



Objective

The objective is to gain a wider perspective about holidays in a variety of different cultures.

Materials

An array of feathers,
fabrics, beads, ribbons, and
other creative materials
Glue
Scissors
Paint and Paint Brushes

Vaseline

Plaster bandages
(available at craft stores)

Preparation

1. Research different holidays that occur around the same time in different cultures. For example, we celebrate Halloween in the U.S. and some Latin American cultures observe the Day of the Dead.
2. Cut plaster bandages into 2" strips.

Activity Session 1

1. Get into pairs. The partners will take turns making plaster casts of each others faces.
2. Apply vaseline to the face of the partner whose mask will be created first.
3. That student will lie down and the other will place the strips of plaster bandage that have been dipped in water across their partner's face, leaving eyes, nose and mouth uncovered. Build up three layers of bandage.
4. Leave bandages on face for about 5 minutes to harden. The plaster will heat up as it undergoes a chemical change to harden.
5. Once the mask is hardened, gently pry it off the child's face.
6. Repeat process steps 2-5 for second partner.

Activity Session 2

1. Paint the hardened masks using colors and symbols appropriate to the holiday / culture discussed. Incorporate other materials as decoration such as feathers, beads and ribbons.

Discussion

Have a discussion about the different holidays and the cultural significance behind the masks that could be used for them. Special attention should be paid to Halloween, Mardi Gras, St. Patrick's Day, and El Dia De Los Santos. The religious and cultural aspects of these holidays should be explained, and any colors used to represent these holidays should also be discussed.



Decorating your mask

