

Opening: Tell somebody sitting near you what you are going to be for Halloween & explain your costume.

Information: Explain to the students that different countries have different traditions & cultures. We use masks for Halloween. In Africa, the people use masks to celebrate many parts of their life: birth, death, marriage, coming of age. Also, they were used to scare away bad things (disasters, bad luck, bad weather, etc.)

When people wear the masks, it often part of a dance that other community members watch. The masks were typically worn on top of the head, not on the face.

Just like in Illinois, for example, we have different towns, Africans often identify with a tribe. Different tribes have different specific traditions with which they associate their masks.

Finally, the mask often combines animal and human features. They are beautiful. Wood was most often used to make these masks, but clay, ivory, metal and bone would also be incorporated.

Show examples of the different masks: <http://www.zyama.com/duma/index.htm> from the tribes: Lulua, Duma, Hemba, Grassland Bamilek.

Brainstorm:

→ “Let’s think of different things in our lives to celebrate, as the Africans did.” (Examples: going to first grade, trying a new sport or activity, having a new cousin or baby sibling, taking a trip with your family, planting flowers for the Spring, etc.)

Record ideas on board.

Art time: Each student chooses a mask to cut out and color. On the back of the plate they should write their name and what their mask represents or is helping to celebrate. Glue the mask/popsicle stick on the plate.