

Queering Manchester Museum

Activity: Make your own mask

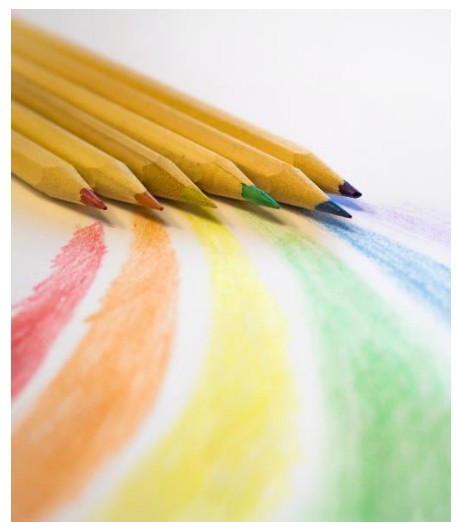
We often think of wearing a mask as a type of disguise. However, for thousands of years, in different cultures across the world, people have made and worn masks during celebrations, carnivals and rituals as a way to take on divine powers, to protect from harm or to reveal an aspect of their own identity.

In this activity, we invite you to make your own mask. Are you going to be a character from mythology, or are you going to make up your own imaginary creature? Perhaps think about whether there is something about yourself that you would like people to see.



You will need:

- A paper plate (or use a cereal box and draw round a plate and cut out)
- Scissors
- Pen or pencil
- Something to colour with
- Any additional materials for decoration; glitter, tissue paper, feathers, ribbons, etc.
- Glue
- Either: Masking tape and art straw or craft stick
- Or: Hole punch and string, wool or thin elastic



Instructions:

- Take the paper plate and draw the outline of the shape of your mask
- Draw out where the eye holes will be (and the nose and mouth if necessary)
- Cut out the shape; an adult will supervise or do this for you



- If your mask requires ears, a beak or any other additions, these can be cut out and attached now, using glue or tape.
- You can now paint, colour and decorate your mask. Be as creative as you like!



- You can then either attach an art straw or craft stick to the bottom or side of the mask, so that it can be held by hand in front of the face, or hole punch the edges and attach string, wool, ribbon or thin elastic so that it fastens securely and comfortably around the head.

For more ideas, including some easy to use templates, have a look at:

<https://artfulparent.com/how-to-make-paper-plate-masks/>

<https://www.coolcrafts.com/diy-paper-mask-designs/>

<https://www.bakerross.co.uk/craft-ideas/kids/paper-plate-dinosaur-mask/>

<https://www.dltk-kids.com/world/greece/index.htm>