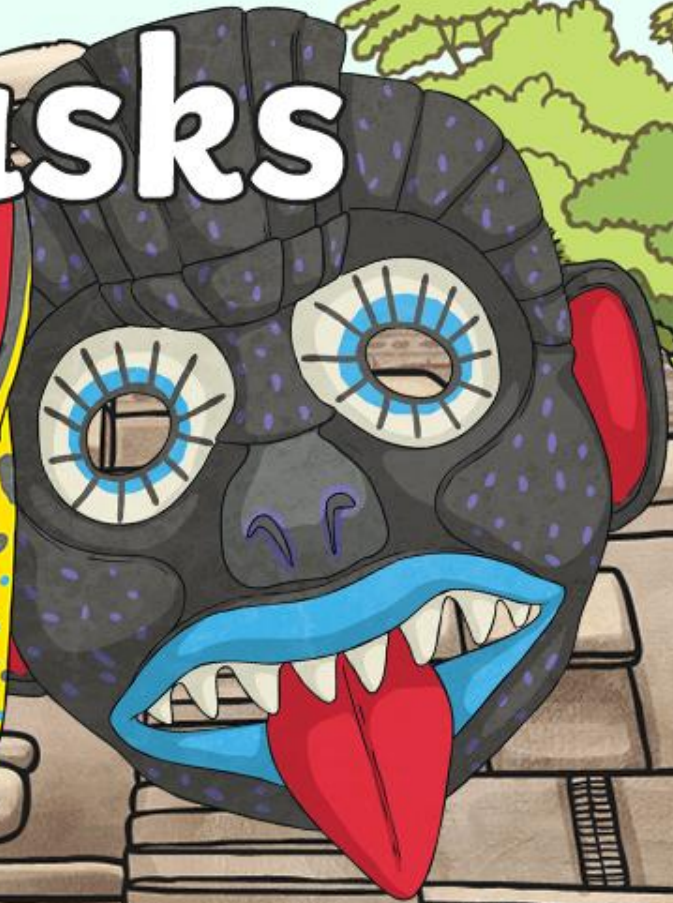


# Maya Masks



# What Were Masks Used For?

Masks played a central role in Ancient Mayan culture. They were made for a variety of occasions and purposes. In fact, they were even used to decorate temples. Some masks are still worn today to celebrate festivals.



## ‘Day of the Dead’ Masks

Day of the Dead (Dia de los Muertos) is a celebration during which the dead are honoured.

Sometimes parades are held where people dress up as skeletons and wear elaborate costumes and masks.

The masks represent becoming another person or another being – alive or dead.

# Event Masks

Masks were often inspired by animals; they were vibrant and colourful.

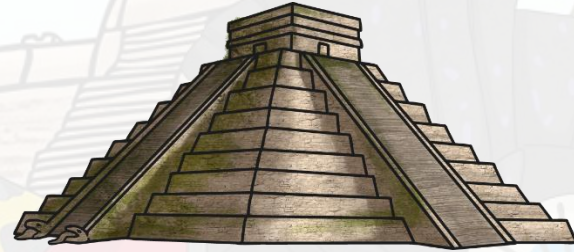
The Mayans believed that animals represented the spirits. For example, many Maya often associated strong kings with jaguars.

Event masks were usually made out of cedar wood.



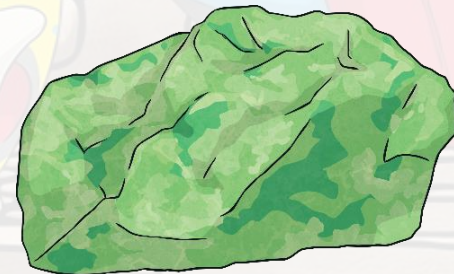
# Death Masks

Mayans were buried with a death mask, which was intended to protect the wearer on their journey to the afterlife.



The death mask of King Pakal is one of the most famous Mayan artefacts. Pakal ruled the city of Palenque for 68 years. During this time, the city became very wealthy.

Each mask was made by hand and inspired by the maker's own imagination. Jade, a precious stone, was used because it symbolised the soul.



# Design a Mask

Your task is to design a mask for the 'Day of the Dead' festival. Use the template to develop your design or you can draw your own outline of a skull.



# Design a Mask

## Day of the Dead Designs



Here are some designs that might inspire your own mask design.

# Design a Mask

Think about **COLOUR**– Hot and Cold  
Add **PATTERN** to the skull template or  
your own drawn outline.

Things to think about:

- Simple shapes repeated work **REALLY** well
- Shapes **WITHIN** shapes
- Change the **SIZE** of shapes
- Use **ALL** the space

