



Masks in Theatre

Project Overview

Students will explore the tradition of using masks in ancient Greek theatre. Students will create their own masks and use them to explore movement and character.

California Content Standards in Theatre addressed in this unit:

2.0 CREATIVE EXPRESSION

Creating, Performing, and Participating in Theatre

Students apply processes and skills in acting, directing, designing, and scriptwriting to create formal and informal theatre, film/videos, and electronic media productions and to perform in them.

Development of Theatrical Skills

2.1 Use improvisation in rehearsal to discover character and motivation.

3.0 HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXT

Understanding the Historical Contributions and Cultural Dimensions of Theatre

Students analyze the role and development of theatre, film/video, and electronic media in past and present cultures throughout the world, noting diversity as it relates to theatre.

Role and Cultural Significance of Theatre

3.1 Design and create masks, puppets, props, costumes, or sets in a selected theatrical style drawn from world cultures, such as Javanese shadow puppets or Kabuki masks.

Project Goals

Knowledge and skills needed to master the standard:

(Vocabulary and Skills)

- Ancient Greek Theatre, Comedy and Tragedy Masks
- Skeupoios (mask makers)
- Metamorphosis
- Dionysus, Sophocles, Thespis, Tragedy, Comedy
- Acoustics
- Greek Chorus
- Choral Speech and Movement

Students will be able to:

(Processes)

- Identify why masks were used in ancient Greek theatre
- Design and create paper plate masks in the Greek tradition
- Integrate body movement with the style of the mask
- Produce a full, resonant speaking voice in a variety of acoustical settings
- Explore a group scene in the style of a Greek chorus with masks and movement.