

CELEBRATIONS

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Carnival

Teacher's notes

Age: Teenagers/Adults

Level: Intermediate (B1)

Time: 45 minutes



Activity: In this lesson, students will:

1. identify types of masks;
2. read about masks;
3. design a carnival mask.

Language focus: vocabulary related to masks

Materials: one copy of the worksheet per student

Procedure

1. Write the word Carnival on the board, and ask students if they know what it means. (The Macmillan Dictionary offers two definitions: 'A lively festival in which people walk through the streets playing music, dancing and often wearing unusual colourful clothes' and 'A fair that has machines you can ride on, and where you can try to win prizes by playing games'.) See if your students can produce both meanings, then draw their attention to the first definition, asking if people celebrate Carnival in their country and what they know about it. Do students dress up? What do they wear? Do they wear masks as part of their costumes?
2. Explain that students are going to do some activities related to masks. First, ask students to work in pairs and brainstorm all the different types of masks they can think of. After a couple of minutes, elicit their ideas and make a general list on the board. If students are struggling, you might want to prompt them with categories like sports, job-related, disguises, and dressing up.
3. Hand out copies of the worksheet and ask students to look at the photos in Exercise 1. Can students spot any of the masks from the list on the board? Ask students to complete Exercise 1 in pairs, and check answers as a class.

Key:

Exercise 1: Match the masks

1. Carnival mask, Venice
2. A superhero's mask

3. Metal worker's protective mask
4. An oxygen mask
5. Ski mask
6. Monster mask for Halloween
7. A Hindu ceremonial mask
8. Mexican wrestling mask
9. A fencing mask
10. An African mask
11. Doctor's protective face mask
12. An Egyptian king wearing a death mask

4. Ask students to read the information about masks in Exercise 2 individually for a couple of minutes. As they read, write the following questions on the board:
 - a. Why do people like wearing masks?
 - b. Which societies put masks on dead people?
 - c. Why did ancient Greeks wear big masks in the theatre?
 - d. Why do hockey players wear a mask?
 - e. On what holidays do people wear masks?

Ask students to turn their papers over and try to answer the questions from memory in small groups. Elicit answers from the whole class and jot them down in note form on the board, getting consensus if students disagree but not providing confirmation of correct answers. When you have answers to all the questions, ask students to read the information again and check the group's answers. Do they want to change any of them? Only provide corrections if students are stuck.

Key:

Exercise 2: Facts about masks

- a. because they can become a different person
 - b. Roman, Egyptian and Chinese
 - c. so the audience could see their emotions
 - d. for protection
 - e. Halloween and Carnival
5. Tell students to imagine they are going to the biggest Carnival celebration in the world – the Rio Carnival, which takes place in early February – and they are going to wear a mask. Ask them to look at Exercise 3 and design their mask. (For younger students, you could ask them to make the drawings good

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enough to display on the classroom walls; for older students, it might be more appropriate to ask them to sketch roughly and annotate their design.) If time is short, you might prefer to ask students to design their mask in pairs or small groups. When they have finished, ask students to explain their mask to the class. *What does it look like? What is it made of?* You could finish the class by asking students to vote for their favourite mask.



TECH TIP: Some topics, like Carnival, are very visual, so you may be tempted to image search during class or ask students to carry out their own image searches to add colour to the lesson. Depending on the age and culture of your class, though, it may be better to pre-prepare a selection of appropriate images – using a traditional method like PowerPoint or sharing a [slideshow](#) via a site like [Flickr](#).com – as Carnival outfits and masks can be sexually explicit, and it may save potential embarrassment!

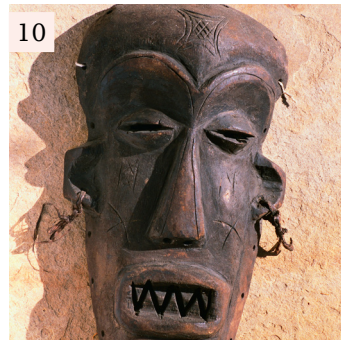
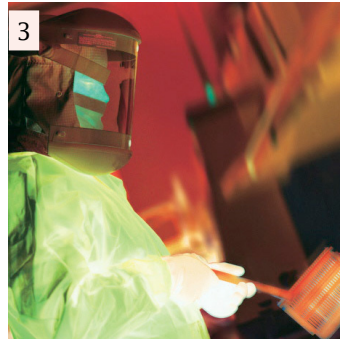
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Worksheet

Exercise 1: Match the masks



Can you match the masks to the descriptions? Write the correct numbers below.

_____ Ski mask

_____ Doctor's protective face mask

_____ Metal worker's protective mask

_____ An African mask

_____ Oxygen mask

_____ Carnival mask, Venice

_____ Monster mask for Halloween

_____ A Hindu ceremonial mask

_____ Egyptian king wearing a death mask

_____ A Mexican wrestling mask

_____ A fencing mask

_____ Superhero's mask

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Exercise 2: Mask facts

Do you ever wear a mask? At Carnival, you can see lots of people wearing masks. Here are some facts about masks.

- **A mask is something you wear to cover your face.**
- **Humans have used masks for the past 20,000 years.** People like masks because when you put on a mask, you can become a different person.
- **People wear masks for different reasons.** Masks are part of religious rituals in many different societies. In ancient Egypt, Rome and China, people put masks on dead people before they were buried.
- **Masks are also important in theatre.** In ancient Greece, the actors wore very big masks so that the audience could see their emotions. Traditional Japanese and Chinese theatre also use masks.
- **Masks can be used for protection.** In sports such as hockey and baseball, players sometimes wear a mask. In medieval times, knights wore a mask. Doctors and construction workers wear special protective masks when they are working.
- **Finally, masks are popular at certain holidays.** On Halloween, lots of people wear a mask and a costume. People wear masks for Carnival in February in many countries, including Brazil and Italy.

Exercise 3: Design a mask

