



LESSON 8 LEVEL A MASKS

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:
folding; cutting; pasting and
simple paper sculpture

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:
colored construction paper
30.5 x 30.5 cm.(12"x 12");
scraps of other colored papers,
patterned and plain; scissors;
paste; "junk treasures" such
as, ribbons, rick rack, beads
etc.; a moist sponge.

"TIPS": Since young children
sometimes have difficulty
seeing clearly from behind a
mask, this mask is intended to
be worn on top of the head.
Many cultures have created
such masks to be worn with
costumes in ceremonies and
festivals. Build your child's
understanding of masks with a
visit to a museum or look in
the library to see masks of this
type. Supervise your child to
be sure skills and work habits
with scissors and paste are
developing well.

mask, you can pretend to be something different from your everyday self. Today you will make a special kind of mask. You can wear it on top of your head. Then you can see where you are going and still use your imagination.

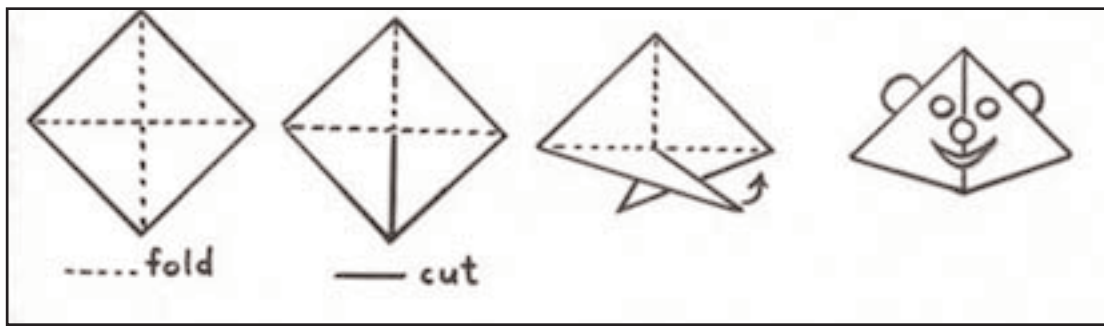
A PYRAMID MASK: A Mask to be Worn on Top of the Head



Frigate Bird Mask Papua, New Guinea
Metropolitan Museum of Art New York NY

GETTING STARTED: What is a
mask for? When do people wear
masks? Why do children wear masks
at Halloween? There are many
reasons for masks besides fun. Often
masks are worn for protection, as in
hospitals or for sports or games.
Sometimes masks are used in dance
festivals or special ceremonies.
Sometimes they are used to hide
ones face so a person can seem to be
somebody else. When you wear a





1. Fold a square of paper diagonally. To do this, put one corner on top of the opposite corner and hold

it there. With your other hand, press down and crease the paper to make a long, smooth fold. Unfold the paper. Now make another diagonal fold between the other two corners. Open the fold. Flatten out the paper.

2. Use your scissors to cut carefully along one of the crease lines just to the middle, where the folds make an **x**. You should now be able to pull the triangle on one side of the cut over the triangle on the other side of the cut. Do this and bend the folds to make a pyramid.

3. Spread some paste on one of the triangles by the cut. Overlap the other triangle and press the two together. Let them dry while you make some other features to decorate your mask.

4. Fold a scrap of colored paper in half and cut out a circle or triangle shape as big as your fist. You will find that you have made *two* shapes that you can use for eyes on your mask. Do not paste them on yet, though.



10 Examples of Pyramid Masks

5. Make a nose shape to go between the eyes along one ridge of the pyramid mask. What else will you need. . .eyebrows? a mouth? a mustache? ears? earrings? Cut out all the parts you will need.

6. Decide where each part will go on the pyramid. One at a time, put a little paste in the middle of each piece. Spread it carefully to the edges and fasten it down. Wipe your fingers often on a damp sponge or paper towel to keep your mask clean.

7. If you want to, add some trimmings. . .beads, ribbons, jewels.

8. Try on your mask. Look in a mirror to see how it changes you. Is there anything else you want to add to the mask?

CLEAN-UP: Wash your hands. Put the scissors and paste away. Save the big scraps and throw away the rest.

TALK ABOUT IT: Where will you wear your mask? What would you do differently if you could make another one?

MORE IDEAS: 1. Use a stapler to add other trimmings to the pyramid mask: raffia, strips of bright cloth, colored yarn and so on.
2. Make tiny masks for toys like action figures, stuffed animals or dolls.

CONNECTIONS: 1. There are many story books about masks and their uses in different cultures. Share some together.
2. Choose some music and make up a dance to do while you wear your pyramid hat on top of your head.

