



Costume Resource 1



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Costume

Designing, making and wearing costumes is central to the carnival experience and one that is enjoyed by children, parents and teachers alike.

Making carnival costumes can sometimes be a daunting prospect for teachers. The following making guides are designed to demystify the costume making process and provide access to simple techniques that can be adapted developed and used again and again.

You will find simple making instructions for carnival headdresses, backpack costumes, block-printing and stencil make-up techniques – all the tools you need to make a complete costume. This resource provides a fantastic tool kit of costume making activities. For further detailed guidance on how to make traditional carnival headdresses please see our **How to make a Carnival Headdress** video.

The key to making these resources work for you is approaching them with creativity and openness and using them as tools to suit your own purposes. They don't require artistic expertise just a sense of fun and enthusiasm.

Approaches to a Carnival Curriculum

Carnival is a fantastically rich subject which can be themed to any topic and provides a broad base for cross-curricular planning and learning.

For further guidance and detail on how to plan a cross curricular carnival project please see our **Embedding Carnival in the Curriculum** resource.

CARNIVAL HEADRESSES



According to Jessie Martelhof - Johnson jessiem89@gmail.com

DESIGN

Headpieces **frame** the face so are a key aspect of a carnival costume design, and they are often the first thing you see.

Ideally Headresses want to be **LARGE** and **STRIKING** with **HEIGHT** & **WIDTH**

BASIC TECHNIQUES

Using Card or Plastazote foam

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Materials: | Decorative trimmings |
| Paper | Permanent markers |
| Card | |
| Scissors | |
| Foam (if using) | |
| Glue guns (cool melt) | If using foam |
| Stapler | |

BAND

STEP 1 Make a band around the head approx 2-3" depth and with an overlap of several inches. Make in Paper first to work out optimum size + shape. When you have made it, then write **TEMPLATE** on it in large letters and use this as the template - You could also make a few more templates for speed of production.

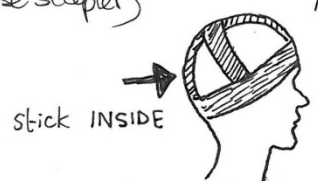


STEP 2 Fit around the wearers head, hold in place, take off and fix in place* using either hot glue or staples. NB. Use the stapler from inside to out + you will avoid sharp staples in the head!

*make sure you fix around the temples + that the band runs between eyebrows + base of neck so you have a headress which sits **DEEPLY** on the head not like a saucer!



STEP 3 **CROSS PIECES:** Cut some strips of a similar width and add in cross pieces from front to back and side to side (again use stapler) make a template for this too, so it's quick to replicate



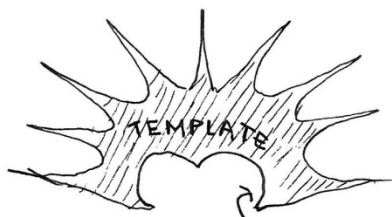
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CARNIVAL HEADDRESSES CONTINUED.....

Page 2

By Jessie Martelhof - Johnson

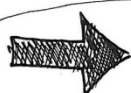
STEP ④ front piece:
Cut out



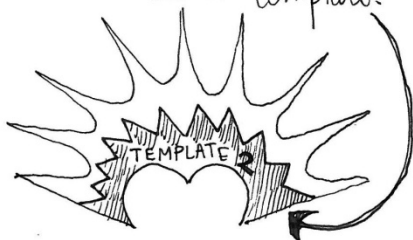
Create a template in paper first
then copy onto card + write 'TEMPLATE' in large letters on it. [Cereal Cartons are best]
Draw around template on card or foam + cut out OUTSIDE THE LINE. (otherwise messy)

NB.

If you are using **plastezote foam** use a **permanent** marker pen to draw on.
DO NOT USE BIRD (it will smudge) OR PENCIL (it wont work + will be jagged + messy)



* FOR EXTRA DECORATION
YOU CAN MAKE A 2ND SMALLER OR LARGER
SHAPE + STICK ON WITH HOT GLUE TO FRONT PIECE.
MAKE SURE the faceframing edge shape is identical on
second template.



* * FOR even more decoration
glue on "trimmings" ie shiny
things (sequins etc) or glue on glitter
But keep in mind your clean design
Less is more. (You dont want to look like
a christmas tree!)

STEP ⑤ Attach Front Piece to Skullcap.
Using glue or staples [glue is preferable]



x
fixing points
[glue or staples]

NB. You may wish to
pin the front piece
back and around onto
the skull cap.

→ EXPERIMENT!

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Withie Backpacks

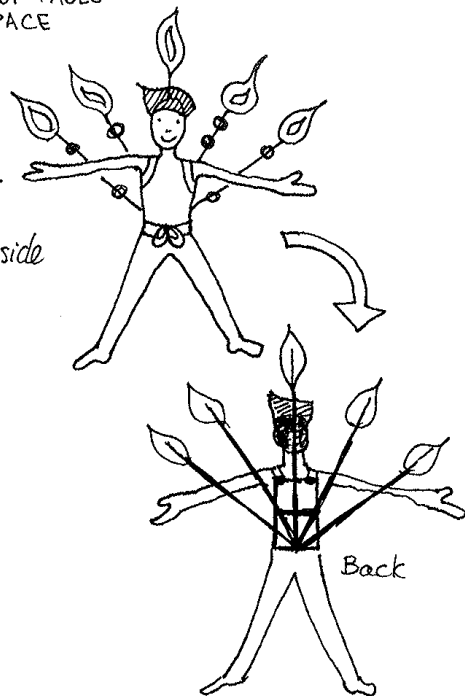
Materials:

- WITHIES '5ft length
- Good sticky masking tape
- cutters
- Polysilk for Straps

NEED LOTS OF TABLE OR FLOOR SPACE TO MAKE

SOME DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS:

So the backpack has good visual impact make sure it is big enough - i.e that the "spines" extend UP & OUT Far enough. THEY SHOULD EXTEND ABOVE THE TOP OF THE HEAD DRESS by at least 6", and out to the side at least arms length.

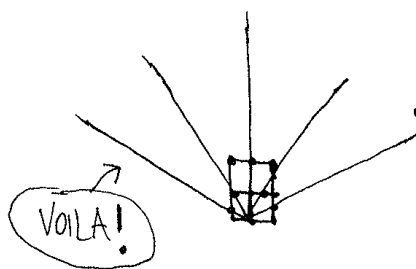


BASIC BACKPACK FRAME

- 1 → cut 3 thick withie top sticks length = from ~~neck~~ top of shoulder blade to base of spine - [straighten sticks]
- 2 → cut 3 thick withie sticks the WIDTH OF THE BACK [straighten sticks]
- 3 Join 2 of the long + 2 of the shorter into a rectangle - be sure to do good strong corner joins with tape.
- 4 Add in the last two sticks as a cross in the middle. Make sure all points of crossing are taped
← Tape

★ H+S: Carefull of pointy ends + eyes!

MAKING THE FAN SHAPE



- 5 Take 3 or 5 full length sticks (always an odd number, ideally) so one above head vertical
- 6 Join these onto the Backpack frame. Lay out on the floor if possible on top of frame + tape on. NB Thick end at bottom - attached to the very bottom of the frame. TAPE EVERY JUNCTION FIRMLY!
BE VERY CAREFUL WITH THIN POINTY ENDS OF STICKS THIS IS WHY YOU NEED PLENTY OF SPACE FOR THIS BIT.

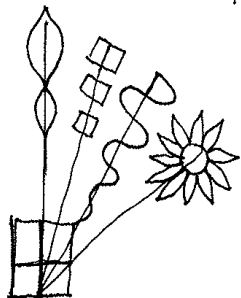
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Withie Backpacks Continued....

By Jessie Martellhof-Johnson

WAYS OF ADDING SHAPES TO THE "SPINES"

① With thin bendy withies you can add on flat shapes to spines.



THEN YOU CAN EITHER:

a) cover entire shapes with wet strength tissue paper so they are SOLID SHAPES then decorate with paint or coloured tissue

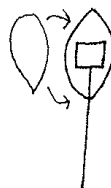
b) or wrap wet strength tissue around sticks so they are skeletal shapes

c) or do the same as b) but use some kind of coloured tape or sticky cellophane. This also helps STRENGTHEN.

② Use PAPER OR CARD SHAPES: for each shape cut 2 identical pieces - front & back.



Tape the spine end to the inside of piece 1 (gaffer tape).



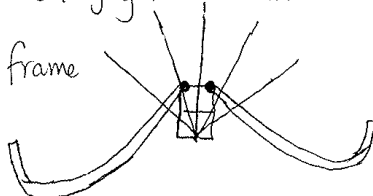
take piece 2 + either glue or staple over the top to hide tape.

NB Paper or card is good for doing nice crisp precise shapes with TEMPLATES easier to control outcome.

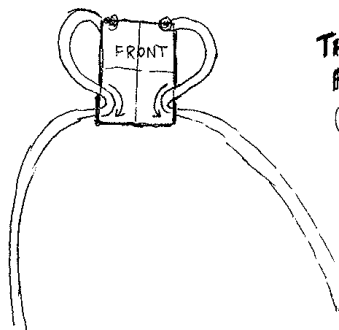
STRAPS

CUT LONG STRIPS OF POLYSILK AT LEAST 2" WIDE AND 2 meters LONG FOR EACH BACKPACK. The 2" width gives good comfort + support. CUT IT UP using ideally a hot knife or soldering iron (so no fraying). If you don't have - scissors are fine - just a bit more fraying will occur.

① Tie-on at top of back pack frame



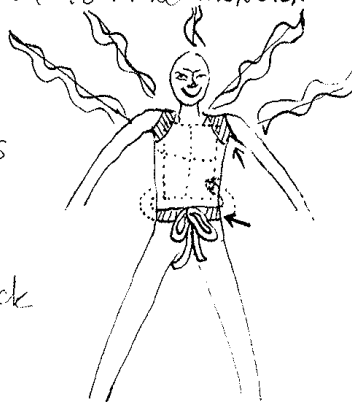
② Then Loop under lower outer sides of frame as if to make "rucksack" straps



THEN PUT THE PERSON IN:

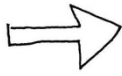
Get them to put their arms through the "rucksack" straps + bring the remaining length back around the waist

+ TIE IN A BIG BOW TIGHTEN AS NEEDED.



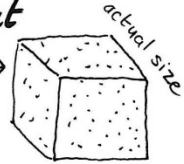
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BLOCK PRINTING CONTINUED



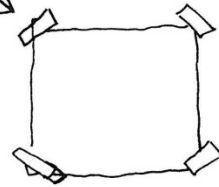
STEP 5 PREPARE FOR PRINTING:

- ★ Take a kitchen sponge, rip off the scourer green part + cut the sponge into small approx 1.5m² squares →



- ★ If printing on thin fabric cover the table with **NEWSPAPER**

- ★ Then masking tape down the paper or fabric you are printing onto at the corners to hold in place



- ★ Now put a smallish blob of acrylic paint on a palette or dish



Step 6. PRINTING! !

- ⦿ Gently dab some paint onto your sponge - dab off the excess. Then dab onto your block ~~with paint~~ - BUT NOT on the corner squares!
N.B. Don't Wipe the block with paint - DAB! otherwise its streaky
- ⦿ NOW PRINT! Gently press your paint filled block onto your fabric / Paper + rub the back so its evenly printed.
- ⦿ Gently lift off. "HEY PRESTO!"



STENCIL CARNIVAL FACE PAINTING TECHNIQUES

by Jessie Martelhof – Johnson jessiem89@gmail.com



Fun - simple - very effective!

YOU WILL NEED THE FOLLOWING EQUIPMENT:

To create design:

- plain paper with line drawn face on as background for design
- colour pencils/pens

To create the stencil:

- Clear PVC (from a fabric shop – used for shower curtains)
- fine permanent marker pen (to draw out design)
- Scalpel
- cutting board/cardboard

For face painting process:

- Big Baby sponge (cut into small pieces)
- Good quality face paints – Grimas are best bet - available mail order or from Masquerade shop in Brighton and are inexpensive. AVOID cheap face paints! you'll regret it! And anyway good ones don't cost much!
- Brushes for detail
- Baby wipes
- Small water pump bottles
- Alice band (to keep hair out of face)
- Vaseline (optional)
- Glitter (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS:

Making the stencils:

- 1) Draw a basic life size face (age appropriate) on paper and then use as a background for face paint design. You can photocopy a face drawing on several sheets to allow for experimentation with designs. Designs can be drawn out using coloured pencils or pens. Aim for bold and simple shapes.

- 2) Designs can have several layers but for a large group of people 1-3 layers is preferable as this doesn't take too long to do each face. One layer can look very effective.
- 3) Once you have come to a satisfactory design, take a small square of Clear PVC and lay over your paper design. Trace what will be the back layer of the design on one side of face with permanent pen onto the PVC. Mark Left or right on piece because you will need separate stencils for each left and right side of face so as not to smudge paint. (this will make sense once you start painting!)
- 4) After you have drawn out designs on left and right sides of all the layers you require then cut out with scalpel on a cutting board or piece of cardboard. (So for a 2 layer design on both sides of the face you would end up with 4 PVC stencils)

Applying the face paint:

- 1) Set up 2 chairs one for you and one for recipient. Fairly close together and at a good height. Try and sit up straight so as not to get an achy back.
- 2) Use an alic band to remove hair from face of recipient
- 3) Using the water pump spray some water onto the sponge making sure its not too wet... as you practice you will discover the right moistness for optimum sponging. Also spray a little bit of water into the face paint pot.
- 4) Get the appropriate stencil (i.e left or right)
- 5) Dab sponge in the paint and get a fair bit on the sponge (but not too wet!)
- 6) With the help of face paint recipient, hold the first stencil against the face with one hand whilst **firmly** sponging and dabbing on the paint into the stencil– paint should be at a consistency where it is densely covered but fairly dry soon after application.
- 7) lift off stencil and lay down and do the other side.
- 8) Once the first side is dry – which should be fairly rapid – lay on the second layer and repeat the process. N.B The key to successful layering is good quality face paint and the correct balance of dryness/moistness. If paint is poor quality and/or too wet then the colours will run into one another and not look crisp and striking.
- 9) Once you've finished stenciling you can take a fine brush and add finishing detail and/or body glitter (using Vaseline and glitter) if desired. NB this is only optional as good stencils look great without finishing detail, and sometimes finishing detail can be over done and diminish the crisp stencil effect. So be economical with this.
- 10) Have baby wipes at hand for general cleaning up of hands and mistakes (try and use biodegradable ones! such as tushies) --- **HAPPY FACE PAINTING!**

