

## NORTHWEST COASTAL MASKS

By  
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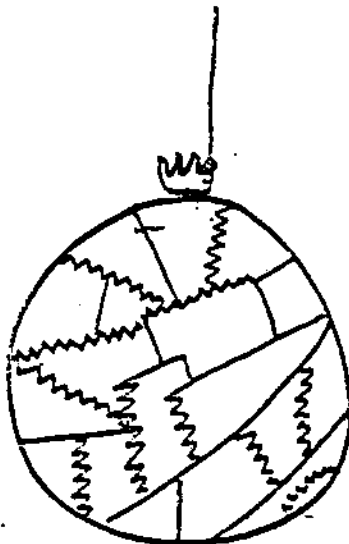
Teaching the art of the Native American at the secondary level can be accomplished very easily. Along with art projects, customs, lore and the overall way of life can be included. A few of the many examples could be: weaving, Navajo; pottery, Hopi; basketry, Apache and the carving mural design of the Northwest Coast. Some projects that could be introduced into the classroom can become very involved. Both a time reference and a craftsman technique must be thoroughly researched and studied if the actual way of doing the craft is to be implemented. This involvement can turn off many potential students if the projects are not adapted to the age of the students as well as the classroom environment. The following is but one way of adapting a craft so that an appreciation could develop.

### MATERIALS NEEDED--CONSTRUCTION

1. Medium size balloon for every two students
2. Wheat paste
3. Newspaper or brown paper towels
4. Cardboard scraps
5. Masking tape
6. 6' piece of string for each balloon
7. Large tin cans or buckets for mixing the solution of paste and paper

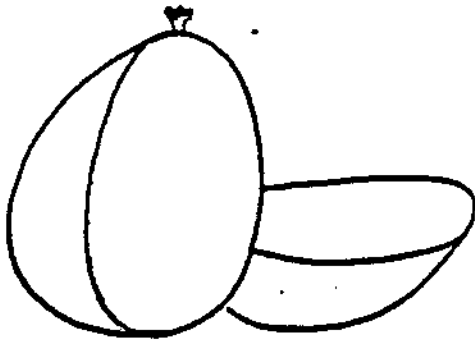
### MATERIALS NEEDED--PAINTING

1. Small sponge, 1 x 1 x 2
  2. Small round brush
  3. \*Acrylic paint in tubes  
Cadmium Red Medium  
Mars Black  
Titanium White  
Burnt or Raw Umber
- \*One tube of each color is enough for a classroom of 30 students



### STEP ONE

1. Blow up balloon and attach the string to the tied end of the balloon.
  2. Mix paste in can--this mixture should have the consistency of cream of wheat.
  3. Tear paper into 2"-3" pieces. Dip into wheat paste mixture and apply to balloon.
  4. Do this step until 4 or 5 layers of paper have been applied to the balloon.
  5. Repeat #4 after the first application of papier mache has thoroughly dried.
- 272 dried.



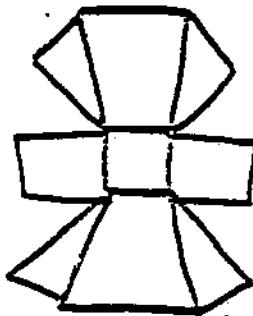
STEP TWO

1. Cut the balloon in half, from top to bottom only after it is completely dried. The drying can be hurried by placing the balloon in an oven at 175 degrees F over night.



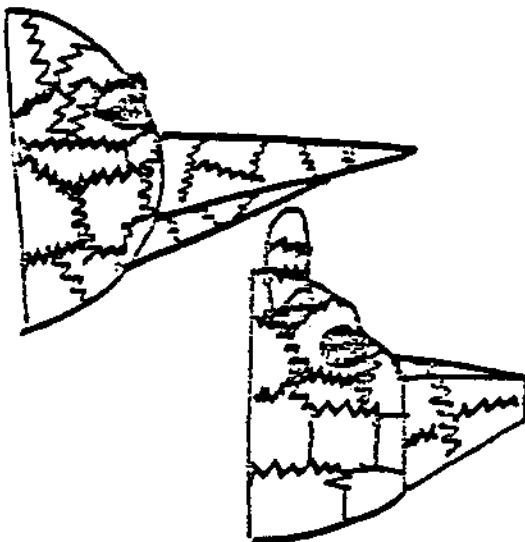
STEP THREE

1. Cut holes for eyes.
2. Mark the mask for the areas for ears and nose or beak.



STEP FOUR

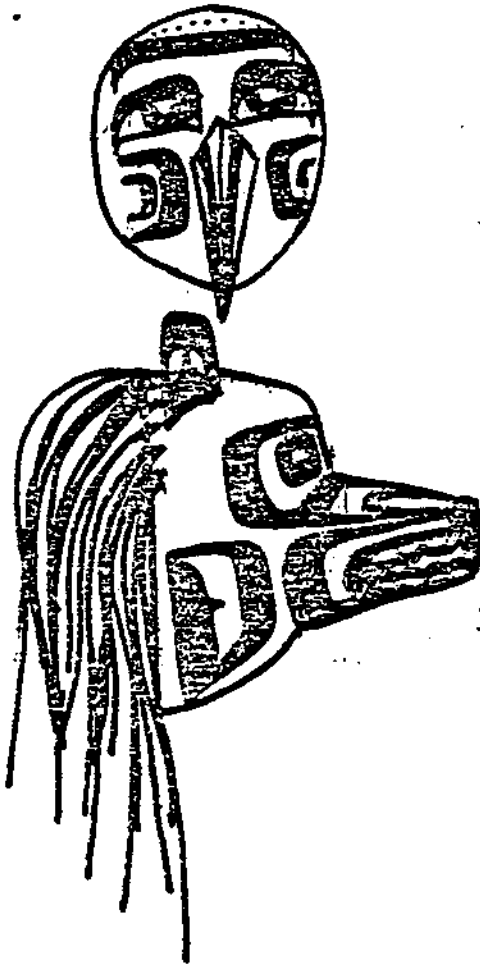
1. Cut cardboard into one of the two shapes for the nose or beak.
2. Cut ear shapes out of cardboard.
3. Attach nose and ear shapes in place with masking tape.



STEP FIVE

1. Cover the areas attached with tape with the paper and paste mixture (3-4 layers).
2. Build up areas to stand out, i.e. the nose and eye areas or the areas where the attachments are joined to give them a natural appearance.
3. Cover entire mask area with 2 to 3 layers of papier mache.
4. Let thoroughly dry for a few days or use the oven method described earlier.

STEP SIX



1. Wet sponge completely and apply a small amount of umber paint on the sponge.
2. Rub sponge all over the mask. Do not try for a smooth painted look as using only a small amount rubbed on the mask will have the appearance of carved wood. Let dry.
3. Paint the designs on the mask using the other three colors in the appropriate areas. A good reference book should be consulted if an authentic design is desired.
4. Optional--punch small holes around the top of the mask, about 3" each side of the center. Attach brown raffia through the holes creating the look of cedar bark.

In the preceding six steps the bear and the raven have been created. Other masks such as the beaver and the wolf could have been used. By dividing the students into groups of four and each doing one of the four mentioned masks, the teacher has the aids readily available to explain the Coastal use of the four clans in their existence.

There are other ways of constructing masks, but the results using the step by step procedure described above ensure good consistent results that the students, as well as teachers and parents, are proud of.