

**GRADE 4 - 8 LESSON PLAN
MEDIEVAL MASK – CLAY SCULPTING**

Lesson Plan Information	
Grade: 4 - 8	
Subject: Arts (Visual Arts, Drama)	
Social Studies (Heritage)	
Science and Tech (Understanding Matter and Energy)	
Language Arts	
Duration: 2 hours	

Lesson Plan Overview and Objectives
<p>Students will create a clay Medieval Mystery Mask, invent a role for their medieval character, and apply the critical analysis process to communicate feelings, ideas, and understandings.</p> <p>Students will use appropriate terminology related to properties of clay, assess historic and contemporary examples for a chosen mask, demonstrate an ability to construct a mask using a variety of clay techniques, develop a sense of 3D, and compare key aspects of life in the Medieval period.</p>

AT QUEEN ELIZABETH PARK COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL CENTRE

Medieval Mask – Clay Sculpting	
Materials	Clay, wire, ware boards, rolling pins, clay modeling tools, slip dishes, canvas cloth, plastic bags, glazes, brushes
Introduction Inspiration	<p>Pretend you must hide your identity from your friends or family. In order to do this you will need to wear a mask. What will your mask look like? Which character/person have you chosen to create from the Medieval period? Is your character good, evil, or a funny joker? How will you create eyes and a mouth to suggest your mask’s identity?</p> <p>Students sketch their mask. Students shade over textured materials to achieve desired look of character. For example: if the student has chosen a dragon or a princess as their character, they could use a piece of textured lace, place it under sketching paper, and then shade over it (the same textured material will also be used when creating the clay mask). Students draw eyes and a mouth as they envision their character. Students create Mystery Masks out of clay using clay techniques.</p> <p>Clay Techniques include score, slip, attach, roll, coil, tap and turn, proportional spacing of eyes, mouth, nose.</p> <p>Clay terms to cover are drying stages (plastic, leather hard, bone dry), building techniques (pinch pot, coil, slab built, relief), greenware, bisque, kiln, firing, scoring, clay slip, glaze.</p>
Demonstration	Play

Activity	<p>By playing with clay, children learn what the material can and cannot do. Children will touch, roll and form the clay. This will help them develop ideas and skills for when they begin their mask. Children receive a small lump of clay to experiment with. They should poke, pull, roll and make marks on it. They should pinch, attach more clay and add texture. The instructor shows clay shapes and forms (previously made) and shows the group how to make the forms.</p> <p>The group will sit in a circle while the children follow simple instructions: make the clay into a round ball, poke a hole in it, make a pattern over it with your fingernail, pull a piece off, roll it into a ball and attach it again. Children will start to see the clay as a 3D form that needs to be looked at from every angle.</p> <p>Demonstration by the clay instructor The clay instructor will explain the characteristics of clay, and how it can be used to build a structure. The instructor will demonstrate clay techniques (coiling, pinch pot, and slab) and discuss adding clay to their pieces by scratch and slip.</p> <p>Building Based on the instruction and demonstration, students will make their mask based on their idea sketches, lesson, or inspirational images.</p> <p>Ceramic Process and Terminology</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-end;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><i>greenware</i></p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><i>bisque ware (one firing, no slip or glaze)</i></p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><i>slip glazed</i></p> </div> </div>
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FOR TEACHER AT SCHOOL – PRE-VISIT ACTIVITY

Pre-Visit Activity	Introduction to Medieval Theatre and the Mystery Mask
Materials	Examples of the music from medieval period: www.youtube.com/watch?v=1RBj-Yc4okY www.youtube.com/watch?v=tUR6zJcQ6MA
Introduction	
<p>During the Medieval period (5th to 15th century) the art of theatre was developed. There are five important types of drama from the Medieval period that have a significant impact on the way theatre is practiced today. These types of drama are often referred to as "The Ms of Medieval Drama."</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mummings: These plays were short and were meant to be humorous so there was always a clown, a joker. 2. Mystery play: a play that had a religious base. 3. Miracle play: a drama that recounted the life of a saint. 	

4. Morality play: characters who taught a moral lesson.
5. Manners: These plays were the first to take religion out of plays.

When we wear a mask we disguise ourselves. In Medieval times, masks were first used in Mystery Plays for actors to hide their identity and convince the audience of the being or character they were portraying. The actors would use their voice and body movements to create and explore the character. Originally, Mystery Plays were enacted in churches. Then they moved to outdoor stages or “pageants” that would be on wagons and move from location to location. Many of these plays contained comedy, devils, dragons, villains, and clowns. Mystery Plays used masks that were first constructed out of papier-mâché and later out of leather (show examples of the Mystery Mask). Some of the masks used in plays could blow fire and smoke from behind them. The devils and dragons became very popular due to their grotesque faces, fangs, and snouts.

Activity

Ask students to list the various people/characters from the Medieval period that they have studied. Using a white board, list students’ suggestions.

knight, queen/king, prince/princess, peasant, squire, page, harlequin, demon, evil dragon

Play music from the Medieval era, for example Medieval Battle Music - Dragon’s Lair. Have students close their eyes and imagine some of the people/characters from the Medieval period. Whose identity would they choose? Students listen to the Medieval music and visualize their character.

FOR TEACHER BACK AT SCHOOL – POST-VISIT ACTIVITIES

Post-Visit Activity	Painting (optional), artist reflection question
Materials	Paint, brush, craft materials
Mixed Media – Finishing the masks	
Students can add features onto their masks, such as feathers, pipe cleaners and yarn. It is important to add texture and features to your Mystery Mask in order for its identity to be revealed and stand out! <i>Remember the important characteristic of all Masks is that it hides true identities but reveals another being!</i>	
Artist Reflection	
Students describe how they created their masks.	
How has the study of the Medieval Era influenced the creation of your Mystery Mask?	
What was the inspiration for creating their work? What do they like best about their finished work?	

FOR TEACHER REFERENCE ONLY – CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS**Cross Curricular and Integrated Learning** Arts (Drama, Dance), Language Arts (Writing)**Writing – A short play**

Working in groups of 4, students use their Medieval Mask and write short plays based on their mask identity. Students present plays to their class.

Curriculum Expectations**The Arts** (Visual Art)*Fundamental Concepts:*

Elements of Design (line, shape and form, space, colour, texture, value)

Principles of Design

Grade 4: Emphasis

Grade 5: Proportion

Grade 6: Balance

Grade 7: Unity and Harmony

Grade 8: Movement

Social Studies (Heritage and Identity)

Topic Grade 4: Early Societies, 3000BCE-1500CE

Science and Tech (Understanding Matter and Energy)

Topic Grade 5: Properties of and Changes in Matter

Topic Grade 6: Electricity and Electrical Devices