

Tribal Mask

As Africa is continuing to modernize, certain aspects of the African culture are becoming lost. African masks are one aspect of African culture. There are numerous types of African mask produced by the various tribes and people of Africa. Ritual and ceremonial masks are an important part of most African cultures.

In this activity, you will:

- research different types of African masks in order to help you design and create your own
- You will also be responsible for sharing your research and your rationale for your design in a written response that is 2 paragraphs in length.

Mask Design

Your mask design should be based on traditional African design. You may use a variety of materials to create your mask. The materials do not need to be traditional African materials.

Written Response

Your written response should be in paragraph format, with accurate, detailed supporting evidence.

Paragraph 1 should include concrete detail and commentary about

- why masks were important in African tradition,
- what the shapes and design elements (for example eyes, nose, mouth, hair or horns) of masks symbolized in traditional African culture,
- what materials were used to make traditional masks

Paragraph 2 should include concrete detail and commentary about

- what the shape of your mask represents
- what the design elements (for example eyes, nose, mouth, hair or horns) of your mask represent

Collect your research notes here:

Information about why masks were important in African tradition:

Information about what the mask shapes and design elements (for example eyes, nose, mouth, hair or horns) symbolized in traditional African culture

Information about what materials were used to make traditional masks

Sketch of your mask design:
Think about what the shape and design elements represent

Why did you choose the shape of your mask?

Why did you decide to include certain design elements in your mask?

Use this graphic organizer to organize your writing:

Paragraph 1:

Intro or Hook: Start your paragraph with a little known fact about traditional African masks or a question that will get your reader's attention.

Background information: Provide information about why masks were important in African tradition, what the shapes and design elements of traditional African masks represented, and what materials were used to make masks.

Thesis/Claim: State how the shape and design elements of a mask had symbolic meaning in traditional African culture.

Paragraph 2: Describe the decisions that you made when designing your mask.. State your rationale for choosing to make you mask with this shape and these design elements.

Topic Sentence: Introduce your African mask and the materials it is made from.

Concrete Details (C.D.) and Commentary (C) - Expand upon your topic sentence. What shape did you choose for your mask? Why did you choose this shape? What design elements did you choose for your mask? Why did you choose these elements?

C.D. #1 _____

C # 1 _____

C.D. #2 _____

C # 2 _____

C.D. #3 _____

C # 3 _____

Concluding Sentence: (Sum it up) How is your mask similar to a traditional African tribal mask?

The final draft of your article is due on **Friday, November 20th, 2015.**

*Your final draft must be either hand written in pen or typed.