

FLYING SOLO



MAKE YOUR OWN MEANING

Educational Pamphlet

For use in the Art Museum

For the exhibition

Flying Colors: Asafo Flags of the Fante
Art Museum of the University of Memphis
April 22, 2016 – October 1, 2016

Activities for teachers and students that examine three flags from the exhibit, consider proverbs associated with the flags, and discuss images used on *asafo* flags.



NATURAL WORLD



Warship and Whale

Flag from the Collection of Mary Sue and Paul Peter Rosen

This flag has a blue field representing water. A three-masted warship and whale are on the water. Write a story about the images on this flag.

SOCIAL WORLD



Lion and Man

Flag from the Collection of Mary Sue and Paul Peter Rosen

Asafo flags sometimes include words that identify the company or an individual. "Supi Ampim" is stitched at the bottom of the flag.

Which figure do you think is "Supi Ampim?" Describe what he is wearing. Why was he placed on the flag?

SUPERNATURAL WORLD



Female Spirit

Flag from the Collection of Mary Sue and Paul Peter Rosen

Srahmantin, the female bush spirit, protects her children and friends from their enemies. The *asafo* company that commissioned this flag is stating they have the protection of *Srahmantin*.

Name the colors on this flag.

Why do you think there are two hearts above *Srahmantin*?

Proverbs

Popular local proverbs are associated with the images on each flag. The superiority of one company over its enemies is a typical theme. Instructional teachings could be passed along as well.

1. “Will you fly or will you vanish? Either way you cannot escape.”

Proverb for Winged Creature and Fallen Man

What do you think this proverb means?

2. “It is with one of its own family that the bird roosts.”

Proverb for Four Hornbills

This proverb expresses community and friendship. Can you think of a similar proverb?

3. Write your own proverb.

Now write your own proverb using your family, friends or community as inspiration.

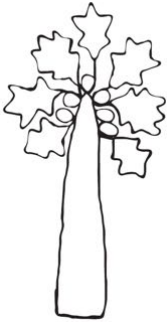
Images



Spider on a Stool

The spider in Fante culture is important as a link between the dead and living, bringing wisdom of the ancestors to the ruler (*Asafohene*).

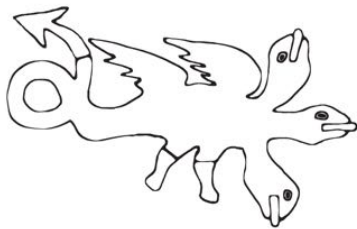
List adjectives that you commonly associate with spiders:



Odum Tree

The *odum* tree is considered to be the protective spirit and site where the Posuban of the *Asafo* company is constructed.

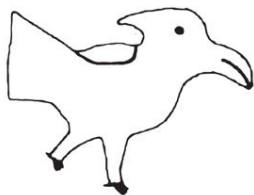
Describe a place or activity that represents protection or shelter.



Dragon

The dragon is a borrowed European motif found on *asafo* flags that represents the power of the mythical creature.

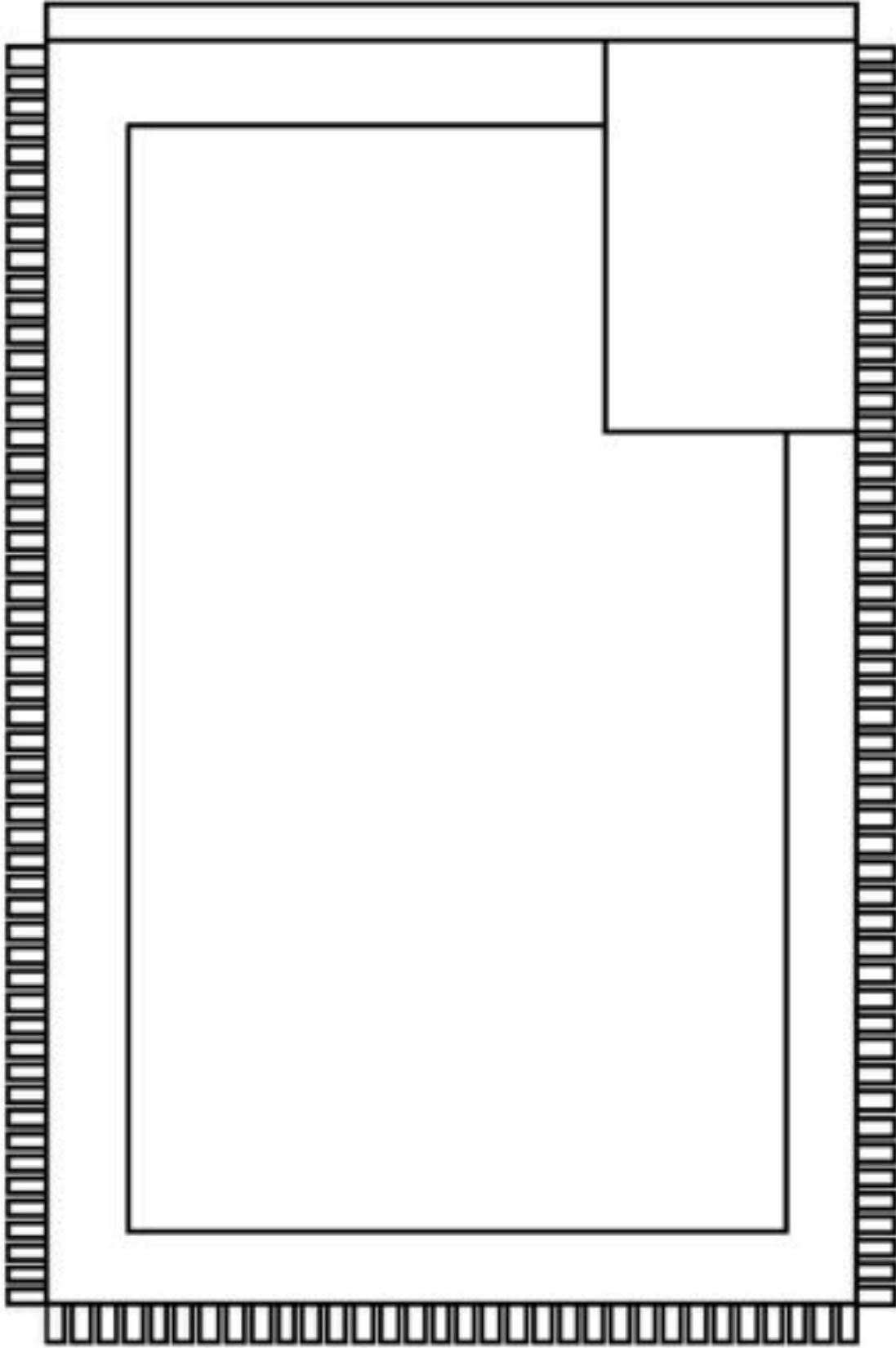
What mythical creature would you choose to guard or protect you?



Hornbill Bird

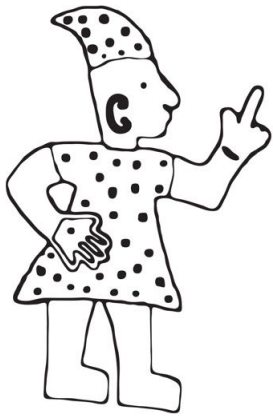
Hornbills are significant in Fante culture because they are thought to be the voice of the ancestors.

Who do you turn to for advice? What is the best advice you've received?

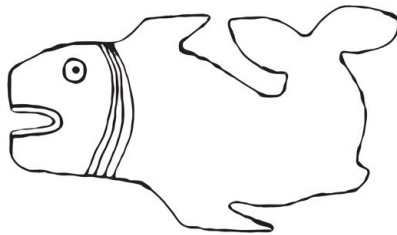


Now make and color your own flag!
Include images from your life or from the *asafo* flags in the exhibition.

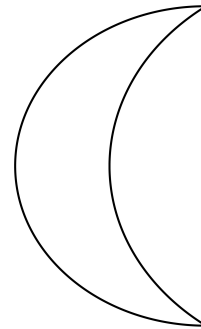
Here are some images found on the *asafo* flags. Use these images to make your own flag or use important images from your life.



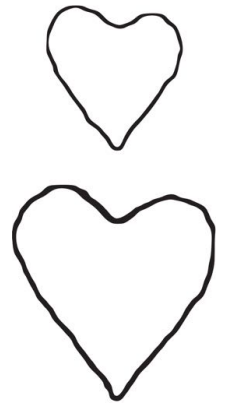
Supi Ampim



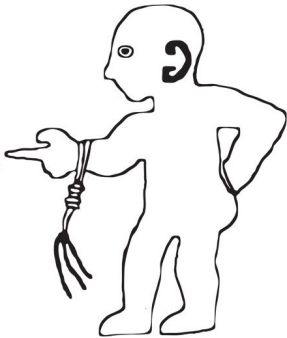
Whale



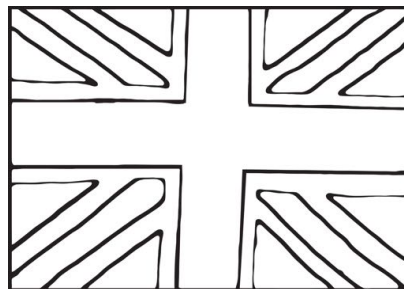
Moon



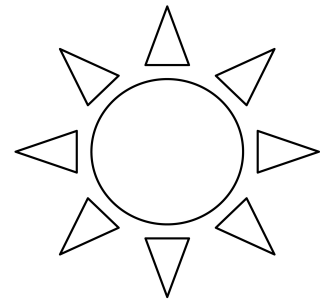
Hearts



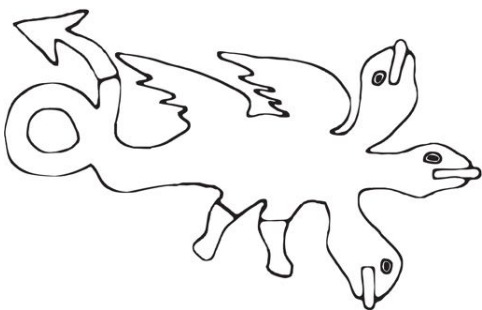
company officer with whip



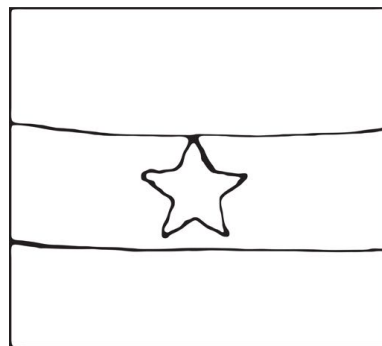
Flag of Great Britan "Union Jack"



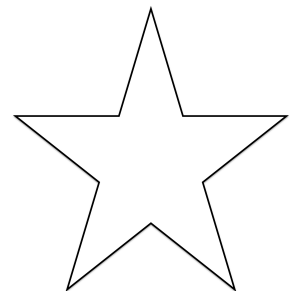
Sun



Three-headed dragon



Flag of Ghana



Star

Thank you for visiting *Flying Colors: Asafo Flags of the Fante*.

Visit our website to learn more about the exhibition.

<http://www.memphis.edu/amum/flyingcolors/index.php>

For more information about *asafo* flags, check out these additional resources:

Rosen, Mary Sue and Paul Peter Rosen. ***Emblems of Power: Asafo Flags from Ghana***. 2013.

Emblems of Power is only available from the authors at ppr2001@med.cornell.edu

Adler, Peter and Nicholas Barnard. ***Asafo! African Flags of the Fante***. London: Thames and Hudson, 1992.

Ross, Doran. ***Fighting with Art: Appliquéd Flags of the Fante Asafo***. *UCLA Museum of Cultural History Pamphlet Series Volume I, Number 5*. Los Angeles: Regents of the University of California, 1979.



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