

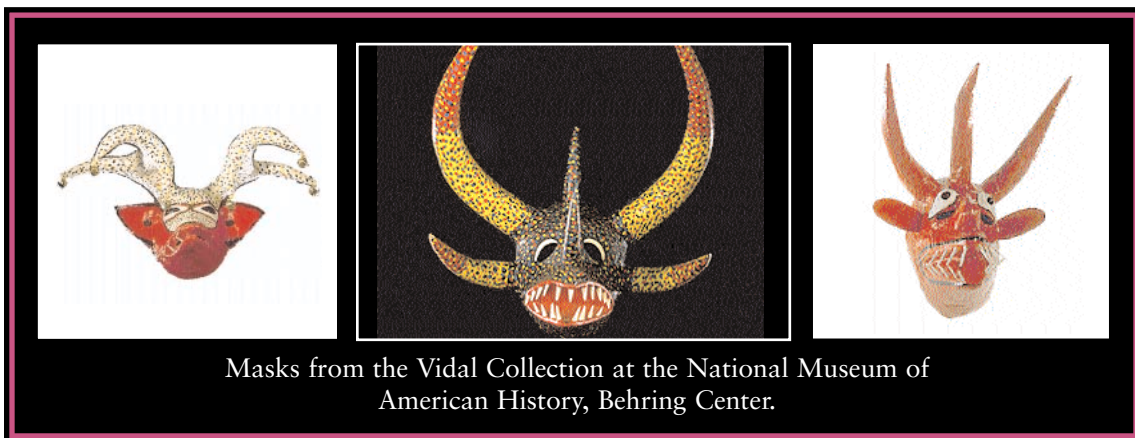
Make YOUR OWN Carnival Mask

Introduction

Caretas De Vejigantes

In Ponce, Puerto Rico, mask makers use papier-mâché (shredded paper and glue) to create special masks for the Carnival.

Here are simple directions you can use to make your own carnival mask. Before you begin, think about the type of mask you want to make. Look at these Ponce masks for some ideas!



Materials

You will need to gather these things to make your mask.

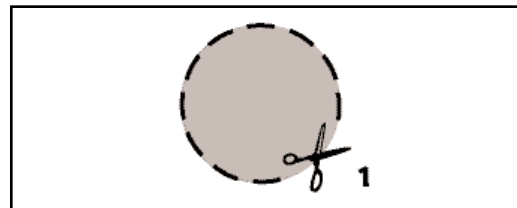
1. Three pieces of posterboard or cardboard (Approximately 12" by 14")
2. 10"-12" disposable paper dinner plate (larger plates for older children)
3. Scissors, pencil, and tape
4. A mixing bowl
5. 4-5 tablespoons of flour
6. 1-1/2 cups of warm water
7. Long strips of newspaper (1 inch in width)
8. Acrylic or tempera paints and paintbrushes (red, yellow, and black are the traditional Ponce colors)
9. Elastic cord or string to hold your mask in place
10. Paper towels to clean up!

Directions

To make your vejigante mask

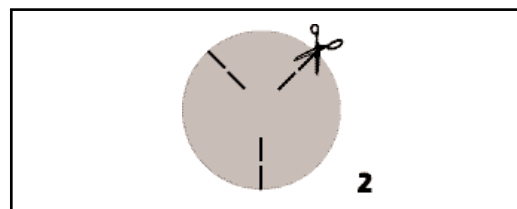
Step 1:

Place the dinner plate on 1 piece of posterboard. Trace the plate with a pencil to make a large circle. Cut the circle out with scissors.



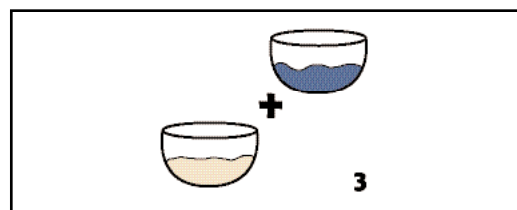
Step 2:

Make a 3"-4" cut into the bottom of the circle. At the top of the circle, make two 2"-3" cuts. Overlap the edges of each of the cuts and tape together. This will make your mask 3-D.



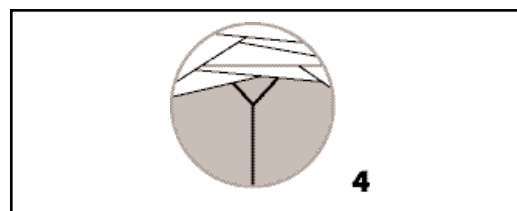
Step 3:

Place the flour in the bowl. Add water slowly and mix to make a thin paste.



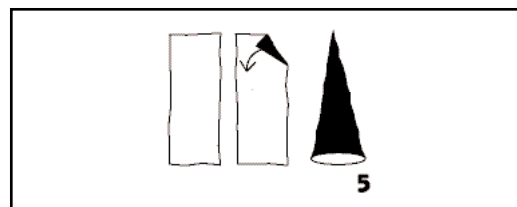
Step 4:

Dip the newspaper strips into the paste and place them across your mask, covering all of the posterboard. Keep adding strips until you have 3 or 4 layers.



Step 5:

Make horns! Cut the other 2 pieces of posterboard into smaller pieces. Roll each piece into a cone. Add tape to keep the cone together. Cover each horn with 2 or 3 layers of papier-mâché, and attach them to your mask using more papier-mâché strips.



Step 6:

Paint your mask! Many Ponce masks are painted red, yellow, and black, and often have dots painted on them. Attach a piece of elastic to the inside of your mask to hold it on!



Congratulations!

You are ready to wear your vejigante mask!