

## **Pre-Kindergarten Curriculum**

### **Decorating your own Venetian Carnival Mask**

*15 minutes prep, 35 minutes of class time*

This unit is designed to introduce students to the annual Venetian Carnival in Venice, Italy and to the most common types of masks that historically have been worn at the Carnival. Students will see photographs of these masks, and then they will decorate their own masks, using the photographs as inspiration.

#### **Materials:**

1. Blank paper masks (A pack of 24 masks can be purchased from BLICK Art Materials for around \$5).
2. Marker sets
3. Popsicle sticks
4. Glue sticks
5. Glitter glue (optional)
6. Feathers (optional)



**Preparation:** Place one paper mask and one popsicle stick at each student's assigned seat. Write the name of the student on the popsicle stick. Have one set of markers and one glue stick available at each table, along with glitter glue and feathers (if using).

#### **Lesson Plan:**

1. Begin by asking the children what country we live in, and then help them locate it on a map or globe. Then show them where Italy is on a map or globe, and point to where Venice is. (2 mins)
2. Use the printed images to introduce the class to Italy, showing a picture of Venice's canals and gondolas, along with pictures of a few of the most commonly worn masks. (3 mins)
3. Tell the children that each of these masks is associated with a character from Italian theater, and briefly tell them about the characters. (5 mins)
4. Explain the activity to the class (5 mins):
  - a. First, they are going to find their paper masks and popsicle sticks at their assigned seats.
  - b. Next, they will choose which colors they would like to use to decorate their masks. Emphasize the lines, curlicues, and borders that are commonly found on these masks.
  - c. Students will have the remained of the time together to work on their masks. Five minutes before class is over, show the students how to glue the popsicle stick onto the mask. Let the masks dry until the next day. Then students can take them home!