

Name _____

Date _____

Your Finger Mask

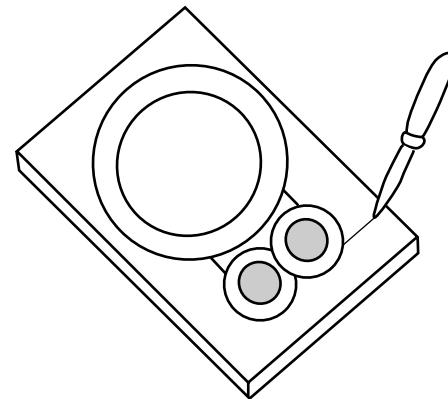
Make a finger mask from clay. In Yup'ik Finger Masks, Part 2, you'll add paint and other materials. Look at the Yup'ik finger masks in your art book for ideas.

Step 1: Getting started

- Take a lump of clay about the size of your fist. Roll it into a ball between the palms of your hands. Your hands and the air will dry the clay, so add water to your fingertips to keep the clay moist and soft. Whenever the clay starts to feel hard or gets cracks, add more water to your fingertips.
- Flatten the clay by gently pounding it with your fist. It should be about as thick as a thick cookie. If it is thinner than about a half an inch, your mask will be too flimsy.

Step 2: Make a mask shape

- Place the paper pattern onto the clay slab and trace it. If the pattern is too big for the clay slab, add more clay to the slab. Join the extra clay well by smoothing the seams with your finger.
- Cut around the pattern using a clay tool, such as a plastic knife or toothpick. Start cutting from the edge of the slab and work your way to the pattern edge, then all around the pattern.
- Cut out the centers of the finger holes.
- Remove the extra clay and save it for later.
- Add water to your fingertips and smooth the edges of the clay.



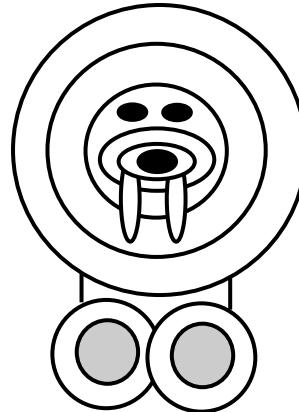
Step 3: Decide

Decide what type of face to make. You can show a human or animal face. Think about using symbols that will help tell a story. A smile can be a symbol of happiness, a frown a symbol of sadness. A polar bear face can be a symbol of strength, and an eagle can be a symbol of hunting skills. What do you want your mask to tell?

Your Finger Mask

Step 4: Make the face

- Use the leftover clay to make facial features. For a human face, make eyes, a nose, a mouth, and maybe some ears. If you make an animal, what features will you need to add? Use simple shapes for face parts. Don't show too many details.
- Place the clay face parts onto the mask.
- Smooth the seams around all the pieces using a clay tool, such as a pencil or plastic knife. Join the pieces well or they will fall apart as the mask dries.
- Add a few interesting textures to the mask by pressing clay tools lightly into the surface. Keep the textures simple.



Step 5: Checklist

Look at your finger mask and answer the following questions:

- Did you make the finger mask thick enough so it isn't flimsy?
- Did you smooth the seams of the clay pieces to join them well?
- Did you use symbols that can help tell a story?
- Did you use simple shapes and textures?

Step 6: Save

Place your artwork in a safe spot to dry. Save it for Yup'ik Finger Masks, Part 2.