Carnival Masks

Senior (9-12 years)

What we are going to do:

Use your imagination to create a colourful patterned carnival mask.

What you will need:

- Cardstock paper
- Markers
- scissors
- glue
- popsicle stick or string
- pencil

What you can also use:

- sparkles, glitter and sequins
- feathers
- coloured paper

Carnival

Carnival masks have been used for centuries. When someone puts a mask on you don't know their true identity – it becomes a way to hide. In Venice, Italy there is an annual carnival where everyone dresses up and wears masks to celebrate and party in the city streets. In the past masks would conceal the wearers social status, and would most likely in turn give them more freedom. However, there are many other carnivals around the world where people celebrate and wear masks.

Take a look at some of the masks above. Masks are usually created so they are symmetrical; meaning one side mirrors the other side making them the same. This type of Symmetry creates balance. Today you will have the opportunity to play with Symmetry creating your own mask. Masks can be all shapes and sizes, as well as having different themes. Try to think of what kind of mask you want to create.

TOWN OF
HALTON HILLS

The first step for making your mask is to draw the shape. This can be done a couple different ways, the first is on the last page of this document there is mask a template you can simply print off. Secondly, you can take your paper and trace over the screen of the computer, or lastly you could try to draw this shape by looking at the mask below- it doesn't have to be exactly the same, just try to keep it approximately the same size.

You can use cardstock, coloured or regular printer paper for this activity.

2
DRAW YOUR DESIGN

Now it's time to design your mask! With a pencil draw what shape you want your mask to have. Below I've added some areas where I want my mask to have feathers coming up and also angles coming up on the sides. Then start to add pattern. If you want to make your mask symmetrical add the same elements on both sides. Use simple shapes and lines to make your mask more visually interesting.

After you've added all your designs you have the option to outline your lines in black marker.

3
COLOUR IN THE SPACE

Now you're ready to add colour to your masks!

Use markers to add different colours to your design, use as much or as little colour as you wish. you can also add sparkles, sequins or feathers to your mask at this time too. Use your imagination and be creative with this step. I used sequins in the circles on the mask on the right as well as gold glitter through the middle section and on the top corners.

4

CUT OUT THE MASK

It's time for the final step. Use your scissors to cut out the shape of the mask including the eyes.

Now attach a stick to the backside so you'll be able to hold your mask up to your face. You could also poke a hole on either side and attach string through, so the mask could be tied around your face.

Mask Template