

PAPER BAG MASKS

This lesson is adapted from Carole Sivin's *Maskmaking*, pp. 24-25.

Introduction

This is one of the more simple ways to introduce your students to mask-making. While it can be easily done with younger students, it can also be quite interesting and challenging for older students when they are encouraged to be creative—adding decorative details, appendages, making half masks or full masks. Please see the images below for examples of the different things people have done with paper bag masks. Remember these masks can be as simple or as elaborate as would be appropriate for your age group. The activity can be as straightforward as drawing the head of a favorite animal and painting or coloring it to finish. The examples below show how complex the masks can become. You will need one brown paper bag for each student, so you will need to provide these or ask each student to bring in their own.

Materials

Pictures or images of examples of paperbag masks

Paper bags—enough for one for each student

Glue

Stapler

Tape

Crayons, Markers, and/or Paint

Decorating materials: construction paper, and perhaps other materials such as yarn, glitter, sequins, ribbon, pipe cleaners, etc.

Procedure

1. Introduce the activity to students by explaining that they will be creating masks out of brown paper grocery bags. Show students various images of examples of paper bag masks. Some are provided below, more can be found in Sivin's book *Maskmaking* or by doing a simple Google search for paper bag masks. Point out the details, the embellishments, the different sizes (half or full masks) in the examples. It can be highly motivating for students to see the range in what they will be able to create.
2. Have students brainstorm ideas for their masks. Guide them to think about what they want to create—an animal, a famous person, a fantastical creature or being, their favorite tv or book character, etc.
3. Sketch out a plan for their mask. Decide what will be sketched on the bag and what will need to be created separately and glued on. Have students think about how they will create the nose, hair, eyes, etc. What colors and materials will they use?
4. Try on the paper bag. With the help of a partner lightly mark in pencil where the eye holes should be so that when finished the student will be able to see out of the mask. Note: these

holes don't necessarily need to be the eyes, but the student will need to design the mask so that the eye holes can be created.

If it is a half mask or the bag is too long mark where it needs to be cut with the help of a partner.

5. Create the mask using a variety of materials such as markers, paint, construction paper, yarn, shredded paper (can be painted and used as hair), ribbon, sequins.

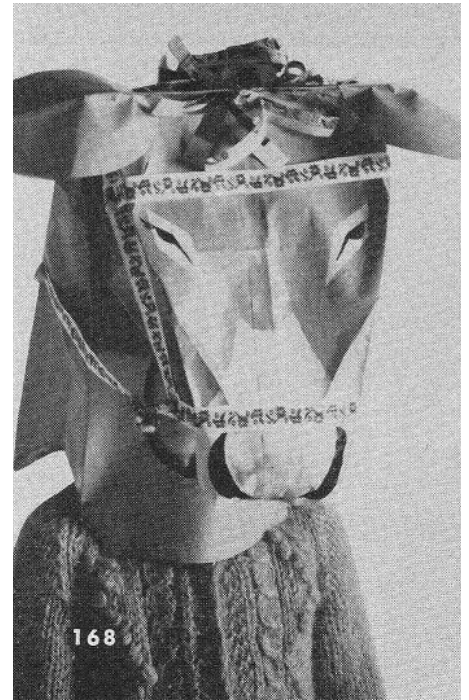
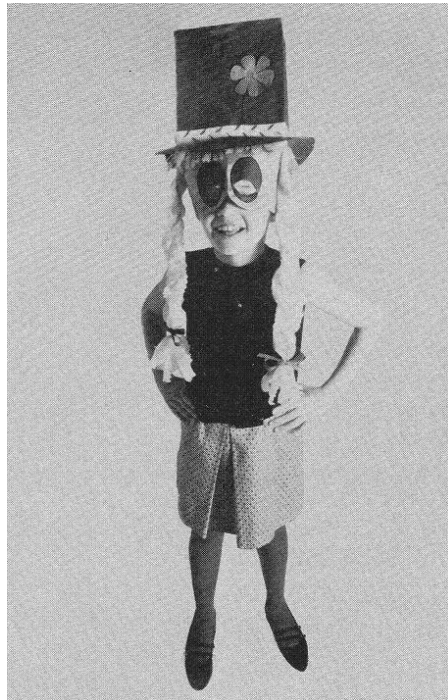
Examples of Paper Bag Masks



Image taken from <http://www.larkcrafts.com/needlearts/the-de-stash-diaries-vol-14-%E2%80%93-halloween-2/>



Image taken from http://bottlejarboxcan.blogspot.com/2011/08/paper-bag-mask_07.html



Images taken from <http://www.elizabethabernathy.com/2010/09/retro-paper-bag-and-newspaper-halloween.html>