

Mask Making

Making A Mask



Mask Traditions

Research and learn about the many different types of masks and mask-work traditions. You will then go on to design and make your own unique mask.

What do you need?

- access to the internet
- a selection of books about diverse cultures and traditions
- scissors
- Blu Tack
- sticky notes

Let's begin

1. Think about where you have seen masks used. Write down as many examples as you can:

2. Share these examples with the class and discuss the following:

- From what materials can masks be made?
- What were the first kinds of masks used in Australia?
- How old do you think the tradition of mask use is in Australia?
- What other cultures use mask?
- What are the uses of mask in different cultural traditions?

Let's research

1. In groups of two or three, use the library and the internet to do some research into mask-making traditions.

- Collect and cut out pictures of masks from different cultures.
- Look at maps and websites for Asia, South America, Africa, the Pacific islands, etc.
- Separate images and information from each tradition.
- Write information about different cultures' use of mask on sticky notes.

2. Share your findings with the class.

- Which cultures or nationalities did you research?

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- Collate information, images and sticky notes from each culture/nationality and stick them up on the wall.
- You will now have a number of displays around the room, which you can refer to when discussing mask traditions.

3. Look around the room at the images of masks from different cultures. Choose one and answer the following questions:

- How are masks used in this tradition?

- What materials are the masks made from?

- What are the key design elements? (eg colour, shape, texture, decoration, etc)

- What appeals to you about this mask tradition?

What did you learn?

- Which masks look similar?
- Which are different?
- Where did you go to find the information?
- How do the colours and shapes used in the masks link to the culture itself?
- How might you use these techniques to create a mask from your own culture?