














Adinkra Symbols and Meanings

Image	Twi Name	Literal Translation	Symbolic Meaning
	ADINKRAHENE	“Chief of adinkra symbols”	Greatness, charisma, leadership
	AKOKO NAN	“The leg of a hen”	Mercy, nurturing
	AKOMA	“The heart”	Patience & tolerance
	ANANSE NTONTAN	“Spider's web”	Wisdom, creativity

	<p>ASASE YE DURU</p>	<p>“The earth has weight”</p>	<p>Divinity of mother earth</p>
	<p>AYA</p>	<p>“fern”</p>	<p>Endurance, resourcefulness</p>
	<p>DWENNIMMEN</p>	<p>“Ram’s horns”</p>	<p>Humility and strength</p>
	<p>EPA</p>	<p>“handcuffs”</p>	<p>Law, justice, slavery</p>
	<p>FUNTUNFUNEFU DENKYEMFUNEF U</p>	<p>“Siamese crocodiles”</p>	<p>Democracy, unity in diversity</p>

	<p>GYE NYAME</p>	<p>“Except for God”</p>	<p>Supremacy of God</p>
	<p>MMERE DANE</p>	<p>“Time changes”</p>	<p>Change, life’s dynamics</p>
	<p>MPATAPO</p>	<p>“Knot of reconciliation”</p>	<p>Peacemaking, reconciliation</p>
	<p>MPUANNUM</p>	<p>“Five tufts” (of hair)</p>	<p>Priestly office, loyalty, adroitness</p>
	<p>ODO NNYEW FIE KWAN</p>	<p>“Love never loses its way home”</p>	<p>Power of love</p>













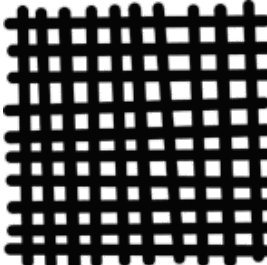
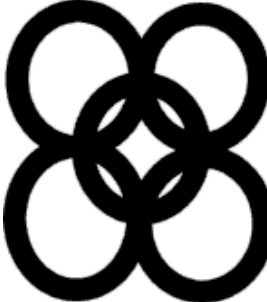


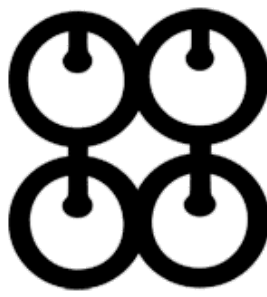
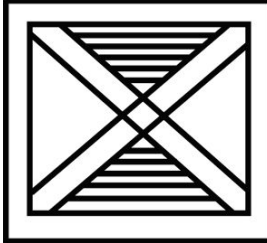
	<p>SANKOFA</p>	<p>“Return and get it”</p>	<p>Learn from the past</p>
	<p>SEPOW</p>	<p>“Executioner's knife”</p>	<p>Justice</p>

Image	Twi Name	Literal Translation	Symbolic Meaning
	<p>AKOFENA</p>	<p>“Sword of war”</p>	<p>Courage, valor</p>
	<p>AKOMA NTOSO</p>	<p>“Linked hearts”</p>	<p>Understanding, agreement</p>

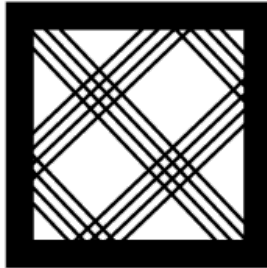

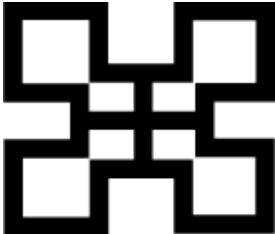


	<p>BESE SAKA</p>	<p>“Sack of cola nuts”</p>	<p>Affluence, abundance, unity</p>
	<p>BI NKA BI</p>	<p>“No one should bite the other”</p>	<p>Peace, harmony</p>
	<p>BOA ME NA ME MMOA WO</p>	<p>“Help me and let me help you”</p>	<p>Cooperation, interdependence</p>
	<p>DAME-DAME</p>	<p>“Name of a board game”</p>	<p>Intelligence, ingenuity</p>





	<p>DENKYEM</p>	<p>“Crocodile”</p>	<p>Adaptability</p>
	<p>DUAFE</p>	<p>“Wooden comb”</p>	<p>Beauty, hygiene, feminine qualities</p>
	<p>EBAN</p>	<p>“Fence”</p>	<p>Love, safety, security</p>
	<p>ESE NE TEKREMA</p>	<p>“The teeth and the tongue”</p>	<p>Friendship, interdependence</p>
	<p>FAWOHODIE</p>	<p>“Independence”</p>	<p>Independence, freedom, emancipation</p>





	FIHANKRA	"House, compound"	Security and safety
	FOFO	"Yellow Flowered plant"	Jealousy and envy
	HWE MU DUA	"Measuring stick"	Examination and quality control
	HYE WON HYE	"That which does not burn"	Imperishability and endurance
	KETE PA	"Good bed"	Good marriage





	<p>KINTINKANTAN</p>	<p>“Puffed up extravagance”</p>	<p>Arrogance</p>
	<p>KWATAKYE ATI KO</p>	<p>“Hair style of an Asante war captain”</p>	<p>Bravery and valor</p>
	<p>MATE MASIE</p>	<p>“What I hear, I keep”</p>	<p>Wisdom, knowledge, and prudence.</p>
	<p>ME WARE WO</p>	<p>“I shall marry you”</p>	<p>Commitment and perseverance</p>
	<p>MFRAMADAN</p>	<p>“Wind-resistant house”</p>	<p>Fortitude and readiness to face life’s vicissitudes</p>


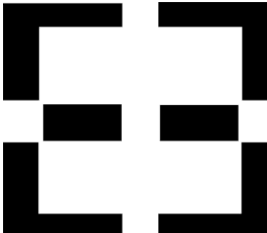

	<p>MMUSUYIDEE</p>	<p>“That which removes bad luck”</p>	<p>Good fortune and sanctity.</p>
	<p>NEA ONNIM NO SUA A, OHU</p>	<p>“He who does not know can know from learning”</p>	<p>Knowledge, life-long education, and a continued quest for knowledge.</p>
	<p>NEA OPE SE OBEDI HENE</p>	<p>“He who wants to be king”</p>	<p>Service and leadership</p>
	<p>NKONSONKONS ON</p>	<p>“Chain Link”</p>	<p>Unity and human relations</p>
	<p>NYAME DUA</p>	<p>“Tree of god” (altar)</p>	<p>God’s presence and protection</p>

	<p>NKYIMU</p>	<p>“The crossed divisions made on adinkra cloth before stamping”</p>	<p>Skillfulness and precision</p>
	<p>NKYINKYIM</p>	<p>“Twisting”</p>	<p>Initiative, dynamism, and versatility</p>
	<p>NSAA</p>	<p>“Type of hand-woven fabric”</p>	<p>Excellence, genuineness, and authenticity</p>
	<p>NSOROMMA</p>	<p>“Child of the heavens [stars]”</p>	<p>Guardianship</p>
	<p>NYAME BIRIBI WO SORO</p>	<p>“God is in the heavens”</p>	<p>Hope</p>

	<p>NYAME NNWU NA MAWU</p>	<p>“God never dies, therefore I cannot die”</p>	<p>God’s omnipresence and the perpetual existence of man’s spirit.</p>
	<p>NYAME NTI</p>	<p>“By God’s grace”</p>	<p>Faith and trust in God</p>
	<p>NYAME YE OHENE</p>	<p>“God is King”</p>	<p>Majesty and supremacy of God</p>
	<p>NYANSAPO</p>	<p>“Wisdom Knot”</p>	<p>Wisdom, ingenuity, intelligence, and patience.</p>

	<p>OKODEE MMOWERE</p>	<p>“The talons of the eagle”</p>	<p>Strength, bravery, and power.</p>
	<p>ONYANKOPON ADOM NTI BIRIBIARA BEYE YIE</p>	<p>“By God’s grace, all will be well”</p>	<p>Hope, providence, and faith.</p>
	<p>OSRAM NE NSOROMMA</p>	<p>“The Moon and the Star”</p>	<p>Love, faithfulness, and harmony.</p>
	<p>OWO FORO ADOBE</p>	<p>“Snake climbing the raffia tree”</p>	<p>Steadfastness, prudence, and diligence.</p>

	<p>OWUO ATWEDEE</p>	<p>“The ladder of death”</p>	<p>Mortality</p>
	<p>PEMPAMSIE</p>	<p>“Sew in readiness”</p>	<p>Readiness, steadfastness, and hardiness.</p>
	<p>SESA WO SUBAN</p>	<p>“Change or transform your character”</p>	<p>Life transformation</p>
	<p>TAMFO BEBRE</p>	<p>“The enemy will stew in his own juice”</p>	<p>Jealousy and envy</p>

	<p>WAWA ABA</p>	<p>“Seed of the wawa tree”</p>	<p>Hardiness, toughness, and perseverance.</p>
	<p>WOFORO DUA PA A</p>	<p>“When you climb a good tree”</p>	<p>Support, cooperation, and encouragement.</p>
	<p>WI BSA DA MU A</p>	<p>“If your hands are in the dish”</p>	<p>Participatory government, democracy, and pluralism.</p>