



Teacher Pack



Collection: Mask Making
Course: Making a Mask
Year Level: 7-8
Lessons: 6 x 45 Minutes



Overview

Making a Mask immerses students into the history, culture and practical techniques associated with mask making.

Specifically, students are led through a step by step process to research, plan, design, and create their own papier-mâché mask. Through the lesson series students learn about some of the theatrical contexts and visual languages that have influenced traditional mask making design and practices. At the end of the series, students will create their own mask and there is the option to explore the Decorate a Mask course.

ARTS:LIVE courses are supported by engaging videos, audio files, student activity sheets and home learning activities. Further information related to this course including teaching tips, pedagogical approaches, glossary terms and more can be accessed through the Making a Mask Overview webpage.

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?

Course: Making a Mask

Lesson Two: Designing a Mask

Learning Area: The Arts

Strands: Visual Arts

Time: 45 Minutes

Year Level: 7-8

Content Descriptor:

- Develop ways to enhance their intentions as artists through exploration of how artists use materials, techniques, technologies and processes (ACAVAM119).
- Experiment with visual arts conventions and techniques, including exploration of techniques used by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, to represent a theme, concept or idea in their artwork (ACAVAM118).

Learning Focus:

- Students will plan and design their mask including the materials and techniques they will use.

Time:	Teaching and Learning Strategies:	Preparation and Resources:
45 minutes	Designing the mask Watch the Making the Mask video. Distribute copies of the Designing a Mask activity sheet and A Simple Mask template to students. Ask students to draw some initial sketches and designs for how they would like their mask to look. Encourage students to think about: • the cultures and traditions they researched in the previous activity • the shape, size and how their mask can be worn/used • the materials they could use to make their mask/mask hair Ask students to write some notes on their activity sheet. Ask students to consider the more specific details of their design and write notes on their activity sheet (e.g. does their mask have any tribal patterns, a headdress or jewels?). Facilitate a group discussion, reflecting on what students have learned throughout the session and how they might explore this further when creating their own mask: • What techniques could you use to replicate different materials (e.g. wood, leather, metal)? • How do different colours express emotions or feelings? • What feelings might the colours you have chosen express? • Does their mask have colour symbols (e.g. Egyptian masks used gold and silver on for important people)?	Relevant ARTS:LIVE resources • Making the Mask video • Designing a Mask activity sheet • A Simple Mask template. Additional resources required • examples of decorated masks from the previous lesson • coloured pencils.

Course: Making a Mask

Lesson Three: Let's Make a Mask 1

Learning Area: The Arts

Strands: Visual Arts

Time: 45 Minutes

Year Level: 7-8

Content Descriptor:

- Develop ways to enhance their intentions as artists through exploration of how artists use materials, techniques, technologies and processes (ACAVAM119).
- Practise techniques and processes to enhance representation of ideas in their art-making (ACAVAM121).
- Experiment with visual arts conventions and techniques, including exploration of techniques used by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, to represent a theme, concept or idea in their artwork (ACAVAM118).

Learning Focus:

- Students will make a plaster mask mould to construct their clay/papier-mâché mask on (continued in lesson four/five).

Time:	Teaching and Learning Strategies:	Preparation and Resources:
45 minutes	Plaster of Paris work As a class, watch Making the Mask (this is an optional step, as students will already have seen the video prior to designing their mask). Distribute copies of the Let's Make a Mask activity sheet to students. Explain to students that they will need to work through the instructions sequentially and tick things off as they go. Provide students with a white plastic face mask and ask them to remove the elastic band from the back. Ask students to cover the eyes and nostrils on the front side of the mask with gaffer tape. This will stop the plaster leaking through the holes. Ask students to totally fill up the inside of their plastic mask with plaster of Paris. Explain to students that the plaster needs to go all the way to the edges of the mask. Set aside the masks to let the plaster dry.	Relevant ARTS:LIVE resources • Making the Mask video • Let's Make a Mask activity sheet. Additional resources required • a clear working space with a water tap nearby • a plastic face mask (available through art supply shops) • gaffer tape • plaster of Paris Preparation • for easy clean up, cover the tables you are using • pre-mix the plaster of Paris.

Course: Making a Mask

Lesson Four: Let's Make a Mask 2

Learning Area: The Arts

Strands: Visual Arts

Time: 45 Minutes

Year Level: 7-8

Content Descriptor:

- Develop ways to enhance their intentions as artists through exploration of how artists use materials, techniques, technologies and processes (ACAVAM119).
- Practise techniques and processes to enhance representation of ideas in their art-making (ACAVAM121).
- Experiment with visual arts conventions and techniques, including exploration of techniques used by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, to represent a theme, concept or idea in their artwork (ACAVAM118).

Learning Focus:

- Students create the clay base for their mask (continued in lesson five).

Time:	Teaching and Learning Strategies:	Preparation and Resources:
45 minutes	Clay work Ask students to retrieve their moulds they created in the last lesson. The plaster should now be dry. Help students to separate the mould from the plastic mask. Ask students to place their plaster moulds on a cardboard square. Ask students to make two egg-sized pieces of clay and instruct them to place one under the mould at forehead height and the other under the mould at chin height. This raises the mask off the cardboard, creating space to ensure the mask will be able to be worn on a face. Now ask students to cover their entire mould with clay. This includes covering the sides of the mould all the way down to the cardboard (including the gap between the mould and the cardboard). They will need to leave space for the eyes, nostrils and mouth. Students now sculpt the mask's features out of clay. (Take as long as you like with this step, some teachers have stretched it over two or more lessons.) Set aside the mould to let the clay dry.	Relevant ARTS:LIVE resources • Making the Mask video (for reference). Additional resources required • a clear working space with a water tap • cardboard squares (30 cm × 30 cm) • a block of clay

Course: Making a Mask

Lesson Five: Let's Make a Mask 3

Learning Area: The Arts

Strands: Visual Arts

Time: 45 Minutes

Year Level: 7-8

Content Descriptor:

- Develop ways to enhance their intentions as artists through exploration of how artists use materials, techniques, technologies and processes (ACAVAM119).
- Experiment with visual arts conventions and techniques, including exploration of techniques used by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, to represent a theme, concept or idea in their artwork (ACAVAM118).

Learning Focus:

- Students will papier-mâché their mask.

Time:	Teaching and Learning Strategies:	Preparation and Resources:
45 minutes	Papier-mâché work Ask students to retrieve their clay mask blocks. When the clay is dry, ask students to cover their mask with a thin layer of Vaseline. This will stop the papier-mâché from sticking to the clay. Support students in covering the mask with a layer of papier-mâché using newspaper. Ask students to do a second layer, this time using brown paper. Ask students to do a third and fourth layer, alternating using newspaper and then brown paper. Your students may need more time for this step, it may require one or two extra lessons. Set aside the masks and allow them to dry.	Relevant ARTS:LIVE resources • Making the Mask video. Additional resources required • Vaseline • newspaper • brown paper • glue. Preparation • cover the tables you are using • tear strips of newspaper and brown paper for the papier-mâché.

Course: Making a Mask

Lesson Six: Let's Make a Mask 4

Learning Area: The Arts

Strands: Visual Arts

Time: 45 Minutes

Year Level: 7-8

Content Descriptor:

- Develop ways to enhance their intentions as artists through exploration of how artists use materials, techniques, technologies and processes (ACAVAM119).
- Experiment with visual arts conventions and techniques, including exploration of techniques used by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, to represent a theme, concept or idea in their artwork (ACAVAM118).

Learning Focus:

- Students add reinforcement to their paper papier-mâché mask.

Time:	Teaching and Learning Strategies:	Preparation and Resources:
45 minutes	Finishing the mask Retrieve the papier-mâché mask blocks from the store room – ensure they are dry. When the papier-mâché is dry, help students to separate their masks from the clay. Ask students to cut out the eye holes and trim the outside rim of the mask to make it smooth. You will need to help younger students. Provide each student with a length of electrical wire and ask them to peg it around the inside rim of the mask. Trim away any excess wire. Assist students to bind the wire to the mask using papier-mâché. Ask students to apply a layer of brown paper to smooth over the rims of the eyes. Set aside the masks and allow them to dry. Reflect on the activity with the class. Questions to discuss may be: • 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?	Relevant ARTS:LIVE resources • Making the Mask video. Additional resources required • brown paper • glue • pegs • electrical wire • a safety knife or a strong pair of scissors. Preparation • pre-cut the electrical wire into one-metre strips • tear strips of brown paper for the papier-mâché.