



Making Purim Masks with Younger Students

Topic

Purim, art projects

Grade Level(s)

Preschool through second grade

Goals for the Lesson/Activity

Students will be able to:

- Create masks for Purim
- Learn about each character in the story of Purim

Materials needed

- Reclaimed and repurposed cardboard or paper plates (1 per student)
- Large popsicle sticks - plain or colored
- Pipe cleaners - plain and/or glitter
- Beads
- Yarn scraps
- Foam sheets - glitter and/or assorted colors
- Felt sheets
- Hole punchers
- White or lace fabric
- Oil pastels
- Embellishments such as pompoms, glitter, jewels...
- Duct tape or masking tape

Background for Teachers

- Small children might not be comfortable wearing a mask. Cutting a hole in the center of a plate or cardboard square will give them the ability to see and talk more comfortably.
- Be sure to attach the stick with just enough handle showing that a child can hold onto the mask but not hurt anyone else.



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Prepare in Advance

- Collect art supplies
- Cut a large hole in the center of the plates or cardboard or cardboard squares. If using paper plates cut along the inside line. If cutting cardboard, leave a two-inch frame. Be creative by cutting the cardboard into a variety of shapes for the face.
- For small children pre-cut cardboard, foam and felt into shapes - triangles to make a crown, a hat or beard, semi-circle for a kippah or ears...
- To provide inspiration, consider displaying pictures of the different Purim characters

Description of Activities

1. Discuss different identifying characteristics of the people in the Purim story and their possible body traits – Queen Esther wears a crown and a wedding veil, Haman has a mustache and wears a triangle hat, Mordecai has a beard and wears a kippah, and so on.
2. Give the students a frame.
3. Ask the students to color the plate or the cardboard with oil pastels.
4. Have the students choose their shapes and material, remind them to think of all the body traits of their character.
5. Finally, students can start gluing their pieces together. Use tape to attach extra embellishments, such as a veil, to the back side of the mask. If desired, punch holes and lace pipe cleaners around the masks as added decoration. Remember to also attach the Popsicle stick handle.
6. Have a masked parade around the building!