

Art (Greek Masks) Knowledge organiser— Year 6 Autumn Term 1

Overview

As artists we will be designing 3D masks based on the Ancient Greek theatre experience. We will be considering impact on the audience and implementing our knowledge of characters from myths in our designs. We will also be using sketching techniques to depict movement, perspective, shadows and reflection.



Key Vocabulary

3D— Three dimensional

Textures— Texture in art and composition is the visual and tactile surface characteristics that are added to a work of art. It refers to the physical appearance or feel of an object, and can be seen through bumps, ridges,

Materials—Materials are what things are made from. Materials have different qualities: they can be smooth or rough; hard or soft; heavy or light; fragile or indestructible. Artists choose materials because of their particular qualities.

Paper Mache— A malleable mixture of paper and glue, or paper, flour, and water, that becomes hard when dry, used to make boxes, trays, or ornaments.

Perseverance— Continued effort to do or achieve something despite difficulties, failure, or opposition

Greek mythical creatures

Medusa— Medusa is generally described as a woman with living snakes in place of hair; her appearance was so hideous that anyone who looked upon her was turned to stone.

Minotaur— In Greek myth, the Minotaur was a monster with the head of a bull and the body of a man who was imprisoned in a dark underground labyrinth at Knossos on the Aegean island of Crete.

Cyclops— A cyclops (meaning 'circle-eyed') is a one-eyed giant first appearing in the mythology of ancient Greece.



Key facts

The theatre of Ancient Greece flourished between 550 and 220 BC. The city-state of Athens, which became an important cultural, political and military power during this time, was at its centre and where the three kinds of play: tragedy (late 6th century BC), comedy (486 BC) and satyr were first performed.

All the actors were men. They wore large masks that exaggerated facial features and emotions.

The mouth hole of the mask was large to help amplify the actors' voices. Plays were either spoken or sung in rhyme.

In Greek tragedies stories of the past were often told. The actors would wear masks like this female tragedy mask, where the corners of the mouth are turned down. Their costumes would be dark in colour. In Greek comedies the play would usually be about current, everyday life. Comedy actors wore bright coloured costumes with smiling masks like this male comedy mask. The originals of these masks can be seen in the Archeological Museum of Athens.