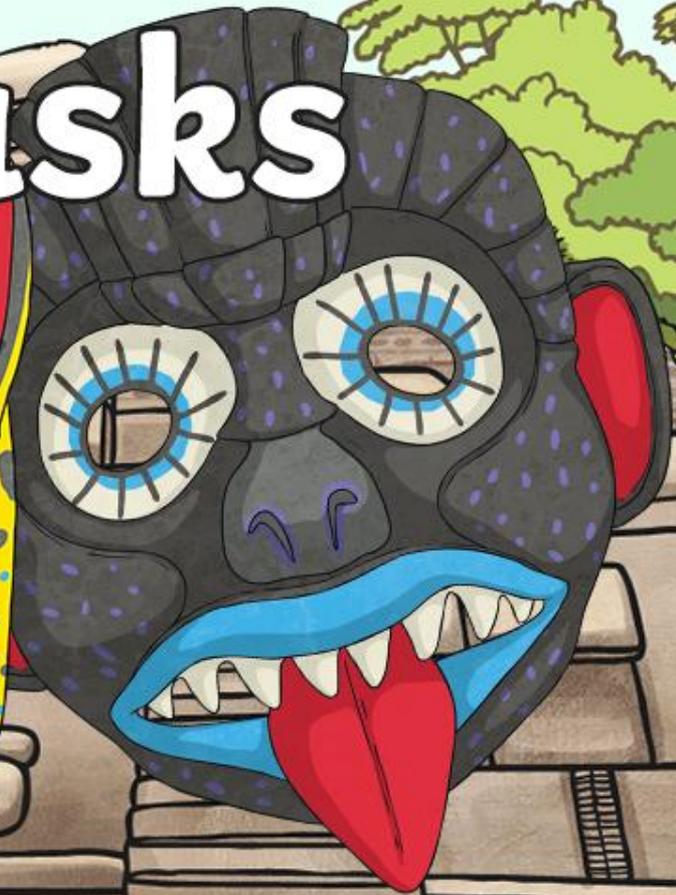
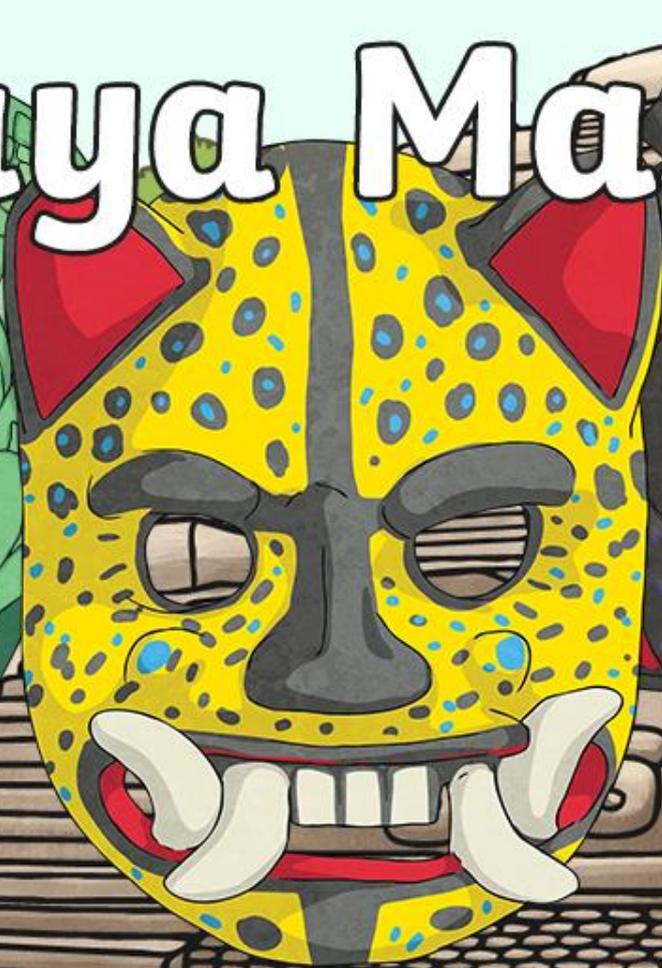


# Maya Masks



# 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.



The importance of the masks dictated how intricate the designs were.

The most sacred Mayan masks featured complex and delicate mosaics made out of jade.

Other materials used were stone, wood, gold, shell and obsidian (a hard, dark, glass-like volcanic rock)

# Event Masks

Other masks were designed to be worn during important events such as weddings and birth ceremonies. These masks often depicted gods or were inspired by animals; they were vibrant and colourful.

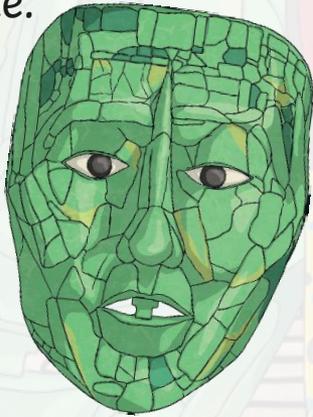
The Mayas believed that animals represented the spirits. For example, many Maya often associated strong kings with jaguars.

Event masks were usually made out of cedar wood.

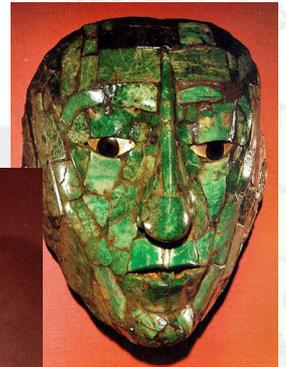


# Death Masks

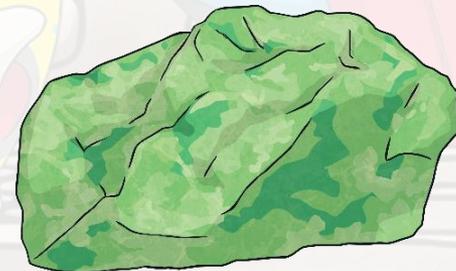
Mayas were buried with a death mask, which was intended to protect the wearer on their journey to the afterlife. Death masks were the most sacred and elaborate.



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. These masks used a mosaic pattern of the Jade stone.



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.



# War masks

Some Mayan masks were worn in battle. They were usually carved from wood or stone.

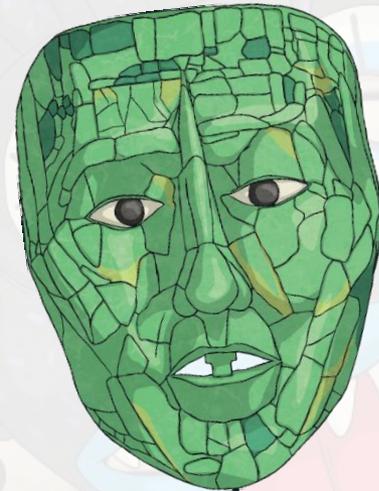
They were worn for one of two reasons:

- To protect the wearer during battle
- To intimidate the enemy



# Design a Mask

Your task is to design a Maya mask. Decide whether you want to design an event mask or a death mask.



Include the following on your design:

What material is it made from, what the purpose of your mask is (is it a death mask or event mask? Is it specific to a God?), and what colours you will use.