

MAKE YOUR OWN AFRICAN MASK

Before you begin you might want to learn more about Africa and African masks. Take what you have learned and create your own mask. Pablo Picasso was a great artist who was inspired by African masks. Visit your library. Get inspired and enjoy!

Use the pattern (or make your own) to cut out the basic shape out of heavy paper or cardboard...or have an adult help you.

Before you decorate your mask, practice on scrap paper.

You can use markers, pencils or even paint. You can cut out pieces of paper and glue them to your mask. (Many of the African masks have geometric patterns and colors that have a special meaning. The color red-ochre signified life, or yellow ochre and blue were also used.) Think about what colors and shapes you would use and what they mean to you.

You can punch holes around the edges of your mask and tie raffia, string, yarn or ribbon so that it hangs down. You can glue on pebbles, shells, sticks and even buttons or beads.

Get creative and make it your mask. Think about your choices for colors, shapes and how you will decorate your mask. What ritual or celebration will you use it for? My son and his friends made them for his 7th birthday and had a scavenger hunt!

For more mask patterns visit:

<http://pbskids.org/africa>

This PBS site is a great site for kids. They can make a mask, a thumb piano, hear a story and learn about Africa. There are great links for teachers too.

