



Co-funded by the
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Integrating migrant children in schools through artistic expression



Module 3: Performing People Theme 3B: Masks

Prepared by Bath Spa University

Theme 3B Focus: Masks

Theme 3B Learning Activities explore the self and identity through:

► Visual Art:

Explore the role of masks in expressing personal and cultural messages across diverse times, places and contexts.

Create expressive masks using artistic media and techniques.

► Literacy:

Investigate image and identity in historical and contemporary settings through masks.

► Performance:

Develop performativity using masks through links with Theme 3C.

All Levels Introduction: Global Masks

- ▶ Humans across different times, places and contexts use masks to express feelings about themselves, their beliefs and cultures.
- ▶ What is the role of these masks: decoration, disguise, expressivity, cultural meaning?



Greek Death Mask: 'Mask of Agamemnon'
16C. BC (CC BY2.0)

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:MaskOfAgamemnon.jpg>



Roman Comedy/Tragedy Theatre Mosaic Masks
2C.AD (CCPD)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mask#/media/File:Mosaic_depicting_theatrical_masks_of_Tragedy_and_Comedy_\(Thermae_Decianae\).jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mask#/media/File:Mosaic_depicting_theatrical_masks_of_Tragedy_and_Comedy_(Thermae_Decianae).jpg)



Noh Theatre Masks 14C. Japan
(Photograph: June Bianchi).

See Noh Theatre information:

<http://www.the-noh.com/en/world/mask.html>

Watch 'Why did Greeks wear acting masks': <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-rDRnk-rhCg>

All Levels: Venetian Carnival Masks, Italy



Masked Lovers (CC BY2.0)

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Venice_Carnival_-_Masked_Lovers_\(2010\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Venice_Carnival_-_Masked_Lovers_(2010).jpg)



Venetian Masks (CC PD)

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/gnuckx/11645345294/in/photostream/>



Plague Doctor Masks (CC BY_SA4.0)

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Dottore_e_della_pesto_masks.jpg#/media/File:Dottore_della_pesto_masks.jpg

The Venetian Carnival developed in 12C. Venice, it takes place between St. Stephen's Day & Lent. Carnival features creative disguise & expressive performance - masks are made of leather, porcelain, paper mache.

Watch The Masks of Venice: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9qxCRfF9KY4>

Level 1 Learning Activities: Carnival Eye Mask

- ▶ Create an eye mask inspired by Venetian Carnival to disguise and change your identity.
- ▶ What will you be: a bird, insect, animal, different person? Create a story for your new identity.



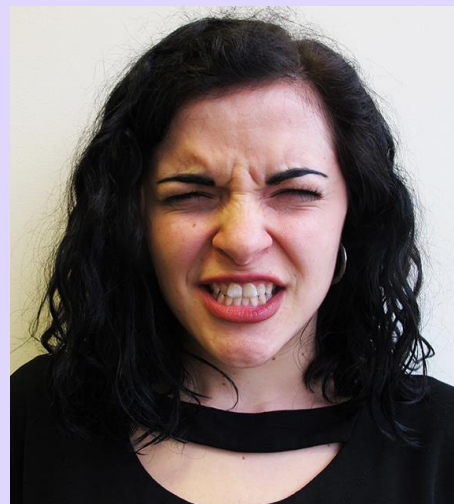
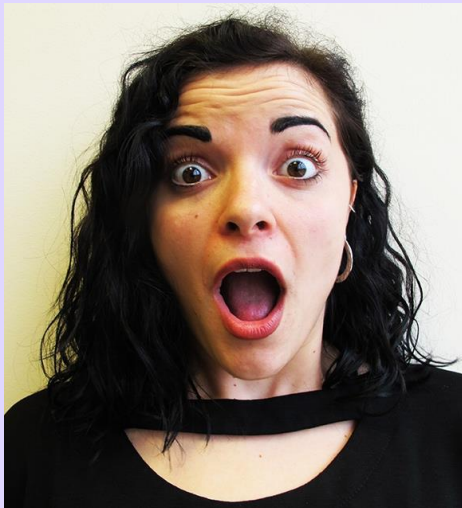
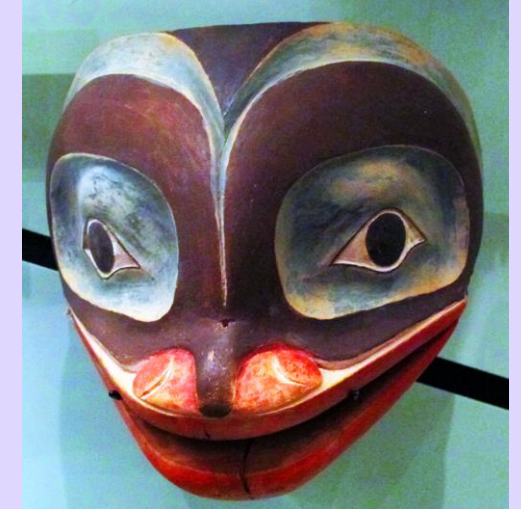
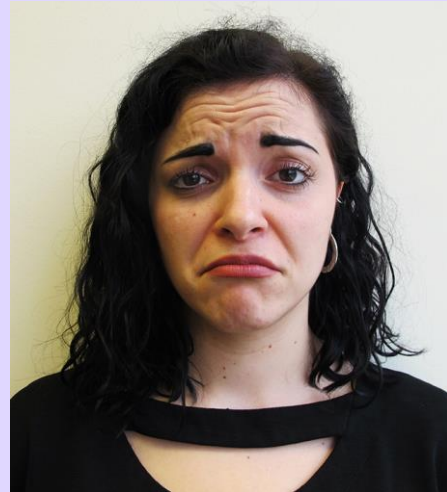
Eye Mask Resources:

scissors, card, paper, Modroc, paint & brush, crayons, glue, scrap paper, material, feathers etc.

Mask Making : Cut out shape to fit face & decorate! Add elastic to wear. (Photographs: June Bianchi)

Level 1 & 2 Learning Activities: Expressive Faces/Masks

- ▶ Can you match the expressive faces from Theme 3A to these masks?
- ▶ Design some masks based on your own expressive faces. (Photographs: June Bianchi)



Level 2 Learning Activities: Tissue & Gummed-tape Mask

- ▶ Create a portrait, animal or fantasy face mask inspired by cultural & contemporary art masks.
- ▶ Develop drama performances based on stories of the characters you have chosen.



Millenium Masks, 2000.
Community Art Project UK.



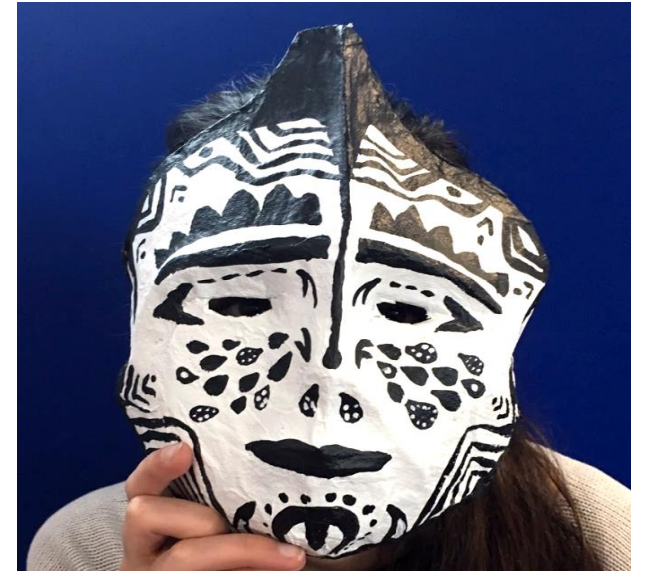
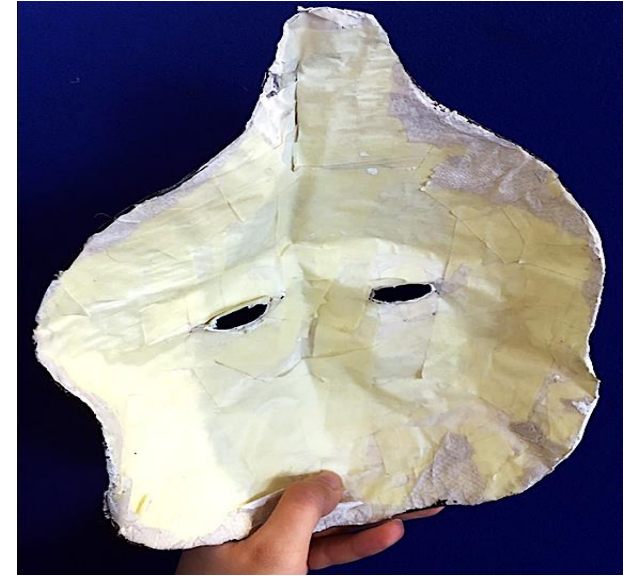
Resources: tissue paper sheet, gummed-tape, scissors, PVA glue
Mask Making: Cover face with tissue sheet & shape with gummed-tape.

Watch Video: BSU Tissue & Gummed-tape Portrait Mask
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DFi2a04Rz3Y&feature=youtu.be>

Level 2 Learning Activities: Tissue & Gummed-tape Mask



Cut mask to fit face and edge with gummed-tape. Decorate!



Levels 2 & 3: Masks in Contemporary Art



Mai-Thu Perret, *The Blazing World*, 2019.
The exhibition presents a range of artwork including animal masks - it explores magic, the oppression of women, and politics.



June Bianchi, *Scarves Reveal & Conceal*, 2008.
The exhibition explores the personal and social significance of scarves/veils and features 4 portrait life-masks of the artist.

Levels 2 & 3: Cultural Performance Masks

- ▶ What is the role of these masks: disguise, expressivity, transformation, cultural/spiritual meaning?



Sri Lanka:
Thotsakan Demon King 19C.



Nigeria: Okorosia
Masquerage 19C.



Canada: Haida Giwai:
Eagle Mask 19C.



Malabar, India: Karinjamundi
Theyyam ritual mask 20C.

(Photographs: June Bianchi)

Levels 2 & 3: Kathakali Performance - Kerala, India



Kathakali developed in Southern India around 17C. It incorporates classical dance, martial arts, music and spirituality. Facial structures and symbolic coloured makeup turn performers' faces into expressive masks.

Watch Kathakali Facial Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rne2xXCzEmA&list=RDRne2xXCzEmA&index=1>

Watch Kathakali Makeup Ceremony Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwiLwsgicno>

(Photographs: June Bianchi)



Level 2 & 3 Students in UK studied Kathakali dance & traditions with Kathakali performer, Kalamandalam Vijayakumar and recreated the costumes & performance:

‘Kathakali is a sacred dance... I now understand the symbolism of colours in the costumes & makeup, the meaning of the costumes, colours, and masks though the performance and workshops. I enjoyed seeing how emotions could be conveyed through movement’ Vicki 12 years

Levels 2 & 3: Performance -Dogon Dama Ceremony, Mali



Masked Dance (CC BY-SA4.0)

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pays_Dogon_\(73\).JPG](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pays_Dogon_(73).JPG)



Masque Walu (CC BY-SA3.0)

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:DogonWalu_03.JPG



Dogonland (CC BY-SA2.0)

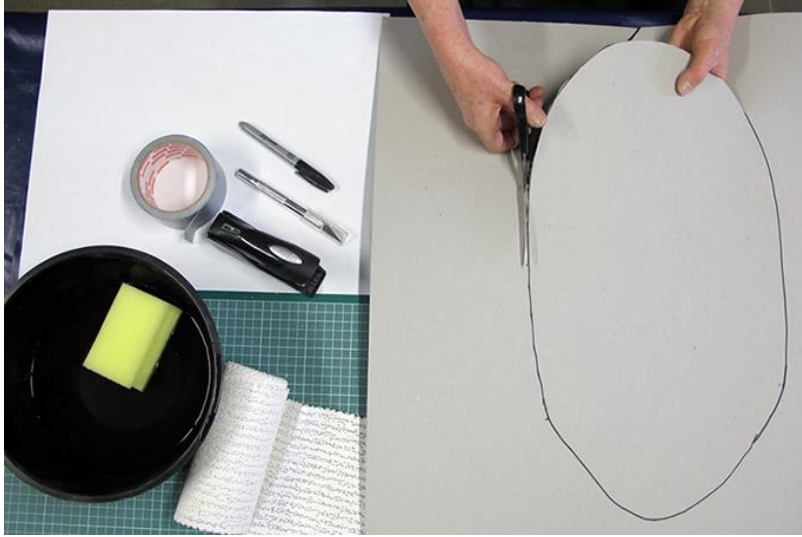
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Dogonland-Tanzmaske.jpg>

Face to Face Africa: The Malian Dogon people's Dama masks and dances, provide a connection for them between the earthly realm and their belief in an afterlife in heaven.

<https://face2faceafrica.com/article/fascinating-dogon-mask-dances-mean>

Watch Dogon Dama Ceremony Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=whAY9R-_7ac

Level 2 & 3 Learning Activities: Card & Modroc Mask



Mask inspired by Dogon Dama Ceremony:

Resources: card, stapler, tape, scissors, modroc or paper mache, paint

Mask Making: Cut card and shape using stapler & tape; add features & cut eye holes; cover with Modroc/paper mache; paint.

(Photographs: June Bianchi)



Level 2 & 3: Masks inspired by Dogon Dama Ceremony



**Masks inspired by Dogon Dama Ceremony: card, modroc & additional materials.
Create masks & devise dance & drama performances responding to Dogon performances.**

(Photographs: June Bianchi)

Level 2 & 3 Learning Activities: Withy/Wire Body Mask



Resources: *withies (bendable canes) or wire, masking tape, scissors, tissue paper, PVA glue, paint.*

Mask Making: Bend wire or withies to make large mask-frame to cover face & body; use masking tape & string to join; cover with tissue paper or paper mache using PVA glue to apply. Decorate.

(Photographs: June Bianchi)

Level 2 & 3: Withy/Wire Body Masks



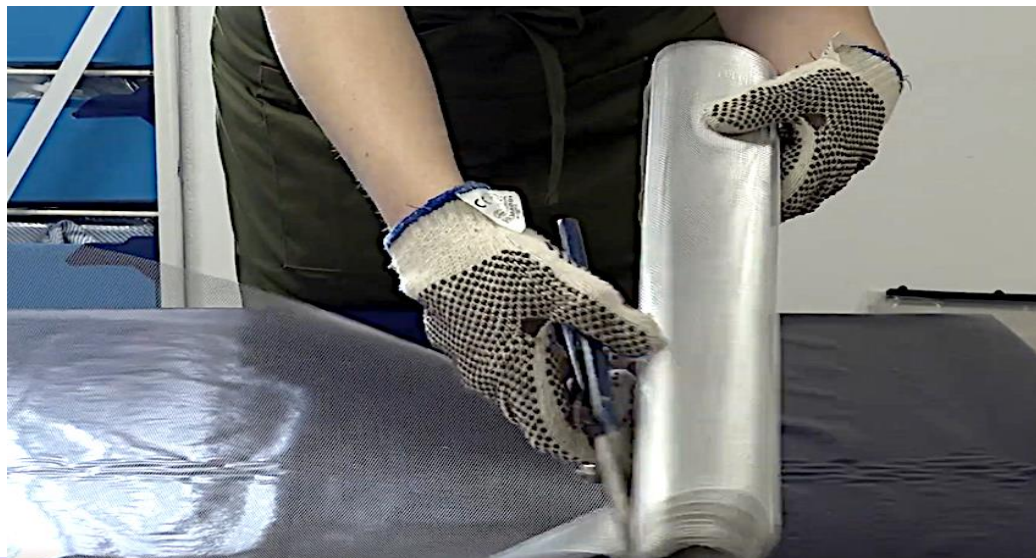
Mask Making: create a cast of characters.

Performance: develop plays and masked performances based on cultural and personal stories. Perform in different environments.

(Photographs: June Bianchi)

Level 3 Learning Activities: Wire Mesh Mask

Watch BSU Wire Mesh Head-dress Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yDSh8JxeeiQ&feature=youtu.be>



Resources: wire mesh, wire-cutters, protective gloves, tape, Modroc or paper mache, paint, brushes.

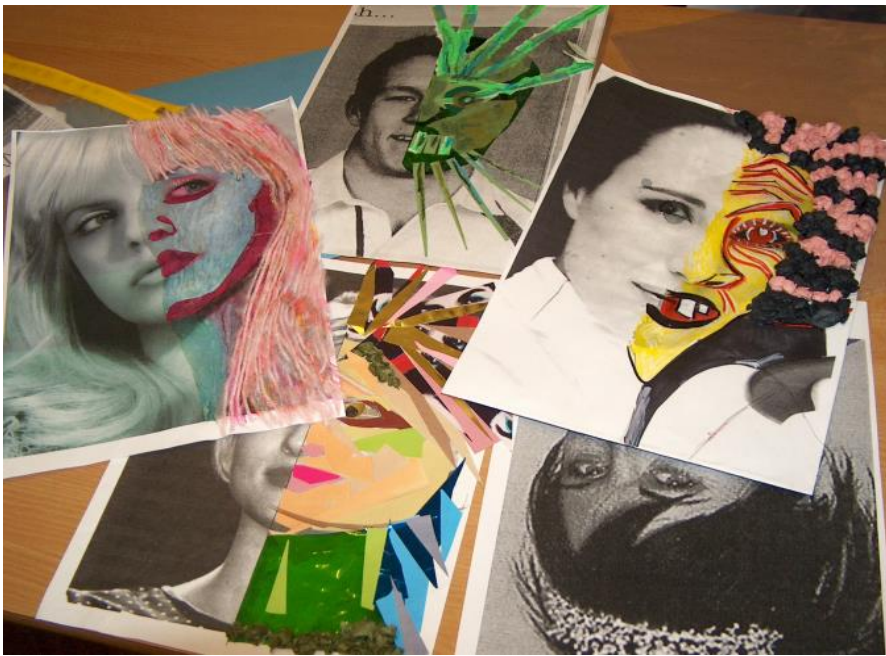
Mask Making: protect hands with gloves when cutting wiremesh mask-frame; join with tape; add Modroc/paper mache; tape edges to avoid sharp wire. Paint.

Level 3: Wire Mesh Mask



Masked performance: costume can be attached to the mask





Level 3: Jekyll & Hyde Identity Masks

Students explore positive & negative aspects of identity creating 'Jekyll & Hyde' masks of celebrities & self-portraits of themselves.

Resources: paper, card, colouring & collage materials, scissors, glue

Watch Jekyll & Hyde Transformation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uN4Di8DEPf8>



Further Learning Resources

- ▶ Faction of Fools, Commedia Dell'Arte, USA

<http://www.factionoffools.org/>

- ▶ Masks at Pitt Rivers Museum, UK

<https://www.prm.ox.ac.uk/masks.html>

- ▶ Prica Lica Puppets & Masks in Education

<https://www.pricalica.org/puppets-and-masks>

- ▶ Vamos Masked Theatre Company, UK.

<https://www.vamostheatre.co.uk/>

- ▶ Western Union: 10 Cultural World Masks

<https://www.westernunion.com/blog/cultural-masks-of-the-world/>