

African Mask Making

What you will need:

- Oval bowl or plastic container
- Clay or Plasticine or Salt Dough
- Clingfilm
- PVA glue
- Glue container and brush
- Newspaper
- Poster paint (black & brown)
- Raffia/thin strips of paper/wool/whatever you have
- Twine / string / wool
- Feathers (optional)
- Paper fasteners (optional)



African Mask Making

Stage 1:

Select an oval shaped bowl
or plastic tray

Shape the face features with
clay or plasticine and stick to
the base of the bowl



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Stage 2:

Cover the base of the bowl
with cling film

Shape the cling film around
the features and make sure
it covers the sides of the
bowl



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Stage 3:

Pour PVA glue into a large bowl and dilute with the same amount of warm water

Tear newspaper into narrow strips

Dip the newspaper strips into the diluted glue and layer over the mould

The warm water will help to soften and shape the newspaper strips



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Stage 4:

Dry the mask overnight and then carefully remove from the mould.

Gently pull the cling film and it will separate from the bowl



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Stage 5:

Trim the rough edges around the base of the mask with scissors



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Stage 6:

Mark eye holes with a pen and then use small scissors to cut out, with help from an adult.



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Stage 7:

Use a punch to make holes around the top and bottom of the mask to attach hair and beard.

Make a small hole on each side of the mask to attach elastic if you want to wear as a mask



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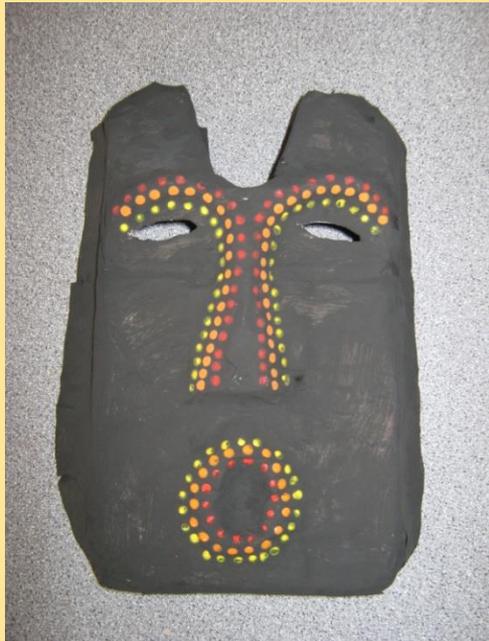
Stage 8:

Paint with brown poster paint or a colour of your choice. Paint a second coat if necessary. If you don't have any paint, you glue on small bits of coloured paper from a magazine to create a collage effect.



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Highlight features with darker paint or decorate with patterns



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Stage 9:

Use natural raffia (or thin paper strips, or wool – whatever you have) to make a beard. Take short strands and twist together to thread through a punched hole. Make a knot at the end of the raffia to prevent it falling back through the punched hole

You can push feathers into the raffia bundles (optional)



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Stage 10:

Thread short lengths of natural twine through the punched holes at the top of the mask. Knot the end of the twine and then separate the twine into thin strands



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Many African masks are carved from wood and are decorated with metal inlays. You can mimic the metal inlay by using paper fasteners (optional)

