

Course: Making a Mask

Lesson One: Mask Traditions

Learning Area: The Arts

Strands: Visual Arts

Time: 45 Minutes

Year Level: 7-8

Content Descriptor:

- Analyse how artists use visual conventions in artworks (ACAVAR123).
- Identify and connect specific features and purposes of visual artworks from contemporary and past times to explore viewpoints and enrich their art-making, starting with Australian artworks including those of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (ACAVAR124).

Learning Focus:

- In this activity, students will research and learn about the different types of masks and mask-making traditions.

Time:	Teaching and Learning Strategies:	Preparation and Resources:
10 minutes	Getting started Distribute copies of the Mask Traditions activity sheet to students. Ask students to think about where they have seen masks used and to make some notes on their activity sheet. Ask students to share their examples with the class and discuss the following: - From what materials can masks be made? - What do you think were the first kinds of masks to be used in Australia? - How old do you think the tradition of using masks is in Australia? - What other cultures use masks? - What are the uses of masks in different cultural traditions?	Relevant ARTS:LIVE resources - Mask Traditions activity sheet - Mask image examples. Additional resources required - internet access/a selection of books with information about masks. - scissors - Blu tack - sticky notes.
15 minutes	Group work Break the class up into groups of two or three. Instruct students to use the library and the internet to do some research into mask-making traditions. They should: - 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 culture or tradition. - Use sticky notes to write down information about different cultures' use of masks.	

10 minutes

Class presentation

Ask students to report their findings back to the class. They should discuss which cultures or nationalities they researched.

Collate information, images and sticky notes from each culture/nationality and stick them up on the wall.

For example, if three groups researched South American Carnival masks, the information they collected should be displayed alongside each other.

Students will now have a number of displays around the room, which they can refer to when discussing mask traditions.

Encourage students to look around the room at the images of masks from different cultures.

Ask students to select one mask tradition and answer the questions on their activity sheet.

10 minutes

Group discussion

Facilitate a group discussion, reflecting on what students have learned throughout the session:

- 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?