

Renaissance Masks

Lesson by Sue Lindemulder

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During the renaissance, members of aristocracy often amused themselves with dances known as "balls." Young women were not allowed to dance with gentlemen that they did not know. However, if everyone wore a mask it was acceptable to dance with strangers on the pretense that you might know them after all.

Objectives

- 1) To introduce students to a form of decoration that was used during the renaissance.
- 2) Through examples, encourage students to decorate with emphasis on repetitive lines, shapes, and/or texture or pattern.

Vocabulary and terms for further study

Renaissance

Aristocracy

Ball

Mask

Materials

- paper (tag board, construction paper, copy paper and cereal boxes or lightweight cardboard)
- scissors
- pencils
- mask pattern
- sequins and/or glitter
- feathers
- yarn or string
- skewers (cut off points) or dowels
- glue (optionally a glue gun)
- single hole punch

Procedure

- 1) Trace the pattern on to tag board (or if you are using copy paper, then trace a second copy onto a cereal box and glue them together). Cut out pattern. Note: You may want to have a large number of patterns pre-cut, especially if dealing with young children and/or a limited time frame.
- 2) Cut the out eye holes and cut on the side marks A and B. Overlap the edges so that A is over A and glue in place. Repeat with the B flap. Trim any overhang if necessary to make the mask smooth on the edges. Cut on nose lines and attach flap under nose with glue. The mask should now have a 3 dimensional curve to it.
- 3) Decorate using:
 - A) colored markers or crayons
 - B) Glitter and/or sequins
 - C) Feathers
 - D) Older students may want to extend the face. Other ideas include adding features like horns, ears, hat or moustache.
 - E) Curls can be added with ribbon or yarn
- 4) When decoration is complete, use a single hole punch to punch holed 1/2 inch from the edge, parallel to the eyes. Tie about 12 inches of string or yarn to each hole so that the mask can be tied in place. Optionally, two holes may be punched about 1 inch apart on the same side in order to thread the end of a skewer or dowel through. This option creates a hand held mask on a stick.

