

BOCA RATON MUSEUM OF ART



Zoomorphic 'Poro Society' Mask

Guinea, Toma People

Wood, cowry shells and bird talon, 48 x 14 inches

Permanent Collection 1993.141

Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Steinman

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Visual Arts

Skill: critical analysis

Motivation: Museum trip

Materials: chart paper

Vocabulary: critical analysis, texture, anonymous, facial, realistic, abstract

Visual Arts Standards Grades 6-8

VA.68.C.1.2/VA.68.C.1.3/VA.68.C.2.3/VA.68.C.2.4/VA.68.C.3.1/VA.68.C.3.3/VA.68.H.1.1

VA.68.H.1.3/VA.68.H.1.4/VA.68.H.3.1/VA.68.H.3.2/VA.68.O.3.2/VA.68.S.1.1

Florida Standards

- Grade 6: LAFS.6.L.3.6/LAFS.6.W.1.1/LAFS.6.RL.1.1/LAFS.6.RI.1.2/LAFS.6.W.1.1
- Grade 7: LAFS.7.L.3.6/LAFS.7.W.1.1/LAFS.7.RI.1.1/LAFS.7.RI.1.2/LAFS.7.W.1.1
- Grade 8: LAFS.8.L.3.6/LAFS.8.W.1.1/LAFS.8.RI.1.1/LAFS.8.RI.1.2/LAFS.8.W.1.1

Aim: How do we describe the characteristics of the *Zoomorphic 'Poro Society' Mask* from Guinea?

Procedure:

- Define and discuss critical analysis.
- Introduce/review and discuss the vocabulary.
- Elicit information about Liberia (location, language, capital city).
- Point out that the artist is unknown.
- Explain and discuss the concepts of realistic art and abstract art.
- Discuss whether or not the mask is realistic or abstract.
- How and in what situation do you suppose this mask was used?
- What type of animal might this be (antelope, fantasy, mythological)?
- What do you think this animal represents (strength, intimidation or hard work)?
- Discuss texture and ask the class to give a description (smooth, rough, soft or hard).
- Have the class describe the features of the mask (teeth, horns, eyes).
- Elicit the moods evoked by the mask (happy, sad, serious, angry or calm).
- Ask the students to describe the shapes (ovals, rectangles, geometric or organic).
- Have the group describe the lines they observe (straight, curvy or diagonal).
- Describe the materials used to construct the mask. Discuss why these materials were used.

Summary: Elicit critiques (I did or did not like the mask because ...) and record on chart paper.

Follow Up: Choose another animal from the jungle and describe the mask you would create.

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Language Arts

Skill: Vocabulary - adjectives

Motivation: mask image

Materials: index cards

Vocabulary: adjective, noun, mood, shape, color, texture, category

Florida Standards

- Grade 6: LAFS.6.L.3.6/LAFS.6.RL.1.1/LAFS.6.RL.1.2/LAFS.6.RI.1.2
- Grade 7: LAFS.7.L.3.6/LAFS.7.RI.1.1/LAFS.7.RL.1.2/LAFS.7.RI.1.2
- Grade 8: LAFS.8.L.3.6/LAFS.8.RI.1.1/LAFS.8.RL.1.2/LAFS.8.RI.1.1

Aim: How do we use adjectives to describe the *Zoomorphic 'Poro Society' Mask*?

I Can Statement: I can use adjectives to describe the *Zoomorphic 'Poro Society' Mask*.

Procedure:

- Define adjectives: an adjective is a word that describes a noun.
- Review nouns: nouns are people, places or things.
- Give a few examples of adjectives and elicit a few more from the class.
- Introduce/review and discuss the vocabulary.
 - a) texture (smooth, rough, thick, soft or hard).
 - b) facial features (expression, details, etc.).
 - c) moods evoked by the mask (happy, sad, serious, angry, calm or none at all.).
 - d) shapes and types of lines they observe (straight, curvy or diagonal).
 - e) lines they observe (straight, curvy or diagonal)
 - f) symmetry of the mask
 - g) setting (location, time frame, event)
 - h) energy or motion (intensity and direction).
- Have the students classify the adjectives on the index cards into categories.

Summary: Have the class list adjectives to describe the classroom.

Follow Up: Use ten adjectives to describe a family member, a pet, a friend or a teacher.

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Creative/Journal Writing Suggestions

- Be an art critic and write a review of the mask for a newspaper.
- Write a letter to a friend/relative describing the mask.
- Describe and explain the emotions evoked in you by the mask.
- Would you change anything in the work? Add or remove anything?
- Explain why or why not you would like to see more of these masks.
- Give the mask a new title and explain your reasoning.
- How do you suppose the mask was used? How would you use this mask?
- Do you suppose a person posed for the mask?
- What might the entire costume look like? Write a description.
- Was the person who carried the mask male or female?
- Did the mask remind you of something, someone or some place in your life?
- Why do you suppose the artist used the materials that were used to create the mask?
- In which room of your house would you install the mask and why?
- Use this mask in an advertisement to sell a product or a service.
- Write a jingle about the mask, the mask maker or the mask carrier.
- Compose a poem about the mask, the mask maker or the mask carrier.
- Compile a list of questions to ask the artist during an interview.
- Pretend you are an art dealer; persuade a customer to purchase the mask.
- Use the mask as the logo for a sports team, a business or a musical group.

Florida Standards

- Grade 6: LAFS.6.W.1.1/LAFS.6.RI.2.6/LAFS.6.RL.1.1/LAFS.6.W.1.2/LAFS.6.W.1.3
- Grade 7: LAFS.7.W.1.1/LAFS.7.RI.2.6/LAFS.7.RI.1.1/LAFS.7.W.1.2/LAFS.7.W.1.3
- Grade 8: LAFS.8.W.1.1/LAFS.8.RI.2.6/LAFS.8.RI.1.1/LAFS.8.RL.1.2/LAFS.8.W.1.3

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Math Suggestions

- Identify and define the characteristics of the shapes observed.
- Count the number of shapes in the mask.
- Describe and explain any observable patterns.
- Draw and decorate a shape that is similar to the mask.
- Estimate the weight of the work in both standard and metric measurement.
- Use non-standard measurement as a method to measure the piece (pencil, finger, foot).
- Estimate the distance between the eyes.
- Estimate the distance of the mask diagonally.
- Estimate the amount of time it took for the artist to create this mask.
- Is the mask symmetrical? Explain your answer.
- Estimate the width.
- Estimate the circumference.
- Estimate the height of the mask.
- Classify the numbers as even or odd.
- Round the numbers to the nearest ten and the nearest hundred.
- Find the longitude and the latitude of the country where the mask was created.

Florida Standards

- Grade 6: MAFS.6.G.1.1/MAFS.6.G.1.3
- Grade 7: MAFS.7.G.1.3/MAFS.7.NS.1.3/MAFS.7.G.2.6/MAFS.7.G.1.2