

## ART APPRECIATION - AFRICAN TRIBAL MASKS



Today your child learned about AFRICAN TRIBAL MASKS. Specifically we looked at a Banda Mask from the Baga tribe of Guinea. We learned that the mask was made in the 19th century and is over 4 feet tall. We also learned that the tribal masks were used in ceremonies or celebrations, like the birth of a child, a wedding, at harvest time or war time...

Some of the artistic concepts we discussed were:

**Animal Features** : The African people believed that all living things have a spiritual force and they would combine animal features with human features to call upon those spirits. (Horns of an antelope, teeth of a crocodile, tail of a chameleon...)

**Dimension** : The masks were typically carved out of wood with metal or raffia to give them dimension.

**Symmetry** : was used to balance out the facial features.

**Geometric shapes and patterning** : were found throughout the design of the masks.

The students then created their own African Mask using some of the elements discussed above.

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