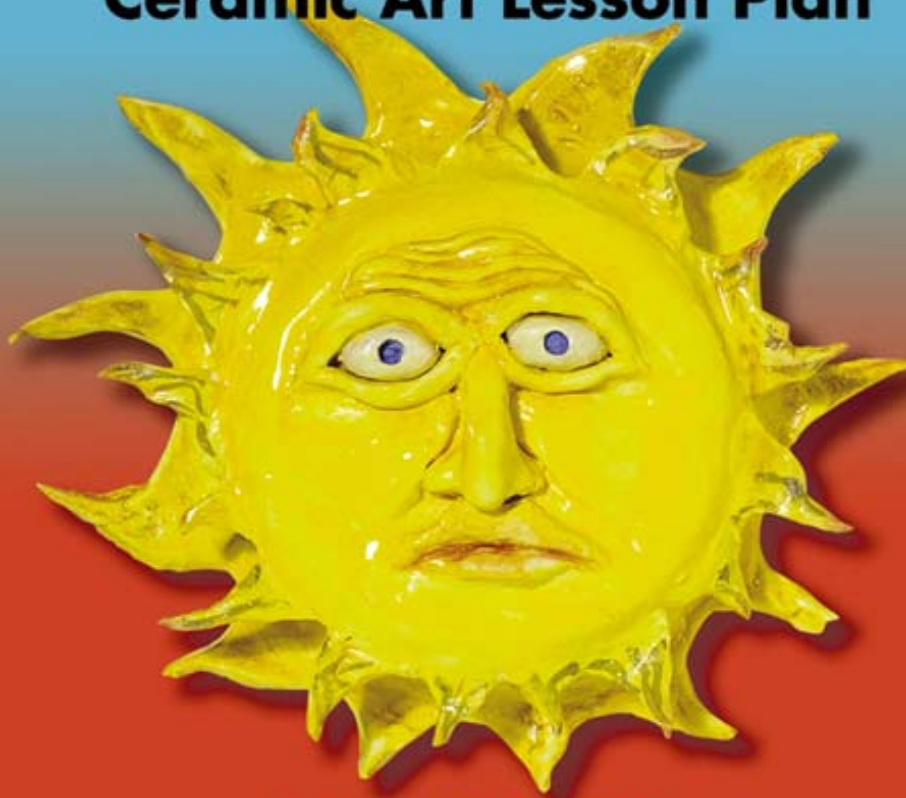


# Duncan ColorWorks

## Mini Masks Ceramic Art Lesson Plan



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## Mini Masks - - Ceramic Art Lesson Plan

**Grade Level:** 4-6 & 7-8

**By Toby Ritenour**

### **Introduction:**

Masks are a part of our history. They tell stories about our fears, our power, the unknown, and the world around us. In some cultures masks are used to ward off evil and scary unknowns. While in other cultures, masks tell tales about the animals that live around us. Masks can also be fun. If you were a creature or a character who would you be? This is a hands-on experience that can provide support for social studies, language arts, and the creative arts. Using the web addresses students can investigate masks, their history, mask styles, and the artistic nature and the materials used in constructing masks. These references can provide students with the background for constructing the mask, telling a story about the masks, and creating a beautiful piece of artwork.

### **Educational Objectives:**

This lesson provides opportunities for students to:

- Create a mask using a slab of clay.
- Design and construct a character mask.
- Share the character mask and its story.
- Learn to use glazes and fire clay.

### **References:**

Mask from Africa: [http://cti.itc.virginia.edu/~bcr/African\\_Mask.html](http://cti.itc.virginia.edu/~bcr/African_Mask.html)  
Chinese Opera Masks: <http://pasture.ecn.purdue.edu/~agenhtml/agenmc/china/artbo.html>  
More from Africa: <http://www.virginia.edu/artmuseum/VirtualExhibitions/african/intro.html>  
Native American Masks: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~dmjacobs/edts325/masks/northamerica.html>  
Museum links: <http://artwork.asu.edu/arts/teachers/resources/visarts3.htm>

### **Teaching Tips:**

- Sharing masks would be a great way to get students started.
- Reading folk tales and native stories will help students understand where the mask came from.
- Pre role clay slab for younger students and have a lot of newspaper handy.

### **Duncan Materials:**

#### **Envision Glaze™:**

- 10, 4 oz. Envision Glaze™ in assorted colors

#### **Brushes/Tools:**

- BR 576 ¾" Premium Glaze
- TL 415 Sponge
- BR 570 No. 2/0 Detail
- BR 593 ¾" Economy Glaze Brush
- TL 401 Cleanup tool



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### Miscellaneous Materials:

- 30 lbs white low-fire clay
- Board to roll out clay
- Water containers
- Newspaper
- Rollers or a slab roller
- Sand

### Step-by-Step:

Mask construction times will vary.

1. Roll out a 1 lb of clay into a slab, 6 to 10 inches around
2. Roll newspaper into the general shape of the mask design. This will be the size of two fists together.
3. Lay the slab over the newspaper and fold the edges down and around the newspaper, cut off any excess but save the scrap for the mask's features.
4. Using drawings and notes on the mask start affixing and shaping the features. This might take a few days so don't forget to cover your work.
5. When the mask has been completed, poke two holes, one on both sides of the mask, so you can hang the mask on the wall.
6. Cover the mask and set aside to dry.
7. The clay will have to be completely dry. You can test the dryness of the clay by touching the clay to your face. If it is cold and not light in color it is still wet and will explode in the kiln when fired. Bisque fire at cone 04.
8. Paint each piece using the Envision™ Glazes. Stilt if necessary and fire to shelf cone 06.

### Project Closure:

#### Language Arts connection and project closure

Write and illustrate a brief description of this project, include detailed descriptions of the materials used and what happened during this project.

National Standards for the Arts:

<http://www.ed.gov/pubs/ArtsStandards.html>

<http://www.mcrel.org/compendium/Standard.asp?SubjectID=13>

State Standards:

<http://edstandards.org/Standards.html>

Or refer to the Dept. of Education for a specific state.

**Please visit [www.duncanceramics.com](http://www.duncanceramics.com)., Art Educators tab, Learn tab to view the Standards based Vocabulary and Language Instruction, Art Project Rubric, and Writing Rubric documents.**