

MASK-MAKING

Masks can be made through many media including ceramics, papier mache, plaster, construction paper, etc. Masks are used in many cultures for religious rites, and can be used for concealment, disguise or even protection. They have been used in theater for centuries, as well as for storytelling and dramatic effect.

- a. Mask-making involves the physical process of the student using self-expression to create a face to express emotions (fear, sadness, joy, etc.) and later the ability to discuss the process itself.
- b. Masks can be symbolic or simply fun. They may involve traditional characters, as well as cartoon or fantasy characters, or even dramatic faces full of color and decoration.
- c. Mask-making can also accomplish the goal of **describing family members and other important influences in the student's life**. As the students creates the mask, he or she often discusses the subject of the mask as well as any stories behind that person.
- d. **The mask can also be made of one's self**. These may be shown in a series sequentially or one at a time. The masks may **tell a story**, and children are usually not hesitant to discuss the stories (either make-believe, real, or embellished). They enjoy explaining the thought processes, selection of materials and colors, and subject of masks as well.
- e. **Masks are a form of nonverbal communication in a visual form**. It does lead to fun way to promote self-exploration and can show who (or what) someone might like to be.

NAEA Standards: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 13.

