

# DRAW AN ADINKRA SYMBOL

Have a look at the **Adinkra Symbols Handout** with its range of adinkra symbols.

If you have a **Divine Chocolate** bar to hand, you could work out the meanings of some of the symbols on the bar.



Decide which symbol is your favourite and why.

Draw a picture of that symbol.

# ADINKRA SYMBOLS HANDOUT

#### **DWENNIMMEN**

"ram's horns"



Symbol of humility and strength. The ram fights fiercely against other rams, but also submits humbly to humans. Even the strong need to be humble.

#### **FIHANKRA**

"house/compound"



Symbol of security and safety. The communal housing compound has only one entrance and exit.

# **BOA ME NA ME MMOA WO**

"help me and let me help you"



Symbol of cooperation.
The two sides of the symbol are asymmetrical, but they work together as part of a greater whole.

### **ASASE YE DURU**

"the Earth is heavy"



Symbol of providence and the divinity of Mother Earth. This symbol represents the importance of the Earth in sustaining life.

#### **SANKOFA**

"go back and get it



Symbol of importance of learning from the past.

A bird looking backwards. A proverb says: It is not wrong to go back for that which you have forgetten

#### **OWIA KOKROKO**

"greatness of the sun"



Symbolises vitality and renewal. The sun is the ultimate source of all life and vitality on Earth.

# **ANANSE NTONTAN**

"spider's web"



Symbol of wisdom, creativity and the complexities of life. Anansi the Spider is a well-known character in West African folklore.

#### **MATE MASIE**

"what I hear, I keep"



Symbol of wisdom, knowledge and prudence.

Understanding means wisdom and knowledge, but it also means listening and taking into account what another person has said.

#### **AYAMPATAPO**

"knot of reconciliation"



Symbol of reconciliation and peace-making.

Wrapping a cloth or rope around two people's hands is a sign of reconciliation. 'Mpatapo' is the knot that binds them.

#### **AKOMA**

"the heart"



Symbol of patience and tolerance. A proverb says that if someone "has a heart in their stomach" they are very tolerant.

#### **DENKYEM**

"crocodile"



Symbol of adaptability. The crocodile lives in the water, yet breathes the air, demonstrating an ability to adapt to circumstances.

# FUNTUNFUNEFU DENKYEM FUNEFU

"Siamese crocodiles"



Symbol of democracy, and unity in diversity.

The symbol is two crocodiles that share one stomach.