Adinkra Cards and Printing Instructions

1. Print out pages 2 through 13 on card stock paper. 110-pound-weight card-stock or higher is a good weight to use for this purpose. If you go with a lighter-weight paper, say 80-pound or 65-pound, be prepared to either paste them onto a stiffer backing, or laminate them. You don’t necessarily have to go with white card-stock. The images in this pdf will show up on any color card-stock you choose.

2. Pages 14 and 15 are optional card backs, which you may choose to print on the back of each card sheet. The benefit of a card-back design is that it keeps the identity of the card front a secret, until it is time to turn the card over in the reading. Of course, you may leave the backs of your cards blank, or cover it with your own design, if you wish.

3. Before cutting out the cards, I recommend spraying both sides of each card sheet with several coats of a clear acrylic sealer. This may take a couple of hours, because you’ll need to let the coats dry for 15 minutes between each coat. It is worth the effort, though, for it keeps the ink on the cards from smearing, and the cards slide against each other more easily when shuffling. The more coats of sealer, the less smearing of ink, and the easier the shuffling.

4. Cut out the cards and keep them in either a special box, or wrapped up in a square of fabric.

Euphonia Carstairs
Aban
Great Fortress or Two-Story House
The power, authority, and legitimacy of government and respect for the law.

Adinkrahene
"Chief of the Adinkra symbols"
Greatness, charisma, and leadership. Possibly also generativity, as it inspired the creation of the other symbols.

Adu-Wham
Fragrance, Sweet Smell, Aroma
"A little fragrance clings to the hand that gives flowers"-Akan proverb. Generosity benefits the giver as well as the receiver.

Agyindawuru
The Gong of Agyin, the Faithful Servant
Alertness, faithfulness, and dutifulness. Graciousness and courteous.

Ahwene Pankasa Kyere
Awuruwro—"Inferior Beads
Make the Most Sound"
The truly superior let their actions speak for them. The inferior boast to cover their inadequacy.

Akoben
"War horn"
Vigilance and wariness. Sounding the battle cry.

Akofena
"Sword of war"
Courage, valor, heroism. Also, legitimate state authority.

Akoko Nan
"The leg of a hen"
Nurturing and discipline, protective and corrective, nurture, but do not pamper.
Akoma
"the heart"
Patience, tolerance, compassion

Akoma Ntoso
"linked hearts"
Understanding and agreement

Ananse Ntontan
"spider’s web"
Wisdom, creativity, and the complexities of life

Ani Bere A Enso Gya
"No matter how red-eyed one becomes, one’s eyes would not spark flames"
Self-containment, self-discipline, self-control, patience, non-demonstrative feeling.

Asase Ye Duru
"the Earth has weight"
Providence and the divinity of Mother Earth. The importance of Earth in sustaining life.

Aya
"fern"
Endurance and resourcefulness, ability to thrive in a difficult place. One who has endured much adversity and outlasted much difficulty.

Bese Saka
"a sack of cola nuts"
Affluence, abundance, power and plenty, togetherness and unity. The role agriculture and trade play in bringing people together.

Bi Nka Bi
"No one should bite the other"
Peace and harmony, a caution against provocation and strife.
Boa Me Na Me Mmoa Wo
“Help me and let me help you.”
Cooperation and mutual support

CDC ANINISUO
Lover’s Tears
Grief, Sadness, Despondency. There is none who can make us suffer like those we love.

Dame-Dame
Board game
Intelligence and ingenuity, the ability to think strategically.

DCME NA ME NDC WO BI
“Love One Another”
Interdependency; give-and-take; ‘you scratch my back, and I’ll scratch yours.’ Fraternity.

Denkyem
“crocodile”
Adaptability, the ability to function effectively in more than one environment.

Dono
The Talking Drum
Praise, appellation, goodwill, and rhythm

Dono Ntoaso
The Double Dono
High praise and approbation, good will, rejoicing, adroitness, alertness, and united action.

Duafe
“wooden comb”
Beauty, cleanliness, hygiene, looking one’s best. Other desirable feminine qualities such as goodness, love and care.
Dwennimmen
“ram’s horns”
Humility with strength, even the strong need to be humble.

Eban
“fence”
Love, safety, security. The safety and security one finds in love.

EFIE MMOSEA
Courtyard Gravel
The enemy within. A signal of intrusions into the courtyard. No one expects danger from the courtyard gravel, but it will cut you if you slip on it.

EFIE NE ABC NE ABC
NTEN ADEe A eWCFIE
“Whatever exists outside, exists also in the house.”
Morality. The standards we apply to the outside world, we should also apply to ourselves and our household. Do not covet others goods, just as you would not want them to covet yours.

Epa
“handcuffs”
Law and justice, slavery and captivity.

Ese Ne Tekrema
“the teeth and the tongue”
Friendship and interdependence, the need to work together.

Fafanto
The Butterfly
Tenderness, gentleness, honesty, fragility.
Going without, even if something is plentiful.

Fawohodie
“Independence”
Independence, freedom, emancipation and the responsibilities that implies.
Fihankra
“house/compound”
Security and safety.
In Akan (Asante) architecture, the communal housing compound has one entrance and exit.

Fofu
“Yellow-flowered plant”
Jealousy and/or envy; it can turn even the greatest beauty, ugly.

Fly WANSENA NNI BIMPO A WCPOSA NE NSeM~“Even if a fly has nothing to offer, it rubs its hands.”
Genuine generosity; being willing to share what one has, even if one has very little to share.

Funtunfunefu-Denkyemfunefu
“Siamese crocodiles”
Democracy and unity are needed.
Infighting and tribalism is harmful to all who engage in it.

Gye Nyame
“Except for God”
God is supreme.

Hwe Mu Dua
“Measuring Stick”
Examination, quality control. Strive for the best quality, whether in the production of goods or human endeavors.

Hyen Hye
“That which does not burn”
Imperishability, resistance to harm, endurance, the strength to overcome difficulties.

KATA WODEeSO NA BUE ME DEeSO~“Cover your deeds and open mine to ridicule.”
Hypocrisy. Calling attention to the misdeeds of others in order to draw attention away from one’s own.
Kete Pa
“A good bed”
A good marriage, a good relationship, a good alliance.

Kintinkantan
“Puffed-up extravagance”
Arrogance

Kwatakye Atiko
“Hairstyle of an Asante war captain”
Bravery, valor, fearlessness; an earned honor for bravery.

Mate Masie
“What I hear, I keep”
Wisdom, knowledge, and the prudence to consider what has been said.

Me Ware Wo
“I shall marry you”
A serious commitment, and the perseverance and dedication such a commitment demands.

Mframadan
“Wind-resistant house”
Fortitude, the readiness to face life’s vicissitudes.

Mmara Krado
The Padlock of the Law
The authority, power, and justice of the court, legality, imprisonment, a caution against lawlessness.

Mmere Dane
“Time changes”
change, life’s dynamics, time changes, times change
Mmusuyidee
“That which removes bad luck”
Good fortune and sanctity

MPABOA
Sandals
Authority, and the readiness to go anywhere. In Akan culture, a King or Chief is never seen without his sandals. He loses his rank if his bare feet touch the ground.

Mpatapo
“Knot of pacification” or “Knot of reconciliation”
Pacification, reconciliation, peace-making after strife.

Mpuannum
“Five tufts” (of hair)
Priestly office, loyalty, adroitness, joy, the devotion & faithfulness displayed when doing a task which is required of one.

Nea Onnim No Sua A Ohu
“He who does not know can know from learning”
Knowledge, life-long learning, the continued quest for knowledge

Nea Ope Se Obedi Hene
“He who wants to be king”
Service and leadership. He who would be king must first learn how to serve

Nkonsonkonson
“Chain link”
Unity and human relations, contribute to the community, in unity lies strength.

Nkotimsefo Mpu
The Hair Style of the Court Attendants
Loyalty, and a readiness to serve.
Attendants of the Queen Bee; henchmen.
Nkuruma Kesee  
**Big Okro (Dried Okra)**  
Greatness, superiority, supremacy.  
A well-mannered person or character.

Nkyimu  
The crossed divisions made on adrinka cloth before stamping  
Skillfulness, precision, taking the utmost care in laying the groundwork

Nnyegyee  
**Provocation**  
Someone is trying to provoke you into an unwise reaction or fight.  
There is an old saying, “If you are taking a bath, and a madman takes your clothes and you chase him, naked, then you are the one who looks mad.” Someone is trying to manipulate you into looking bad.

Nsaa  
**A type of hand-woven fabric**  
Excellence, genuineness, quality workmanship

Nserewa  
**Cowries**  
Affluence and wealth.  
Sacredness, a sacred divinatory tool of the priests.

Nsoromma  
**“Child of the Heavens”**  
A reminder that God watches over all the people, like a parent.

Nyame Biribi Wo Soro  
**“God is in the heavens”**  
Remember God is in a place where He hears all prayers.
**Nyame Dua**
"Tree of God" - an altar
A sacred spot where rituals are held, often a tree stump or where three or more branches meet.

**Nyame Nnwu Na Mawu**
"God never dies, therefore I cannot die"
God is omnipresent and the human soul exists in perpetuity.

**Nyame Nti**
"By God’s Grace"
Faith and trust in God. All that sustains us comes from God.

**Nyame Ye Ohene**
"God is king"
The majesty and supremacy of God.

**Nyansapo**
"Wisdom Knot"
Wisdom, ingenuity, intelligence, and patience.

**Odo Nnyew Fie Kwan**
"Love never loses its way home"
The power of love. Its sense of direction is flawless.

**Ohene Aniwa**
The Eyes of the King
Vigilance, security, surveillance, protection, awareness of one’s surroundings.

**Ohene Tuo**
The King’s Gun
Defense, power, protection, and greatness.
The start of conflict or another important occasion.
Pagya
A Gun Powder Kirk
Gunners, bravery, defense, power. The ability of the common man to defend himself.

Osram
The Moon
Faith, patience, understanding and determination. The capacity of a leader to improve with time and experience.

Osram Ne Nsorommma
"The Moon and the Star"
The Love, Faithfulness and Harmony which exists in a good marriage.

Onyankopon Adom Nti Biribiera Be Ye Yie
"By God’s Grace, all will be well"
Hope, Faith, A Trust in Providence

Owuo Atwedee
"The Ladder of Death"
Life is transitory. Live a good life in order to be worthy in the afterlife.

Owodee Mmawere
"The Talons of the Eagle"
Strength, Bravery, Power.

Owo Foro Adobe
"Snake climbing the Raffia tree"
Prudence, diligence and steadfastness. Exercise the utmost care in your actions.

Pempamsie
"Sew In Readiness"
Strength through unity. The importance of being prepared.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Sankofa 1</strong></th>
<th><strong>Sankofa 2</strong></th>
<th><strong>Seko</strong></th>
<th><strong>Sesa Wo Suban</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Return and get it&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;Return and get it&quot;</td>
<td>Executioner’s Knife</td>
<td>&quot;Transform Your Character&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learn from the past</td>
<td>Learn from the past</td>
<td>Justice, law, and the punishment of wrongdoing</td>
<td>Life Transformation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Sunsum</strong></th>
<th><strong>Tabono</strong></th>
<th><strong>Tamfo Bebre</strong></th>
<th><strong>Wawa Aba</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The ‘Soul’</td>
<td>Paddle (Oar)</td>
<td>&quot;The enemy will stew in his own juice&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;Seed of the Wawa Tree&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spirituality, spiritual purity, the cleanliness of the soul.</td>
<td>Strength, confidence and persistence. Power, conviction and endurance.</td>
<td>Jealousy, Envy</td>
<td>Hardiness, Toughness, Perseverance</td>
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<td>The ego, the individual’s personality, character, mental endowment and the degree of excellence in life one attains.</td>
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</tbody>
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Batkari Amma
YeAnhu Krado
“The smock confuses one from identifying a Muslim”

Woforo Dua Pa A
“When you climb a good tree”
Support, cooperation, encouragement. When you work for a good cause, you will get support.

Wo Nsa Da Mu A
“If your hands are in the dish”
Participatory Government

Yentena Nsere
“Let us live in harmony”
Brotherliness & belonging.

Asetena Pa Ma Awire Fire
“Cordial relations creates complacency”
Ungratefulness. Earnest & perseverant in seeking help from those in a position to help, once the favor is granted, it is human nature to forget the one who did the favor.

Obi Ntutu Anomaa Ho Na Wcnfa Nkyere Panin
“No one plucks the feathers of a bird, then shows it for identification”
It is wrong to ask someone to identify something after it has been stripped of its identifying marks.

Cyere Pa Cbaa Pa
The perfect woman or the perfect wife. The perfect spouse.

Owia Kokroko
Intense Sun
Vitality, enlightenment, the Sun’s light. Day dawns and the sun exposes all that the night has covered in darkness. To be like the sun in our daily lives.