



Paper Plate Mask

Let's make a simple mask using a paper plate.

First, decide what kind of mask it's going to be. Do you want it to be a scary mask, or do you want to look beautiful? You could make a mask of a character - such as an old man, or a baby.



Equipment

1. A paper plate that is large enough to fit over your face. You can buy these from most supermarkets.
2. Some thick paper or cardboard.
3. Some felt-tip pens, coloured pencils, paints and brushes. Acrylic paints are best, but you can use watercolours too.
4. A pair of scissors, some glue and a stapler.
5. A length of elastic or string (about 1 metre long).
6. A variety of other materials to decorate your mask, such as buttons or bottle tops (for eyes), wool or cotton balls (for beards and hair), tissue paper, scraps of material, feathers, sequins and beads or glitter.

Safety Stuff

Working with items such as scissors and staplers can be dangerous, so be very careful when you use them. Make sure that you never leave them open or lying around where smaller children can reach them. Be particularly careful when you are using the stapler.

Before starting to make any of the masks, cover the work surface you're going to use with some newspaper or an old cloth and make sure that you are wearing an apron or some old clothes. Glue can get everywhere!

When you've made your mask, remember that masks can make it difficult to see, so be especially careful when you're wearing it, especially near stairs. Running while wearing a mask isn't a good idea either!

Steps

Step One

Hold the front of the paper plate to your face and carefully mark on the back of the plate where your eyes (and mouth) are.

(If you don't have a paper plate, you can make a card circle and use that for the mask instead. Draw round a circular object such as a plate on the cardboard and cut out the shape with scissors.)

Remove the mask and then use a pair of scissors to cut out the eye and mouth holes on the plate where the marks are. (Make sure that the eyes are at the top.)



Step Two

Decide what character you want to be, and then use the items you have collected to paint and decorate your mask.

Start by colouring in the paper plate using felt-tip pens, paints or coloured pencils. When the paint is dry, you can select materials to use as eyes, nose, hair and a mouth. You could use wool or cotton balls for hair, a Styrofoam cup for a nose, or a tinfoil tray to make a small hat for a clown, for example. Use the thick paper or card to cut out the shape of a sad or smiling mouth, and then glue these onto your paper plate.



Step Three

You can use anything to decorate your mask, so really use your imagination to create the face.

The items you have collected may suggest a character to you - try making a clown, a pirate, a chef, a policeman, or even a bandit!

Can you think of things that you could use to make a mask of a very old man? How could you make the 'skin' look old and wrinkly?



Step Four

When you have finished decorating your mask, attach some string or elastic to it so that you can wear it.

Ask an adult to help you with this, as you will need to measure how much elastic or string you'll need to go around your head. You can attach the elastic to the edge of the plate using glue or staples.



Step Five

Your mask is now ready to wear!

Can your friends guess who or what you are? If any of your friends have made masks, you may want to plan a short play using your new characters. Remember to be careful when walking around, because masks can make it difficult to see.