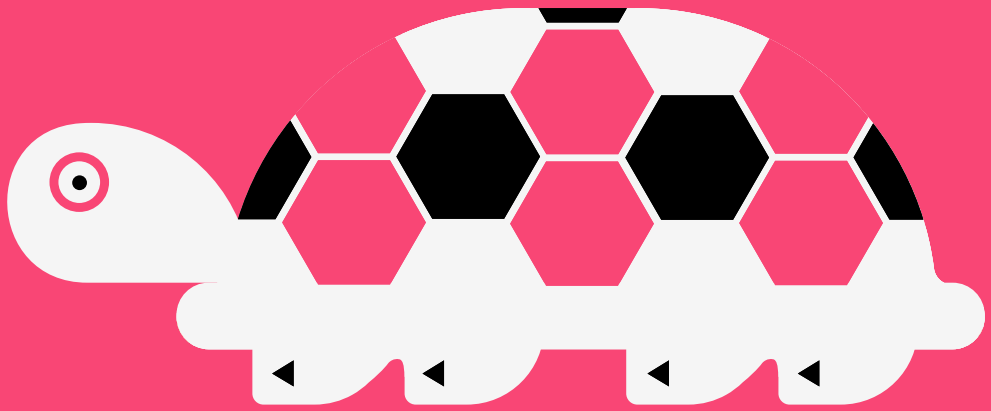


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CROCODILE



NA

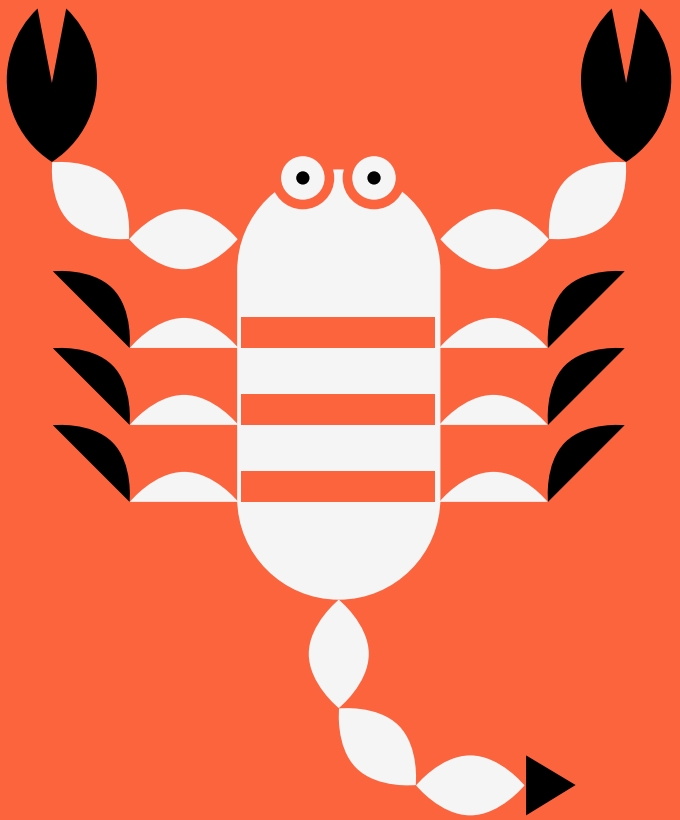


# ಆಮೆ

**TURTLE**

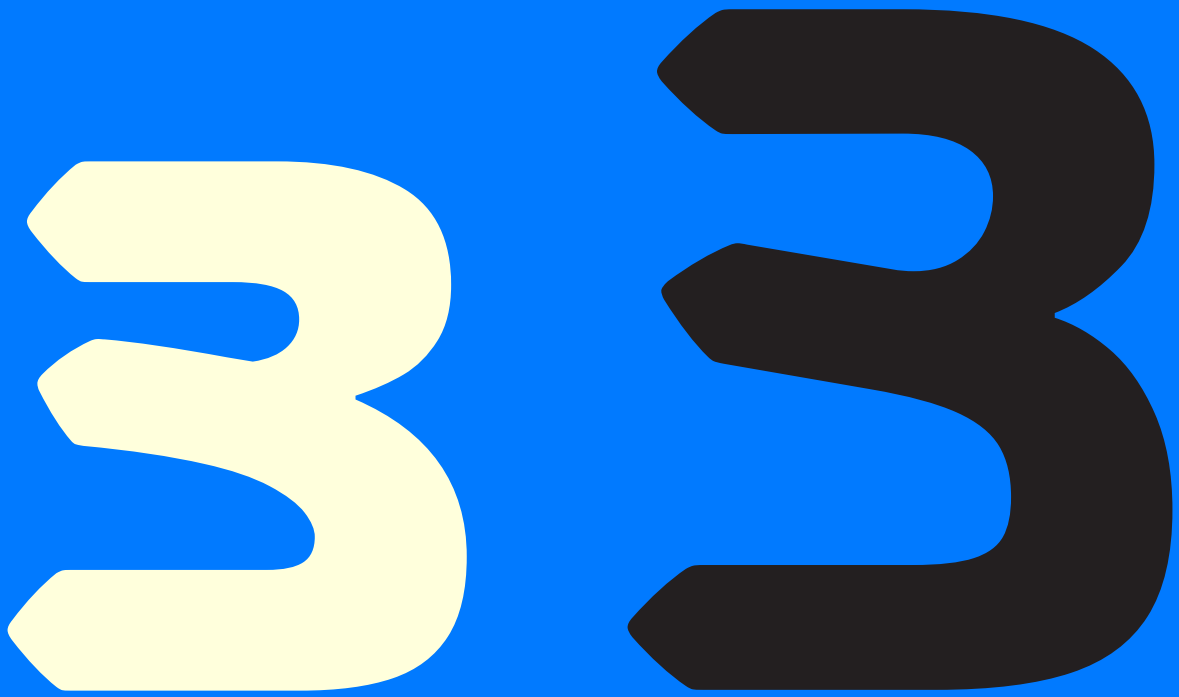


KA



# ᏴᎩᏚᏫᏃ

**SCORPION**



YA

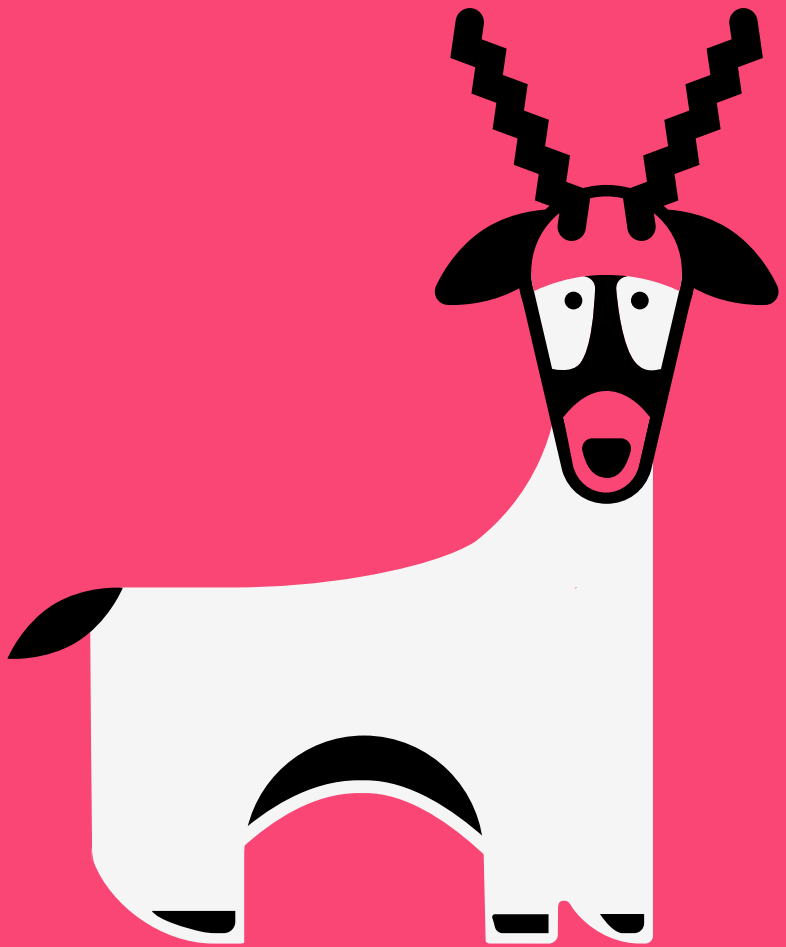


# ชงวชัวช

**CAT**



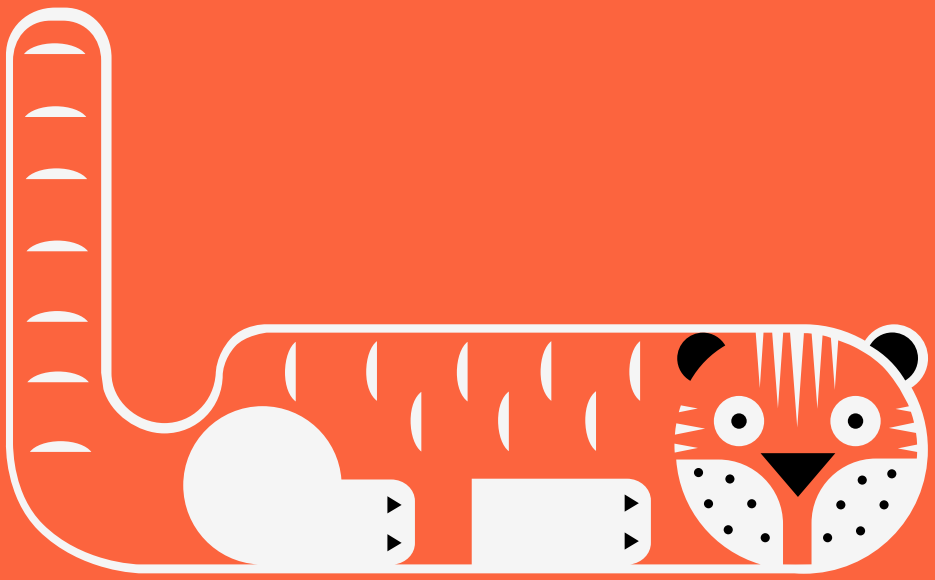
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ANTELOPE

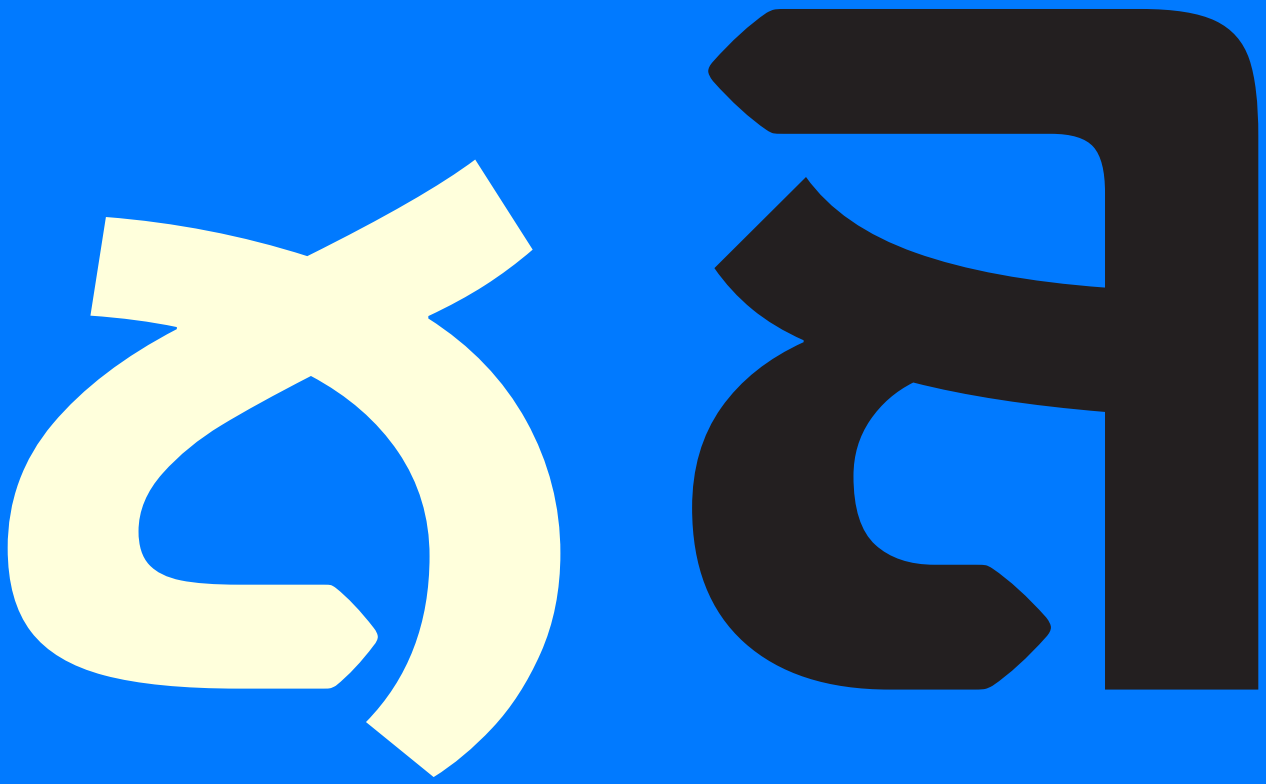


JA



# ৪৯৮৮৯

**TIGER**



TCHA

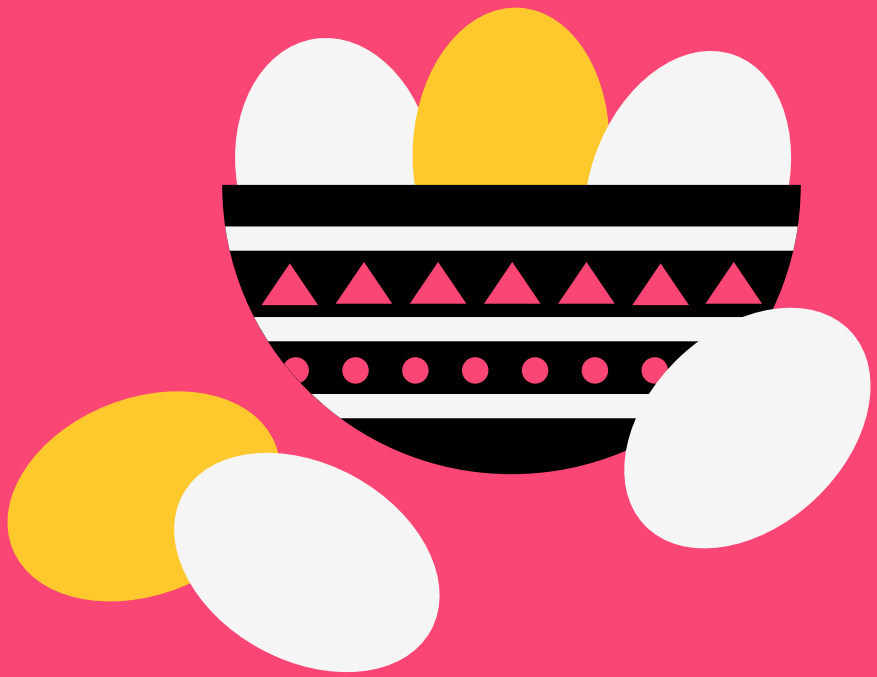


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**CALABASH**



HA

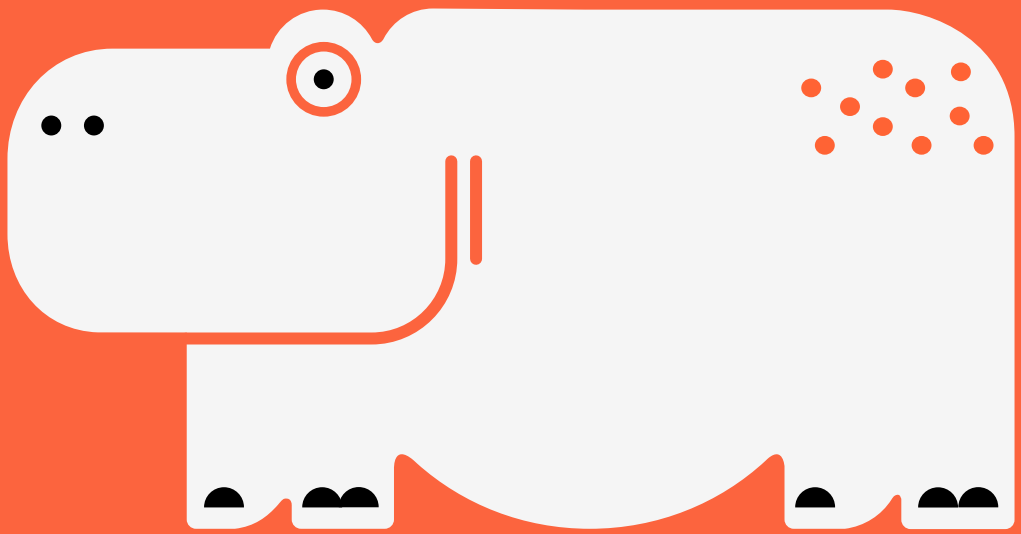


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EGG

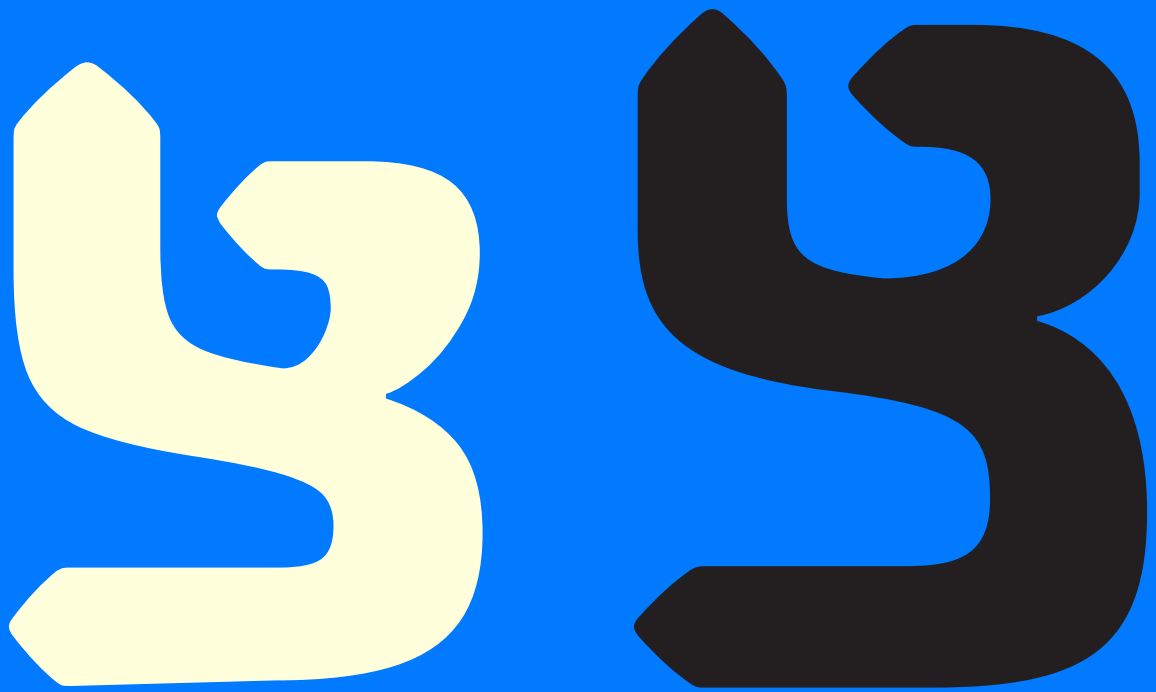


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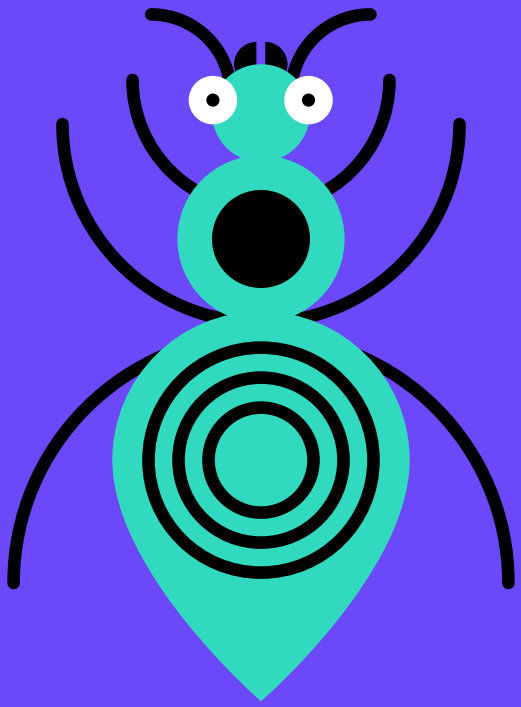


# ვახედა

**HIPPOPOTAMUS**



GA



# ᥐᥙᥣᥴᥰᥒ

**ANT**



# NYA

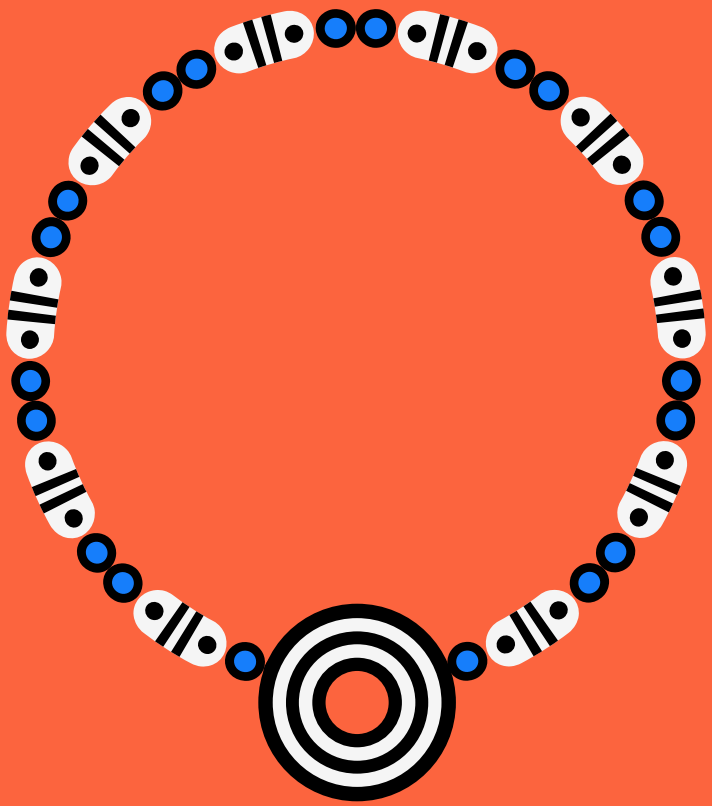


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**SHEPHERD’S HAT**

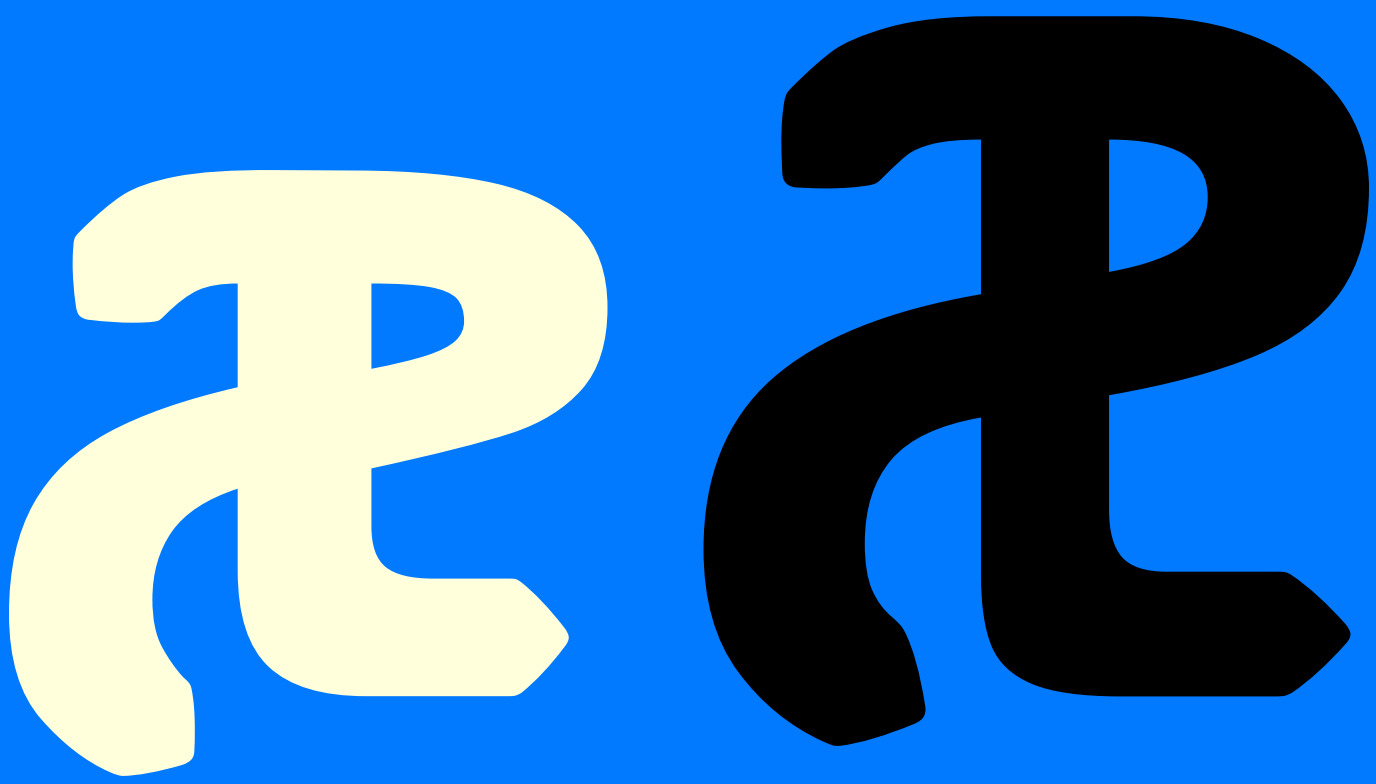


TA

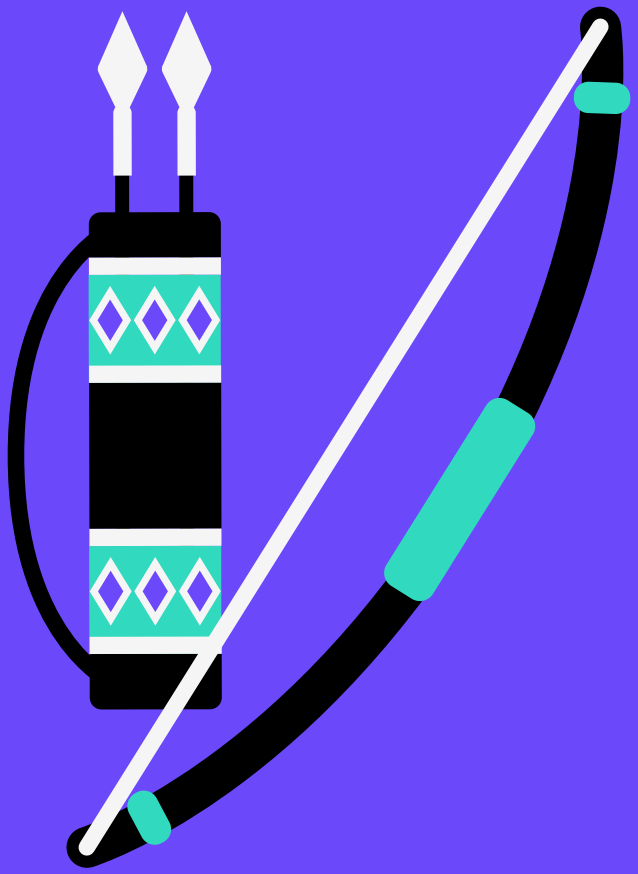


# ᏁᎠᎵᏓᏃᏕ

**NECKLACE**



NHA



# ისარი

**ARROW**



# NDA



# ਬਕਰੀਆ

**GOAT**



# MBA

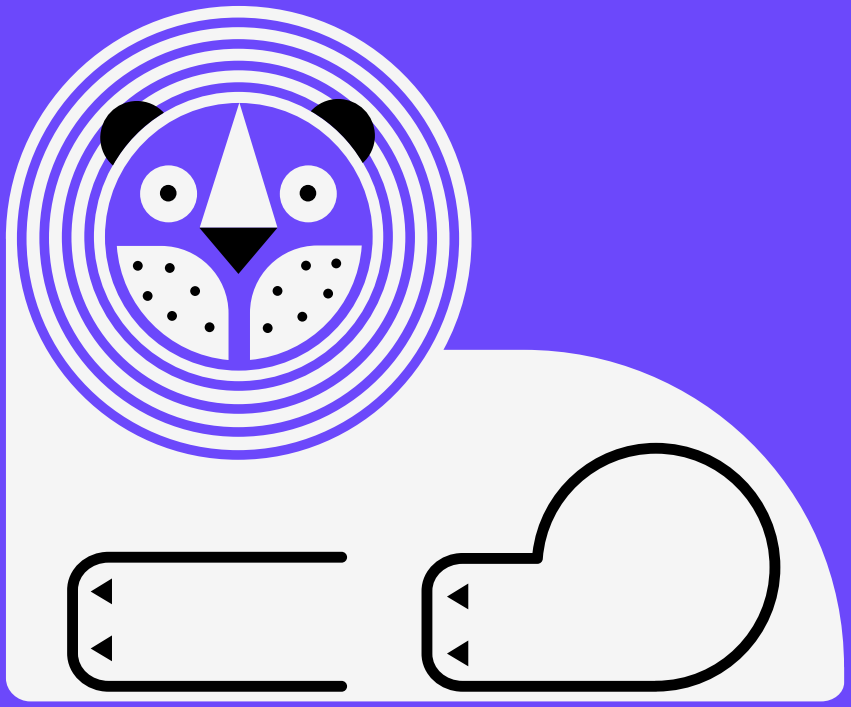


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**HONEY**



NJA



# ᔑᕮᘐᕼᔑᕮᘐᔕᗩ

## WEST AFRICAN LION



NGA

With sincere and endless gratitude to Ibrahima and Abdoulaye Barry—brothers whose life's work stands as a beacon for those who would change this world for the better.