

Making a Face Mask Design (adapted from [Masks, Identity and Bias](#))

In April 2020, we started to wear face masks to help protect everyone from COVID-19 but throughout history masks have been worn by many different cultures for different reasons. Masks are also used to look like different characters or on special occasions like Halloween. We can share part of our culture or identity when we put different designs on masks.

Objectives:

- Students identify the different purposes for wearing masks
- Students will create a mask design that expresses an aspect of their culture or identity.

Lesson

Begin the lesson by asking the students a few questions.

- What are masks?
- What are masks used for?
- Who wears masks?

<https://www.westernunion.com/blog/cultural-masks-of-the-world/>

- Why are we talking a lot about masks these days?

Show students some masks from Hawaii and from the Indigenous culture in Canada

[Hawaii embraces aloha print masks while fighting coronavirus](#) (article)

[Indigenous Face Masks](#) (initiative to make sure all Indigenous youth get face masks)

- What are some of your favourite masks? Why?
- Can a mask have a message on them? (i.e., save the turtles)

1. Design a mask together

- What could our school face mask look like?

2. Ask the students to think about what they would like to put on their face mask.

Do you have a favourite sport, a favourite book, a favourite animal? What is your favourite colour? Should you add some words to your design? Do you want people to learn something from your face mask design?

Assessment

Have the students share their mask and what their design means to them.
Some older students might be able to write some letters or words on their masks.

******Have the students split a piece of paper in half and try to make different masks on both sides.
Have a discussion about conserving paper.
(UN Sustainable Goal #12- Responsible Consumption and Production)