

Multi Cultural Masks from Clay or Plaster Bandages

Social studies, LA, and art integrated
[lesson plan.](#)

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Overview

- This unit engages students in a study of the relationship between masks and cultures. Students research mask-making from various cultures, draw sketches of the masks, and take notes that highlight the connections between the masks and the cultural practices of the people who created them. Using this information, students recreate the cultural masks and compose poetry to reveal their understanding and appreciation of these cultural artifacts.
- Extension: Students then analyze aspects of their own culture and create personal masks and poetry to reflect their culture and themselves.

Web links



- [Cultural Masks Resources Pathfinder](#)
- ["Mask" by Carl Sandburg](#)
- ["Aztec Mask" by Carl Sandburg](#)
- ["We Wear the Mask" by Paul Lawrence Dunbar](#)
- ["Hiding in the Mask" by Ellen Bauer](#)
- [Poetic Devices](#)
- [Poems Behind the Masks: A Mask and Poetry Museum](#)

Mask Research

- [Cultural Mask Research Graphic Organizer](#)
- **Make an accurate sketch of the mask on a separate piece of paper. Label materials that you plan to use and colors as appropriate.**
- **Cultural Mask Information:**
- Name of website:
- URL:
- **Location Information:** Plot and label the origins of the mask on the map provided.
- **Culture/Country/Continent:**
- **Purpose:** How was it used in this culture?
- **Materials:** What was it made from?
- **Culture:** How does the mask reflect the culture of the people who used or made it?
- Why did **you** choose this mask?
- **Locate and clearly label the culture/country/continent of the people who made the cultural mask you studied.**

Authentic Masks from various cultures



Mask Making Process

- [Video plaster mask](#)
- [Video clay mask](#)





3rd place 3D
Design,
Secondary
Visual Arts
Show 2013
Brook Chau,
Clayton
Middle School

Funerary Masks of Egypt

- [Egyptian Masks](#)
- [The role they played](#)
- [How to make Egyptian masks from plaster](#)



Documenting the Process on Your Design Wall

- What is a Design Wall?

Kind of like a mind map or a journal, a design wall is a place to record the making/presenting/responding process of a project.

- What goes on a Design Wall?

All of your ideas, thoughts, inspirations, conclusions, and connections about a project. They can be in the form of writing, photographs, sketches, materials, or artifacts.

- Where do we start?

What was your initial idea when you learned you would be making a mask? Can you describe it, draw it, find a picture of it?

Has that idea changed or evolved since you started your research?

How has that idea changed or evolved since working with the art medium?

What Else Should You Include?

- Keep notes on the process. What have you learned about mask making? Do you have examples? What went wrong? What went right? What would you do differently?
- What connections or observations can you make between what is happening in Art Space and experiences outside of Art Space? Things you've read, seen, heard, learned... are any of these things influencing your mask project?

How Should My Design Board Look?

Sort of like your mask. Colors, patterns, textures, images, all the thoughts and things that go into making your board should be related to your process and planning. But really what I want to see is what you learned and what connections you made to other ideas.

- Should include some titles or descriptions of what we are looking at
- Needs to have your name
- Some planning should go into the organization of your objects. Maybe chronological, or organized by topic?



Fashion designer Christian Siriano poses with the inspiration board for his spring/summer 2014 collection.

Interior designers combine elements on a working wall to create a scheme for a room. In the absence of a finished space, these boards serve as a low-fidelity prototype that gives the client sufficient clarity.





Design Boards



Art Student Idea Board

