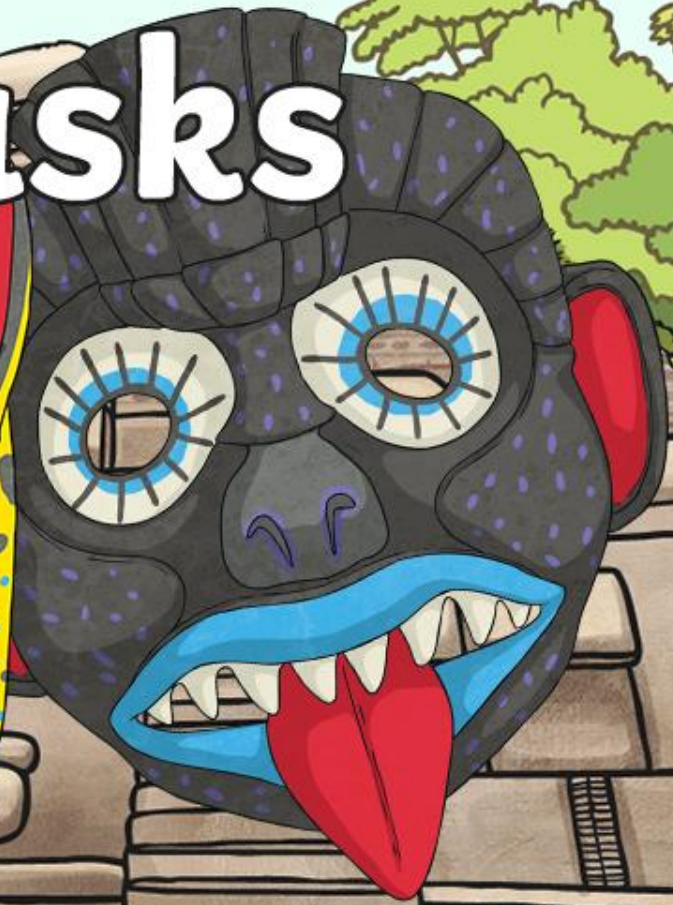


Maya Masks



Aim

- To explain the features and purposes of Maya masks.

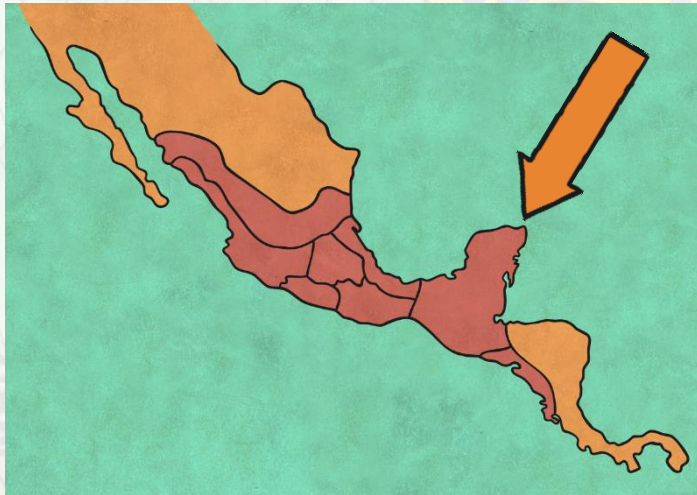
Success Criteria

- I can explain how Maya masks were used.
- I can locate the Maya civilisation in time and place.
- I can recreate a Maya mask and explain its features.



Who Were the Maya?

The Maya were a civilisation who lived in modern-day Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Honduras and El Salvador. The Maya civilisation lasted from around 1000 BC to AD 1697.



Can you locate the Maya civilisation on the map?

[Click here to find it!](#)

What Were Masks Used For?

Masks played a central role in Maya culture. They were made for a variety of occasions and purposes. In fact, they were even used to decorate temples.



Event Masks

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

The Mayas 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.

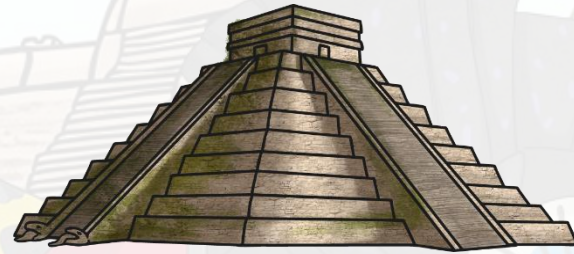


Death Masks

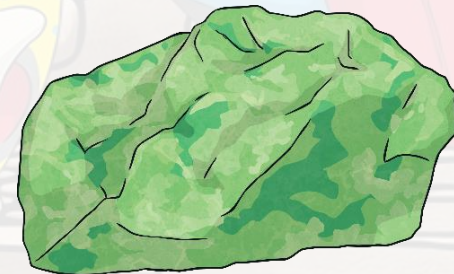
Mayas were buried with a death mask, which was intended to protect the wearer on their journey to the afterlife.



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.



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



Draw a Mask

Your task is to draw a Maya mask that you are interested in. Decide whether you want to draw a celebration, battle or death mask. If possible, add colour using the materials you have at home.





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MAYAN JAGUAR MASK

