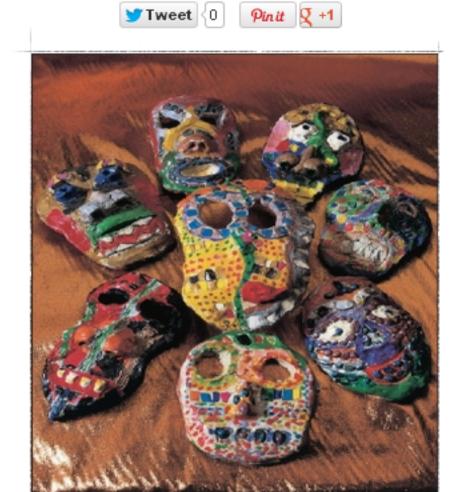


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## Crafty Ideas: Aztec Masks



## You will need:

- Clay and modeling tools
- Fimo
- Rolling pins
- Broken shells
- · Paints and paintbrushes
- Varnish





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Aztec Masks



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### A collection of Aztec masks

Aztecs often wore masks during ritual dances and religious ceremonies such as animal and human sacrifices. Masks allowed the wearer to transform their human form into a spiritual being. Masks were often made as offerings to the gods who were also depicted wearing them.

Aztec masks were often made of wood and decorated with complex inlays of precious metals, semi-precious stones and shells. Mosaics were an important feature of the design. The masks were sophisticated and complex works of craftsmanship, which tells us how important they were to Aztec culture.

## Use

Ideal for use as part of project work on the Aztecs.

## Make

- Ask children to look at examples of Aztec masks for inspiration. See if they can discover what the masks that they are looking at depict, and encourage them to look at the colours, patterns and shapes of the mosaic work.
- Thildren can then start to develop their own designs, sketching them out on paper before starting to work in clay.
- 🍽 When the designs are ready, roll out the Fimo and cut it into small squares. Bake the Fimo in the oven, following the instructions on the packet.
- 🍽 Model a facemask in clay, adding a nose and cutting out holes for the eyes. Add white Fimo squares or use pieces of broken shell for the teeth.
- Use the small coloured Fimo squares to decorate the mask and leave it to harden.
- Paint the mask in vibrant colours and varnish when it is dry.

# 🐒 Tip

As an alternative to Fimo use small coloured stones sold in pet shops to go on the bottom of fish tanks! Embed these stones into the clay mask.

## Display

Display the masks on tabletops or shelves against a gold background.