

Mask Making

Making A Mask



Let's Make A Mask

Follow these simple steps shown to create your own papier-mâché mask.

What do you need?

- a clear working space with a water tap nearby
- plastic face mask
- gaffer tape
- plaster of Paris
- a cardboard square (30 cm × 30 cm)
- a block of clay
- Vaseline
- newspaper
- brown paper
- glue
- pegs
- 1 m length of electrical wire
- a strong pair of scissors

Let's start

1. Cover any tables you are using with plastic or newspaper to protect them.
2. Make the mould.
 - Collect a white plastic face mask from your teacher and remove the elastic band.
 - Cover the eyes and nostrils with gaffer tape so the plaster won't leak.
 - Fill the white plastic face mask with plaster of Paris.
 - When the plaster is dry, separate the mould from the plastic mask.
 - Place mould on a piece of cardboard.
3. Cover the mask with clay.
 - Place an egg-sized piece of clay under the forehead and another under the chin of the mould to raise it off the cardboard.
 - Cover the entire plaster mould with clay, making sure you fill in the gap between the mould and the cardboard. Model the features of your mask in clay. Make sure you can see clearly where the eyes, nose and mouth sit.
4. Papier-mâché the mask.
 - Once the clay is dry, cover the mask with a thin layer of Vaseline.
 - Put a layer of papier-mâché (using newspaper) over the full clay mould.
 - Add a second layer of papier-mâché using brown paper.
 - Now add a third layer of papier-mâché using newspaper.
 - Add a fourth layer of papier-mâché using brown paper.
5. Finish the mask.
 - When the mask is dry, cut out the eyes of the mask.

Mask Making

Making A Mask



- Trim the outside rim of the mask to make it smooth.
- Cut a length of electrical wire and peg it around the inside rim of the mask.
- Papier-mâché over the wire to bind it to the mask.
- Apply a layer of brown paper to smooth over the rims of the eyes.
- Leave the mask to dry.

What did you learn?

- What did you do well when creating your mask?
- What were the challenges you faced when creating your mask?
- Did you emphasise certain features of your mask? Why or why not?
- What aspects of culture and tradition did you refer to when creating your mask?
- What materials might you use when decorating the mask? Why?