

## Make an African Mask



In many West African cultures, a mask is not just an object but may be brought to life through dance and performance. When a mask transforms someone's appearance, the design of the mask gives us clues about the kind of character they are creating. Create your own mask that says something special about you.

### Materials

- paper plate (or oak tag or cardstock)
- scissors
- glue
- yarn
- hole punch (optional)
- colored scrap paper
- natural materials such as feathers or raffia

### Instructions

1. Think of an animal or design that you think represents an aspect of your personality. This will be the inspiration for your mask.
2. Draw your mask outline onto a paper plate or a large piece of oak tag or cardstock. Make sure it will fit your face.
3. Cut your mask out, including holes for the eyes.
4. Use colored and print paper, feathers, and raffia, along with glue and scissors to decorate the mask.
5. When your mask is complete, cut or punch holes on either side of the mask. Tie long strings of raffia or ribbon to the holes on the sides of the mask, so it can be worn. Put on your mask and dance to bring your mask to life.