

05.01.2021 WALT be investigators

WOW Day - Creating Aztec masks

As part of today's art session you will be creating your own paper versions of Aztec masks.



Materials

To create your masks you will need:

- One printed mask template or an a4 sheet of paper.
- Different pieces of coloured cards or coloured pencils.

Optional (if you have access to this material):

- A glue stick/sellotape/blu-tac
- A pair of scissors
- Tracing paper/baking paper (if you feel this will help you)
- A strip of white paper

Your task

Task 1: Choose your template.

Task 2: Have a think about your design. What materials? What shapes? What patterns? What colours? How can you make it look life-like? The information on the next two pages should give you some ideas.

Task 3: Collect your materials.

Task 4: If you are using a plain piece of paper, draw out your design.

Task 5: Get colouring or gluing and sticking!

Task 6: Cut out your template.

Optional: Attach your strip of white paper to the sides of your mask using glue or sellotape so you can wear it!



Being explorers, I would like to encourage you to be adventurous in your choice of materials, however I understand if this is not possible. For example, you could add plastic jewels or feathers to your design or you could use tin foil to represent silver. Do not be afraid to be creative!

Things to consider when creating your masks

Key features of Aztec art:

1) Realistic and life-like

A lot of Aztec art was inspired by people, animals and other creatures. The Aztecs valued the natural world and believed that it was *sacred* (had religious meaning).

2) Colourful

The Aztecs created some bright and beautiful designs. They regularly used blues, reds and greens in art.

3) Recurring patterns/shapes

Zig zags, circles and triangles featured in many Aztec designs.

4) Materials

Aztec masks were typically made out of turquoise stone (a shade of blue/green). Like many of their art creations, Aztec masks were mostly made from clay and other precious materials such as gold, silver and jewels. Feathers were sometimes added for decoration.

Example templates

Look at the PDF for versions that can be printed out.



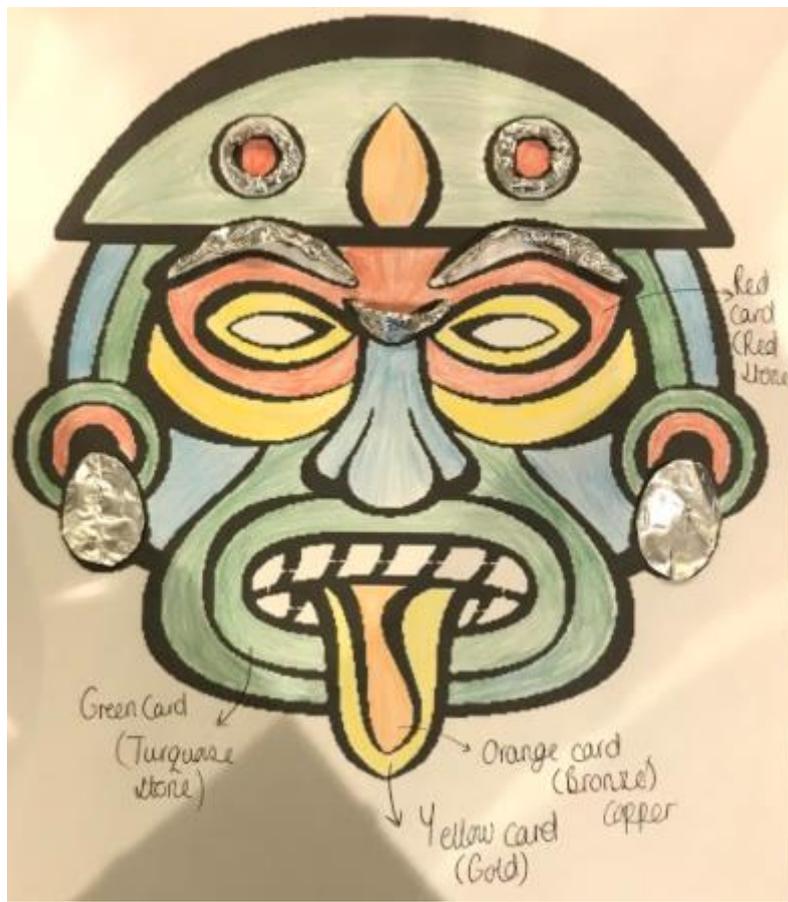
Real-life examples of Aztec masks:



Miss Topley's example

I have used:

- Blue and green colouring pencils for turquoise stone.
- Yellow colouring pencils for gold.
- Orange colouring pencils for bronze.
- Red colouring pencil for red stone.
- Tin foil for silver.



I hope you all enjoy this fun activity! I would love to see your wonderful designs so please do send photos to your class teacher's email if you can. I will collect all the images sent over and create a collage to add to the school website.

Miss Topley 😊