



## African Masks

(Target Audience: 9-12)

In Africa, masks can have human faces, animal faces or a mixture of both. Ceremonial masks are almost always accompanied by singing and dancing. The moment a dancer puts on a mask he stops being himself and starts being the animal he represents. This mask project includes a face mask with ears that is supported on a head band so that it is easy to wear.

### Supplies:

- Scissors
- Bristol board (grey, brown, yellow)
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Poster paint (grey, black, blue)
- Brushes
- Stapler
- Tape

### Instructions:

1. From the bristol board make a head band 2 inches wide and 30 inches long. Fit the band to the head and tape or staple the ends together.
2. For the face mask, cut a rectangle approximately 16 inches long and 9 inches wide.
3. Cut 2 long slits for the eyes.
4. Cut 2 long narrow strips for the ears and tape or staple them to the top of the mask.
5. Attach the mask to the head band.
6. Paint designs, circles, bands of lines etc., on your mask. Zigzag lines on the antlers represent water.

For more information try this site:

#### Africa for Kids

<http://pbskids.org/africa/mask/index.html>

Shows you how to create an antelope mask online and gives background to the culture. You can also listen to the music and see the dance.

#### Africa

[http://www.pbs.org/wnet/africa/explore/sahel/sahel\\_music\\_lo.html](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/africa/explore/sahel/sahel_music_lo.html)

This site gives you more information on Mali and Africa. You can also listen to the music played at Dogon ceremonies.

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