



LEARN SOMETHING NEW
EACH WEEK ON OUR
WORLD OF WONDER PAGES!

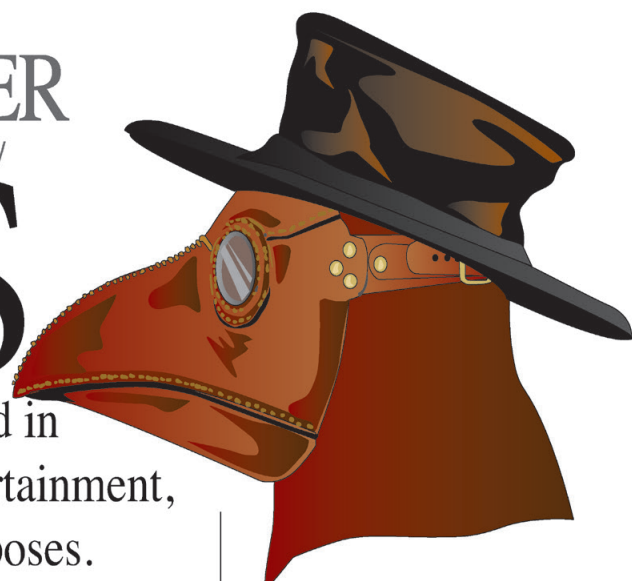


WORLD OF WONDER

Exploring the realms of history, science, nature and technology

MASKS

Since ancient times, masks have served in religious ceremonies, as camouflage, as entertainment, as protection and for other practical purposes. The imagery of masks is as diverse as the many materials they have been crafted from.



Plague doctors wore a special mask with a beak filled with herbs, perfumes and spices intended to purify the air that the doctor breathed when near infected patients.

Halloween masks

The tradition of wearing **Halloween masks** began as a way to avoid being recognized by ghosts who roamed the world on Halloween. People wore masks outside their homes, hoping they would be mistaken for fellow spirits.

Ceremonial masks

Ceremonial and ritual masks are found throughout the world and often represent spirits, ancestors, gods or animals. These magical or religious masks are used to make a spiritual connection.

Africa

African masks are beautiful works of art and have become highly valuable collector's items. They can be found in museums and art galleries around the world.

African masks are usually worn by a dancer, who is thought to be in communication with or possessed by the spirit depicted on the mask.

Asia

In many parts of Asia, masks had religious purposes or were part of traditional theater.

Chinese theater traditionally uses masks of different colors to represent character types. For example, a red mask is symbolic of a loyal person, and a white mask represents a cruel one.

Native American

Native American masks have traditionally been used in religious and spiritual dances, for medical purposes and for entertainment and storytelling.

The Northwest Coast Native Peoples are famous for their carved cedar masks that open to reveal a second face carved inside. The Hopi Peoples carve and paint wooden **kachina (spirit) masks**. The Navajo and Apache make leather masks for dancing.



Over the past couple of years, people around the world have been wearing surgical and dust masks in public spaces to help protect them from a highly contagious virus.

Concealment

Masks are often used as a form of disguise. A mask gives the wearer a way to change character, personality and mood. Because masks embody a sense of mystery, they can have a powerful effect on people — they can convey power and an essence of magic. In many societies, masks developed symbolic meanings and were used in religious rituals, celebrations and storytelling.

Party masks

Masks are also popular for masquerade parties, festivals and celebrations. Mardi Gras masks have been a part of American culture since the 17th century. In North America and some parts of Europe, masks remain an important Halloween tradition.

Death & life masks

Ancient Egyptian funereal masks were intended to strengthen and guard the soul on its journey to the afterworld.

The ancient Romans used wax-cast death masks as an homage to their ancestors and to prove family lineage.

In Western cultures (before photography), wax or plaster casts were taken of important people when they died. These death masks were used in burial rites or as a memento or a kind of portrait.

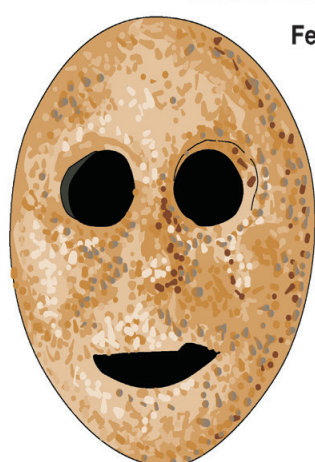
Life masks have been made to record the faces of important people and as sculpture.

Theatrical masks

Masks have been used by the entertainment world for centuries. The ancient Greek masks of comedy and tragedy have become symbols of the theater.

Practical masks

Surgical masks are worn to protect the wearer and others against airborne germs. Gas masks provide protection from fumes and toxic gases by filtering and purifying the air.



Stone Neolithic mask
This may be the oldest mask in the world.



Feather costume mask



Halloween monster mask



Tutankhamun's golden mask



Italian jester mask
Venice is famous for its painted leather carnival masks.



Chikunza mask
Chokwe people of Angola and Zambia
This **makishi** (ancestral spirit) mask might be used at a coming-of-age ceremony.



This **Chinese opera mask** is based on the ancient tradition of warriors using face paint to scare the enemy.



Napoleon Bonaparte's death mask

Olmec jade mask



Hindu mask, India



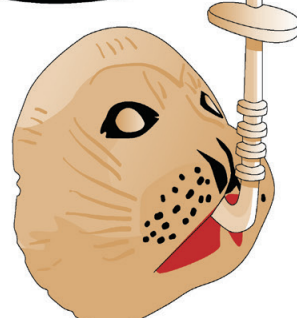
Abraham Lincoln life mask



Gas mask



Woven cornhusk mask
Lenape Delaware Valley



Inuit mask
(Seal blowing bubbles)

SOURCES: World Book Encyclopedia, World Book Inc.; <https://www.britannica.com>; <https://www.wikipedia.org>; National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution; www.masksottheworld.com

© 2022 Triefeldt Studios, Inc.
Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication

LEARN ABOUT **PARASITES** IN THE NEXT INSTALLMENT OF WORLD OF WONDER

CASA GRANDE
Dispatch

Serving Pinal County For More Than A Century

Newspapers
in Education



OUR WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION PAGE CAN BE A FUN LEARNING TOOL FOR YOUR KIDS. CHECK BACK EACH TUESDAY FOR A NEW, EXCITING TOPIC!

CASA GRANDE
Dispatch

TO SUBSCRIBE:
(520) 423-8685