

TITLE

PEKING OPERA MASK

GRADE LEVEL: 1ST TO 5TH GRADE

SUBJECT: Art, History

THEME: Identity and Culture Performance

STANDARDS: Common Core Language Arts

OBJECTIVES:

Students will be able to:

- About Chinese culture
- Gain an understanding of Chinese theater
- Learn about the significances of the mask colors and patterns as it relates to the character.
- How the colors and the meaning can be used for storytelling

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

- How does studying the Arts of another culture help one better understand the people of that culture?
- Specifically, what can one learn about Chinese society and culture through their opera and their use of masks?
- Why are the mask colors and patterns important?

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RESOURCES:

Vicas vlog: Peking Opera Pick the Peking Opera mask for yourself

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B2JwZnwLqKO>

Beijing Travel Guide - Peking Opera - Mask

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m9bLFcq33S4>

[Culture]The Master of Chinese Opera Masks| More China

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yYoxgxwKDug>

What Is Peking Opera?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ka5z3uYctug>

Coloring pages

<https://www.supercoloring.com/coloring-pages/chinese-opera-mask-4>

Comic Strip Template

https://picklebums.com/images/printables/picklebums_comicpages_big.pdf

Peking Opera Mask Slideshow Lesson

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1sk7JCPw1ENveG8BR03vjWL-UkD5Z_k_Z/edit#slide=id.p1



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ACTIVITIES:

1.

Prepare students by asking the ways in which we can learn about other cultures. The teacher can do this through open discussion and by writing their thoughts on a whiteboard or poster paper. Have students be as specific as they can: what did they learn about another person's culture? How? (through art, food, books, social interactions, family ties, etc.) Tell them that the lesson today is an opportunity to find out more about Chinese people and culture. Begin with the slideshow listed in the resources and available here: [Peking Opera Mask Slideshow Lesson](#)

2.

Have the students choose from one of the coloring pages (they can be found under resources) to color and decorate their mask. From there discuss the type of character they want to create based on what they have learned today. Once their characters have been created, have the students color their mask accordingly. You will need: Crayons, Markers, Colored Pencils, and Coloring pages

3.

Continue the process started in Activity 1 by having students create their own story revolving around their characters. This can be expanded on even further by having students engage each other with their stories, see if there are parallel themes, and even if they can merge their stories together.

4.

Using their knowledge of Peking Opera masks, have students create a story by drawing opera mask characters. Students can come up with any story they like as long as it goes along the rules of the color for each mask. (Link for comic strip pdf can be found under resources)









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Color type	Good or Bad	Meaning behind the colors	
Red	Good	Loyal, courageous, prosperous	 A Peking Opera mask with a red face, black eyebrows, and a black mustache. The face is painted a vibrant red, with black outlines for the eyes and mouth. The mask has a small black dot on the forehead and a small black dot on the cheek.
Purple-ish red	Good	Represents justice and sophisticated	 A Peking Opera mask with a purple-ish red face, black eyebrows, and a black mustache. The face is painted a purple-ish red, with black outlines for the eyes and mouth. The mask has a yellow lightning bolt on the forehead and a small black dot on the cheek.
Black	Not good or bad	Strong and bold	 A Peking Opera mask with a black face, black eyebrows, and a black mustache. The face is painted black, with black outlines for the eyes and mouth. The mask has a small black dot on the forehead and a small black dot on the cheek.

Blue	Not good or bad	Stubborn and fierce	 A blue Peking Opera mask with white and red accents around the eyes and a black mustache.
Yellow	Bad	Evil and sly	 A yellow Peking Opera mask with black and white accents around the eyes and a black mustache.
Green	Bad	Wild and violent	 A green Peking Opera mask with white and red accents around the eyes and a black mustache.

<p>White</p>	<p>Good and bad</p>	<p>Depending on the role and the pattern on the face, if the character has white in the middle of the face it is an ugly and funny character. However, if the character's face is fully painted white then it's the villain of the story.</p>	 <p>The image contains two illustrations of Peking Opera faces. The top illustration shows a stylized white face with brown patterns around the eyes and a mustache, representing a character with a specific role. The bottom illustration shows a full white face with a black beard and a red background, representing a villainous character.</p>
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