



# How-To Guide

SAN DIEGO MUSEUM OF ART  
October 18, 2003

The *Masks! Educators' Arts Fair* is made possible by the Washington Mutual Foundation.



# How-To Guide Masks! Arts Fair

Masks in the Classroom .....	1
Suggested Books for Mask Projects .....	2
Art Education Resource Web Sites .....	3
San Diego Resources .....	4
<b>Lesson Plans</b>	
African Mask .....	5-8
Commedia dell' Arte Mask .....	9-11
Japanese Noh Theatre Mask .....	12-13
Mexican Mask .....	14-15
Pacific Northwest Indian Mask .....	16-17
Elements of Art .....	18
Credits .....	19
Curriculum Brainstorm Charts	

# Masks in the Classroom

Mask making is an ideal way to explore three-dimensional art and cultures in virtually every region in the world from the earliest times to now. Masks are among the most ancient means of changing an identity. They symbolize our ability to transform, assume new personas, to go to other worlds, and to appease the spirits. They are used in ritual performances, for rites of passage, festivals, entertainment, for protection, and more.

Masks say a lot about the people who make them and the cultures that use them. The materials used and the iconography seen on the masks provide clues to their meaning and significance. For example, the red cedar wood commonly used to make Pacific Northwest masks is a key resource found in that region and used in many aspects of daily life. The imagery used includes creatures from the surrounding natural world. Since the Indians are essentially animist in their beliefs, they consider every living thing and natural element to have a soul and a purpose. Often, a community's best artists would be called upon to make the masks and considered it one of their greatest artistic achievements.

Masks can enhance any classroom curriculum. They can be created with simple tools, embellished with a variety of inexpensive materials, and can be easily adapted to all age levels—plus, they are fun to make. Connecting masks to the visual arts is limitless. Through this thematic study students can learn about repetition and pattern, symbols, color, line, and can manipulate materials to create texture. Or, add a new dimension to your math lessons by exploring symmetry, geometric forms, and three-dimensional objects while creating masks. Social studies are a natural for mask making projects. Students can explore ancient civilizations, history, geography, customs, and world cultures.

## Ways to enhance your mask making project

- Bring your class to the Museum to see masks from two current exhibitions: *Partners of the Soul: African Art of the Baule* (on view 8/23/03 to 1/4/04) and *Sculpture in Silk: Costumes from Japan's Noh Theater* (on view 11/15/03 to 1/25/04). Schedule a free docent tour by calling 619.231.1996. To learn more about the exhibitions go to the exhibitions page on the Museum's Web site: [www.sdmart.org](http://www.sdmart.org).
- Ask students to bring in examples or photographs of contemporary masks. For example, a catcher's mask, a Halloween mask, a gas mask, or masks used in film such as Batman's mask. Have a discussion about the ways masks are used in contemporary society. Next, discuss the various functions of masks within different cultures. Compare the different functions and what different masks communicate.
- Ask students to research and report on artists whose artwork was influenced by masks from different cultures. For example, have them discuss artists Pablo Picasso or Amedeo Modigliani and their interest in African masks.

## Did you know?

The word mask probably came from the Arabic Maskhara, which meant to falsify or transform into animal, monster, or freak. In the Middle Kingdom, Egyptians used the word "msk" to refer to leather or second skin. In Italy the word became maschera, and then it came into English as mask.

# Suggested Books for Mask Projects

The following books are available within the City of San Diego Public Library system. Go to the library's Web site to reserve the books at the library closest to you: [www.sandiego.gov/public-library](http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library).

## Africa

731.75096/HAHNER  
Hahner-Herzog, Iris. *African Masks*, New York: Prestel, 1998.

731.75/SEGY  
Segy, Ladislas. *Masks of Black Africa*, New York: Dover Publications, 1976.

391.434/SMITH  
Smith, A. G. *Cut and make African Masks in full color*, New York: Dover, 1991.

## Commedia dell' Arte

792/OREGLIA  
Oreglia, Giacomo. *The Commedia dell' Arte*, New York: Hill and Wang, 1968.

## Mexico

731.75/CORDRY  
Cordry, Donald. *Mexican Masks*, Fort Worth: Amon Carter Museum, 1973.

731.75/LECHUGA  
Lechuga, Ruth. *Mask Arts of Mexico*, San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1995.

## Noh Theater

R746.92/GLUCKMAN  
Gluckman, Dale Carolyn. *When Art Became Fashion, Kosode in Edo-Period Japan*, New York: Weatherhill, 1992.

792.0952/KEENE  
Keene, Donald. *No; the Classical Theatre of Japan*, Tokyo, Japan: Kodansha International, 1966.

CD 784.162/KYOTO  
*Japanese Noh Music*. New York: Lyricord Discs, Ind., [198-].

R746.92/RHODE  
Rhode Island School of Design. *Patterns and Poetry: No Robes from the Lucy Truman Aldrich Collection, Museum of Art*, Rhode Island School of Design, 1992.

## Pacific Northwest

731.75/GODS  
*Gods Among Us: American Indian Masks*, San Diego: Department of American Indian Studies, San Diego State University, 1989.

R731.75/MACNAIR  
Macnair, Peter. *Down from the Shimmering Sky: Masks of the Northwest Coast*, Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1998.

731.75/MALIN  
Malin, Edward. *A World of Faces: Masks of the Northwest Coast Indians*, Portland: Timber Press, 1978.

730.89972/WYATT  
Wyatt, Gary. *Spirit Faces: Contemporary Native American Masks from the Northwest*, San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1995.

## General Maskmaking

731.75/DONEY  
Doney, Meryl. *Masks*, New York: F. Watts, 1995.

745.59/FOREMAN  
Foreman, Jennifer. *Maskwork*, Portsmouth: Heinemann, 1999.

VC 391.434/MASKS  
*Masks from many cultures* (video), Aspen: Crystal Productions, 1992.

391.434/NUNLEY  
Nunley, John W. *Masks: Faces of Culture*, New York: Abrams in association with the Saint Louis Art Museum, 1999.

731.75/SIVIN  
Sivin, Carole. *Maskmaking*, Worcester: Davis Publications, 1986.