

Mask Making Mania: Inspired by Character Design!

Let's dive into the world of character design and create our own amazing masks!

Part 1: What Makes a Character? (Art Appreciation - 15-20 mins)

Think about characters you know from games, movies, or books. What makes them stick in your mind? It's often their unique design!

1. **Discussion:** Look at some examples of character designs (you can use FNAF characters if you like, focusing on their general look). What shapes do you see? (Circles, squares, triangles?) What colors are used? (Bright? Dark? Contrasting?) What textures do they seem to have? (Smooth, metallic, furry, broken?) How does their expression or key features make you feel? (Scary, funny, sad?)
2. **Key Idea:** Artists use shape, color, texture, and expression deliberately to tell us about a character's personality or role in a story. Animatronic characters, like those in FNAF, often have very distinct designs combining animal features with mechanical parts, sometimes looking intentionally worn or creepy.

Part 2: Design Your Own Character Mask (Planning & Sketching - 20-30 mins)

Now it's your turn to be the designer! You're going to create a unique mask, *inspired* by the design elements we discussed. It doesn't need to be a copy of any existing character – make it your own!

1. **Brainstorm:** What kind of character do you want to create? (Animal? Robot? Monster? Something totally new?) What mood should it have? (Friendly? Mysterious? Wacky? Menacing?)
2. **Sketch:** On your paper, sketch out your mask idea. Think about:
 - **Basic Shape:** What's the overall shape of the head/face?
 - **Key Features:** What kind of eyes, nose, mouth, ears (if any) will it have? Make them interesting! Exaggerate them if you want.
 - **Details:** Will it have teeth, eyebrows, bolts, wires, patterns, textures? Sketch these in.
 - **Colors:** Plan out what colors you will use and where.

Part 3: Let's Build! (Mask Construction - 60-90 mins)

Time to bring your sketch to life!

1. **Base Prep:** Make sure your mask base fits comfortably. If needed, carefully cut out eye holes (get help if using sharp tools).
2. **Build Features:** Look at your sketch. Cut out the main shapes (like snouts, ears, eyebrows) from cardstock or craft foam. Use colors that match your plan.
3. **Assemble:** Glue these shapes onto your mask base. Don't be afraid to layer pieces to create a 3D effect! For example, glue eyebrows *over* the main face shape. Let glue dry as needed.
4. **Add Color & Texture:**
 - Use paint, markers, or colored paper/foam to add color according to your design. Think

about shading (adding darker tones in crevices) or highlights (lighter tones on raised areas) to make it look more three-dimensional.

- Add texture! Glue on felt for fur, use markers to draw wood grain or metallic scratches, crinkle paper before gluing it on, attach buttons for bolts, or carefully add pipe cleaners for wires. Be creative!

5. **Small Details:** Add the final touches – teeth cut from white foam/cardstock, painted details, etc.

Part 4: Finishing Touches (10 mins)

1. **Attachment:** Once everything is dry, carefully make small holes on the sides of the mask (an adult can help with this). Thread the elastic string or ribbon through the holes and tie knots so you can wear your mask. Adjust the length for a good fit.

Part 5: Reflection (5-10 mins)

Look at your finished mask!

- How does it compare to your original sketch?
- What part of the process did you enjoy the most?
- What was the most challenging part?
- What design choices did you make? Why did you choose those shapes, colors, and textures?
- What kind of character or mood do you think your mask creates?

Great job creating your own unique character mask!