



How to Make Mardi Gras Masks for Kids

Co-authored by [wikiHow Staff](#) 

Last Updated: January 9, 2021  [References](#)

Mardi Gras is just around the corner. One of the most essential accessories, apart from the necklaces of course, is the mask. Instead of running to the store and buying one, why not making your own? They are lots of fun to make. Best of all, there are several ways of making them, and endless ways of decorating them. So, what are you waiting for? Grab some glue, paper, dowels, and let your imagination run wild!

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Method
1

Making a Basic Mask

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- 1 **Find a blank mask to decorate.** Half masks that cover just the eyes work the best, but you can use a full face mask if you can't find anything else. If you can't find any blank masks, find a mask template online, print it onto cardstock, then cut it out, including the eye holes.^[1]



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2 Paint the mask, if desired. Most blank masks come in either black or white. If you want to make your mask look more interesting, paint it using purple, green, or yellow/gold paint. Acrylic or tempera paint will work just fine on paper or cardboard masks, but spray paint would be the better option for plastic masks.

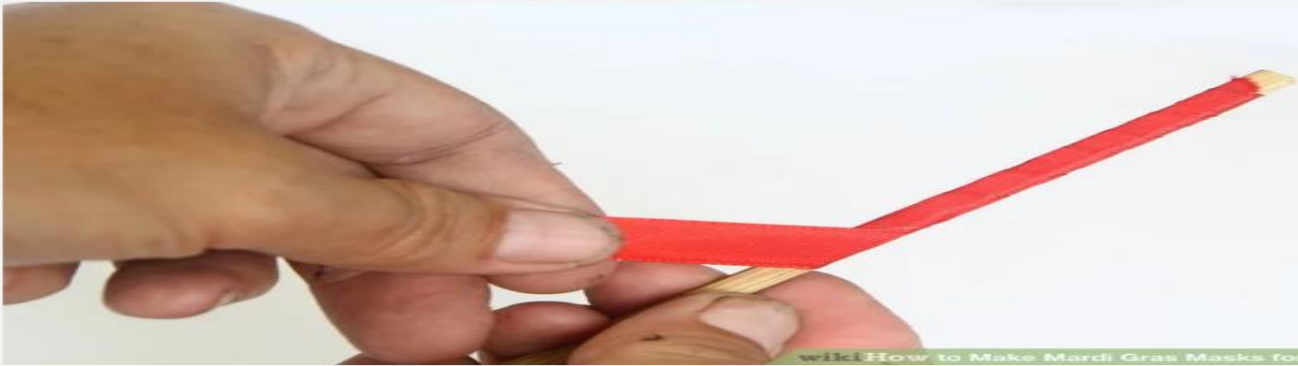
- If you like paper mache, consider covering the mask with glue and purple, green, and yellow tissue paper cut into 1-inch (2.54-centimeter) squares.^[2]



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3 Decorate the mask. The possibilities are endless here. Grab some glitter glue, rhinestones, feathers, sequins, and beads, and let your imagination run wild. Typical Mardi Gras colors are purple, green, and yellow/gold, but you can include other colors here as well. To cut back on drying times, use hot glue. Here are some decorating ideas to get you started:

- Outline the eyes using glitter glue, sequins, tiny rhinestones, or Mardi Gras beads.
- Add some colorful feathers to the top edge of the mask. Secure them by the stems to the back of the mask.
- Decorate the mask with rhinestones and glitter glue.
- Paint a harlequin design using purple, green, or yellow/gold paint.



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4 **Decorate the dowel.** You don't *have* to do this, but it will give your mask a nice touch! Place a drop of hot glue at the bottom of your dowel, and press the end of a thin ribbon into it. Wrap the ribbon around the dowel in a spiral, then secure the other end to the top of the dowel with more hot glue. Glue a small, round rhinestone to each end of the dowel.

- If you can't find a dowel, a chop stick may also work.
- Stick-on rhinestones are the perfect size for this. You will still want to glue them on, however.
- If you can't find rhinestones, that's okay! You can leave them out, or use glitter glue instead!



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5 **Let the mask and dowel dry.** How long the mask takes to dry depends on what you used to decorate it. Hot glue sets in seconds, and acrylic paint dries in less than an hour. Regular craft glue and glitter glue can take several hours! Be patient.



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6 **Glue the dowel to the mask.** Flip the mask over so that the back is facing you. Place the dowel along one of the edges. Make sure that the rhinestone tip is just peeking out over the top edge of the mask. Secure the dowel with some hot glue.



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1 Get some sturdy paper. Great choices include poster paper and cardstock. They can be both the same color or different colors, such as purple and green. In a pinch, you could also use construction paper as well.



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2 Paint your paper, if desired. Use a large paint brush or foam brush to paint the paper a solid color. You don't really need to do this, since you will be decorating the mask later on, but it's a great additional step to keep young crafters entertained!

- You can paint the mask any color you want, but purple, green, and yellow/gold are traditional Mardi Gras colors.



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3 Trace your hands onto the back of the paper. You will need to trace both your left hand and your right hand. Be sure to spread your hands and fingers apart, like showing someone the number 5.^[3]



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4 Cut the traced hands out. Be sure to cut neatly between the fingers. If a young crafter is doing this project, it would be best if an adult or older child helped them with this step!



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5 **Tape or glue the palms together.** Place the hands side-by-side so that the bases of the palms are touching and the fingers are pointing to the sides. Overlap the palms by 1/2 inch (1.27 centimeters), then secure them with a strip of clear tape. You can also use glue instead.^[4]

- A staple is not recommended because of how close it is to the eyes.



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6 **Cut out some eye holes.** Place the mask over your face with the thumbs pointing down. Gently feel where the eyes are, and make a mark with a pencil. Use the pencil marks as a guide to draw almond shapes, then cut the shapes out.^[5]

- Young crafters will need adult help on this step.



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7 Decorate the mask. Let your imagination run wild. You can paint the mask or draw on it with glitter glue. You can add rhinestones, beads, or feathers. Be sure to decorate the area around the eyeholes to make them stand out!^[6]

- Be sure to let the mask dry once you decorate it. How long it takes depends on what you used to decorate it.
- Don't get too carried away. If the mask is too heavy, it will flop down!



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8 Attach the mask to a straw or short dowel. Flip the mask over so that the back is facing you and the thumbs are pointing down. Place your stick on the side of the mask so that it is parallel to the base of the fingers. Secure the stick with some tape or hot glue.^[7]

- You can also use a chopstick instead.
- Decorate the stick with ribbon and/or rhinestones first for an extra-fancy mask.



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1 Cut a paper plate in half. The plate needs to be wide enough to cover your face, so a dinner-sized plate is recommended. Make sure that the plate is plain. This way, the original designs won't show through when you paint it.^[8]

- Save the other half of the plate for another project or make a second mask for a friend.



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2 Cut out the nose groove. Find the middle of the mask. Next, cut a U-shaped groove into the bottom straight edge. How big you cut the groove depends on how big your nose bridge is. You want the mask to be able to rest on your nose.^[9]

- If you want a cat eye mask instead, cut a U-shaped groove into the top, curved edge instead



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3 **Cut out the eye holes.** Place the mask over your face, like a pair of sunglasses. Gently feel where your eyes are, then make marks using a pencil. Sketch out a pair of almond-shaped eye holes with a pencil right over the marks. Cut the eye holes out.^[10]

- If a young crafter is making this mask, he or she will need an adult to help them with this step.
- For a more precise cut, use a craft blade.



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4 **Paint the mask using acrylic or tempera paint.** You can apply the paint using a large paintbrush or a foam brush. Make sure that you coat the *entire* mask with paint. You can make your mask any color you want, but purple, green, and yellow/gold are traditional Mardi Gras colors. Let the paint dry before moving on.^[11]

- This step can get a little messy. It would be a good idea to work on top of some newspaper.



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5 Decorate your mask. Let your imagination go wild here. The fancier your mask is, the better. Try some glitter glue, sequins, rhinestones, and feathers. You can even paint additional designs onto the mask as well!^[12]



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6 Attach the mask to a short dowel. Flip the mask over so that the back is facing you. Secure a dowel to one of the sides. Hot glue would be the best, but you can use a few strips of tape as well.^[13]

- You can also use a chop stick or a sturdy straw.
- Consider decorating your dowel first with a ribbon or rhinestones.

Mardi Gras Arts/Crafts from Kinder Art

<https://kinderart.com/art-lessons/sculpture/animal-masks/>



ANIMAL MASKS

Students can create wild and wonderful animal masks using balloons and paper mache.

By Carla Fontenot [Carla is a 3rd grade teacher at King's West in Bremerton, Washington.]

OBJECTIVES:

Students will create a 3-D animal or mask, paying close attention to details such as; color, shape, size, texture and facial features.

Students should demonstrate a willingness to learn about other cultures by positively contributing to the discussion at least twice during the lesson.

WHAT YOU NEED:

- balloons
- masking tape
- newspaper cut into strips
- white glue
- water
- acrylic paint (several colors)
- paint brushes
- large container for mixture
- small containers for paint
- craft knife or scissors (adult assistance required)

WHAT YOU DO:

1. Students blow up balloons.
2. Mix half glue and half water mixture into container.
3. Student dips newspaper strips into mixture, wiping any extra off into the container with index finger and thumb.
4. Student lays strips onto the balloon, covering the balloon with at least two layers.
5. Hang over newspaper to dry.
6. Students may need to add another layer to balloon and repeat the drying process.
7. When dry, teacher needs to cut the balloon in half with an exacto knife.
8. Student chooses one half (2 students can share one balloon).
9. Using masking tape and newspaper, student builds up eyes, ears, nose, and other features.
10. Cover with another layer of strips covered with glue mixture.
11. Let dry.
12. Student is ready to paint. Cover entire mask with one base color.
13. Let dry.
14. Paint details.
15. The animal mask is ready to display in the hall with a report or essay.





COFFEE CAN DRUMS

*Grades 3-5 | *K-2 | Mardi Gras Crafts | Multicultural Art | Musical Instruments | Recycling
Sculpture/Collage | Summer Camp /

Drums are an important part of life and ceremony in many cultures. Here is a simple method for you and your students to create a fun sounding drum as you celebrate the cultures of the world.

By Andrea Mudler-Slater

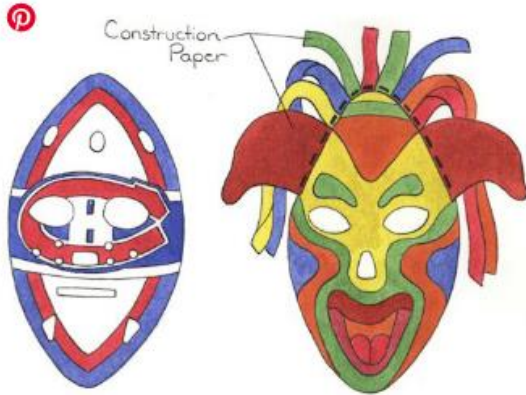
WHAT YOU NEED:

- An empty coffee can (or oatmeal container) with a lid (small, large, whatever you have).
- Construction paper, glue & scissors.
- Paint or markers.
- Paintbrushes & water.
- Dowels or sticks from trees in the park.
- String, leather, feathers, beads... any bits of scrap material you might have.

WHAT YOU DO:

1. You have two options here. Either paint the coffee can with paint or cover the can with construction paper. Leave the plastic lid on the coffee can. This will be your drum head.
2. If you cover the coffee can with construction paper, you can paint or draw designs and creatures on the coffee can. Have a look at pictures of different kinds of drums and the images found on them. (Try covering the can with aluminum foil for a neat effect.)
3. After the paint is dry, you can glue all sorts of wonderful things to your drum.
4. Using wooden dowels or simply wooden sticks, drum away on your new coffee can drum.
5. Older students may want to try pounding the bottom of the coffee can with a rubber mallet to make a Caribbean-style steel drum.





Masks are a way to make kinderart faces,
that lift and transport us to new and wild places.
From a bird to a beast to a sad happy clown,
masks make you laugh, make you jump, make
you frown.
Using paper and scissors and objects you find,
you can make masks of all colors and kinds.

KinderArt.com

COLORFUL PAPER MASKS

Using paper and scissors and objects you find, you can make masks of all colors and kinds.

By Andrea Mulder-Slater

Masks are a way to make KinderArt faces,
that lift and transport us to new and wild places.
From a bird to a beast to a sad happy clown,
masks make you laugh, make you jump, make you frown.
Using paper and scissors and objects you find,
You can make masks of all colors and kinds.

OBJECTIVES:

Identification:

- Students will see that masks have great meaning in many cultures.

Historical:

- Students will have a chance to discover the importance of connecting our present day lives with the lives of those who lived before us.

Creation:

- Students will create a paper mask.

Appreciation:

- Students will learn to appreciate the art created not only by them, but by others as well.

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Heavy poster paper about 22' x 28' per student (can be smaller depending on what's available.)
- Pencils
- Scissors (and help for the little ones)
- A paper stapler
- Crayons
- Paint
- Paintbrushes & containers for water
- Magic markers, feathers and other found objects
- Glue
- String or elastic

WHAT YOU DO:

When making masks, take the opportunity to discuss masks from around the world. Children could even take part in a discussion about how everyone wears different "masks" from day to day... when we are sad, happy or scared.

1. Draw an oval shape on the large piece of paper. The larger the better because masks can cover more than just the face. Cut the oval shape out of the paper.
2. At both the top and bottom of the oval, make a 1" cut. (You will later take these cuts, fold the paper across itself and staple so the mask has some dimension).
3. Draw and cut out where the eye holes and mouth and nose holes (if any) are going to be.
4. Decorate the mask by using bright crayon colors or bright paint colors.
5. Even more details can be added with magic markers and crayons.
6. Now, where you made your cuts, fold the paper and staple in place. This will give your mask more dimension.
7. Glue found object decorations on the mask. Anything from feathers and string to beads and tissue paper.
8. Staple string onto the mask so it can be tied around the head.





KinderArt.com

MARACAS (PAPER CUPS)

[*Grades 3-5](#) [*Grades 6-8](#) [*K-2](#) [*Preschool](#) [Cinco De Mayo](#) [Crafts](#) [Mardi Gras Crafts](#)
[Multicultural Art](#) [Musical Instruments](#) [Recycling](#) [Sculpture/Collage](#)

Learn how to make maracas using yogurt containers or paper cups.

By Andrea Mulder-Slater

WHAT YOU NEED:

- 2 plastic cups or yogurt containers — the same size — clean and dry
- 1/2 cup of coffee beans or dried peas or macaroni, rice or beads.
- Glue (hot glue will work well but requires adult supervision)
- Masking tape.
- Paint (acrylic paint is the best for this type of material but you can also use poster paint or tempera with glue added to it to make it stick to the plastic.)
- Fabric (optional)

WHAT YOU DO:

1. Put the beans or peas into one of the cups or containers
2. Hot glue the 2 containers together.
3. Wrap masking tape around the rims for added support.
4. Paint the shaker with bright colors and glue on fabric pieces too if you wish.



MARACAS (RECYCLED OBJECTS)

*Grades 3-5 *Grades 6-8 *Grades 9-12 *K-2 *Preschool *Cinco De Mayo *Crafts *Mardi Gras
*Crafts *Multicultural Art *Musical Instruments *Recycling *Sculpture/Collage

FIND OUT HOW TO MAKE MARACAS OUT OF RECYCLED BOTTLES AND PAPER ROLLS.

By Daria Marmaluk-Hajioannou [Daria is an award-winning children's performer with five CDs that have won national honors.

Maracas are one of the simplest instruments to play for young children or the beginning musician. They are essentially rattles with handles. They come in pairs. You put one in each hand and you shake, rattle and roll! Of course, if you've seen experienced percussionists play maracas, you would be amazed at what they can make them do. So, a pair of maracas are versatile little instruments for "just jamming with the kids" or for exploring rhythms, beats and tempos as a fun way to learn more about music.



WHAT YOU NEED:

- 2 8 oz (236 mL) water bottles
- 2 toilet paper rolls
- Electrical tape (colorful, if possible)
- Filling For your maracas.
- Any of the following:

Sand, salt, pebbles, birdseed, rice, beans, small beads, large beads, dried pasta, rice, dried peas or beans, small washers, paper clips, small erasers.

Although you can use any type of small plastic bottles, the 8 oz (236 mL) size water bottles are just perfect for this project in size and shape. If you've sworn off plastic, then ask around. A neighbor, classmate or local store may offer you what they might have sent out as recycling.

You'll also need two toilet paper rolls and some sturdy tape. Electrical tape works best and colorful electrical tape adds a nice decorative touch to what you are creating.

Then you'll need some fillings. Remember each filling produces a different sound, so that may also be part of your plan for creating your set of maracas. For instance, sand or salt maracas will be very quiet. Dried beans, macaroni or large bead maracas will be nice and loud.

Here are some suggestions that you can find around most every household:

Sand, salt, pebbles, birdseed, rice, beans, small beads, large beads, dried pasta, rice, dried peas or beans, small washers, paper clips, small erasers.

WHAT YOU DO:

First take your clean and dried 8 oz water bottle and fill with your chosen contents. Close it up with the cap and then listen to the sound. Once it sounds good to your ears, then you can move to the next step. But first, check out how many professional maracas are made – they are created to be slightly different in sound.

Many sets of maracas are “pitched” differently. In other words, shaking the right hand one will sound different from shaking the left hand one, so you can create some great patterns by playing with the sounds. For instance, if you make my version of rice and beans maracas (described below), the rice will be sound a bit softer and higher in pitch, the beans a bit louder and lower in pitch, so you can build rhythms on those sounds. You can also describe the rhythms in a fun way, such as rice, rice, beans, rice, rice beans or rice, beans, rice, rice beans. Almost anyone can learn new rhythms and even complicated rhythm patterns with this creative approach.

So, now you've decided how you want your pair of maracas to sound and you've tightened the cap on your two water bottles. The next step is to create the handle. Take your two toilet paper rolls and make a straight cut from one end to the other. Tighten the roll in on itself to about the size of a 3/4 inch dowel and then apply your electrical tape. Start wrapping the tape around the bottom part of the rattle on the bottle and move down onto the new handle. Wrap slowly, covering all the cardboard of the toilet paper roll and you will have created a rather sturdy handle for your new instrument.

Now you are ready to play.

GREAT-SOUNDING COMBINATIONS FOR MARACAS

Rice and Beans Maracas

Rice in one maraca, beans in the other. The color and the sound are different, making it really easy to create patterns.

“Back To School” Maracas

Colorful paper clips in one, small extra erasers in the other. A nice difference in the sound between the right and left hand.

Sand and Little Pasta Maracas

These are really quiet and subtle. The sand or salt maraca is softer than the tiny pasta (choose acini de pepe, pastina or orzo pasta) making this a great choice for kids that want to learn to listen, kids with noise sensitivity or for learning some of the aspects of playing a percussion instrument quietly but effectively.

TIME TO JAM:

Do you want to just jam? Then simply pick up your instrument and shake, shake, shake. Or dance around, move and groove, and shake things up to your heart’s content. If you want to get into more of the maraca’s musical possibilities, then take some time to check out what they can do.

Aside from shaking them back and forth where the sound comes from the contents striking the sides, you can swoosh them around. By moving your hand in a circular motion, the contents of your maracas won’t hit side to side, but will whoosh a bit around in the bottle, creating a different sound. You can also “crescendo” your maracas. You start by shaking them quietly and slightly and then build little by little to get the loudest sound. It’s a fun way to begin or end a song.

You can also make several pairs and mix and match. What sound patterns can you create? Which maracas sound best to you or sound best as pairs? Does a certain pattern sound like a song you know? Or does a song you know inspire a new pattern? Despite the fact that these are really simple little instruments, they can truly inspire hours of musical fun.

MORE INFORMATION:

Daria Marmaluk-Hajioannou

Award-winning children’s performer, DARIA (Daria Marmaluk-Hajioannou) has five cd’s that have won national honors. She has the most awesome job of traveling the world to sing for kids and peace. Her website, located at dariamusic.com, was given a 2009 Parents Choice Award for its musical and cultural content. She also has several musical blogs including:

Making Multicultural Music

(Sharing Diversity Through The Arts)

<http://makingmulticulturalmusic.wordpress.com>

Tiny Tapping Toes

(Music For The Very Young)

tinytappingtoes.wordpress.com

