

INTRODUCTION

This curriculum was created by the University of New Mexico Latin American & Iberian Institute (LAI) as part of a hands-on workshop which was titled “Día de los Muertos and Maskmaking,” and led by mascarero Felipe Horta. The inspiration came from the recognition that maskmaking, particularly Mexican maskmaking, provides a natural and creative way for teachers to explore arts, culture, and literacy with their students.

This guide provides a range of uncomplicated ways for teachers to incorporate maskmaking art into their classrooms. The hope is that the ease of the activities will encourage teachers to integrate this art form with more traditional subject lesson plans, particularly Language Arts and Social Studies. This approach is particularly emphasized within the second and third sections. At times a teacher may need to simplify or expand on the content or the expectations of the activity so that it is relevant for his or her particular grade level.

The following materials are divided into four main parts:

1. **Maskmaking Lessons**
Hands-on lesson plans to use in creating masks
2. **Felipe Horta and the Mexican Masks of La Pastorela**
Suggestions for how to teach about Mexican masks, maskmaking, and cultural celebrations (particularly La Pastorela).
3. **Cultural- and Literacy-based Lessons with Maskmaking**
Lesson plans that teach about maskmaking while achieving culture and literacy objectives.
4. **References and Resources**
Online and text resources that can supplement the information we provide here, as well as the PPT descriptions described below - all intended to help introduce your students to the art and culture of maskmaking.

For the first and section sections, “Maskmaking Lessons” and “Felipe Horta...,” we have created two supplementary PowerPoint (PPT) presentations for you to use with your students. These are provided as static images at the end of this document, but are also available to download as actual PPTs from the LAII website (<http://laii.unm.edu>). The content of these presentations is as follows:

- * **Masks of Latin America**
Provides an introduction to masks from all over Latin America through a variety of images of masks grouped by Latin American country, and could be used if you are studying topics specific to Latin America or just as a means of introducing your students to the variety of art forms and interpretations within the field of maskmaking.
- * **Masks & Celebrations in Mexico: The Art of Felipe Horta**
Specific to Felipe Horta and Mexican maskmaking related to La Pastorela, this PPT presentation provides a simple student-oriented introduction to the cultural tradition of La Pastorela, tracing its history and role from the Middle Ages in Spain to its contemporary interpretations in Mexico.