



# Masks Around the World

Makaila Palmer, Evenstarr Dacanay Long, Unique  
Campa, Sara Grim, Reba Castaneda





## Masks

A mask is anything that disguises or conceals;  
a covering for all or part of the face.





# Egypt

- Egyptians used masks as part of their burial ceremony
- The masks that were placed upon the face of the deceased often contained spells intended to protect the spirit on its journey into the afterlife
- The masks were usually painted with gold and contained precious stones

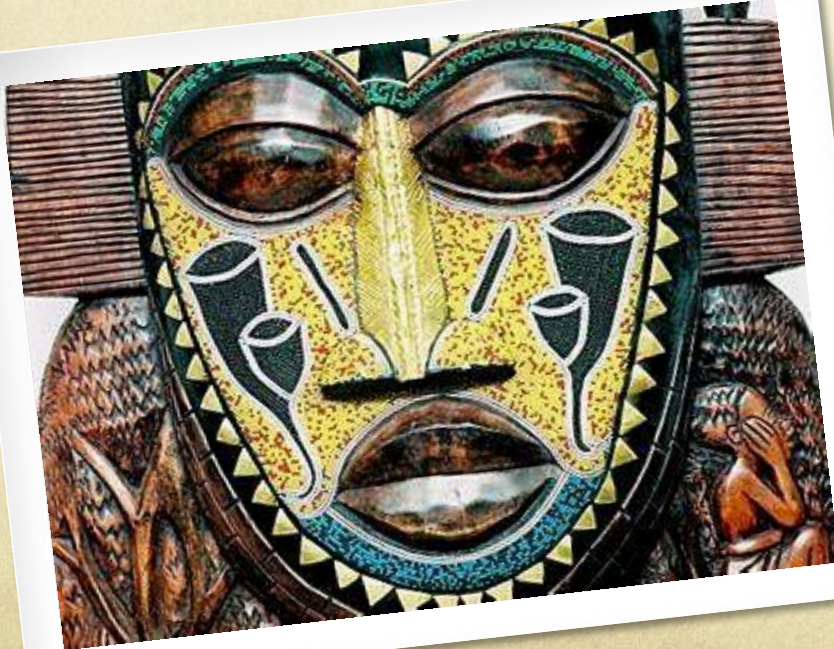




# Africa



- Many of Africa's native cultures used masks as part of their religious ceremonies, as well as part of ceremonial costumes
- They often were made to represent the spirits of ancestors or of certain local deities
- A dancer wearing the mask was sometimes thought to be possessed by the spirit represented by the mask he wore







## Italy

- In the Middle Ages, theater masks were extremely popular drawing many tourists to Venice and many major cities in Italy
- The masks served as an important social purpose of keeping every citizen on an equal playing field

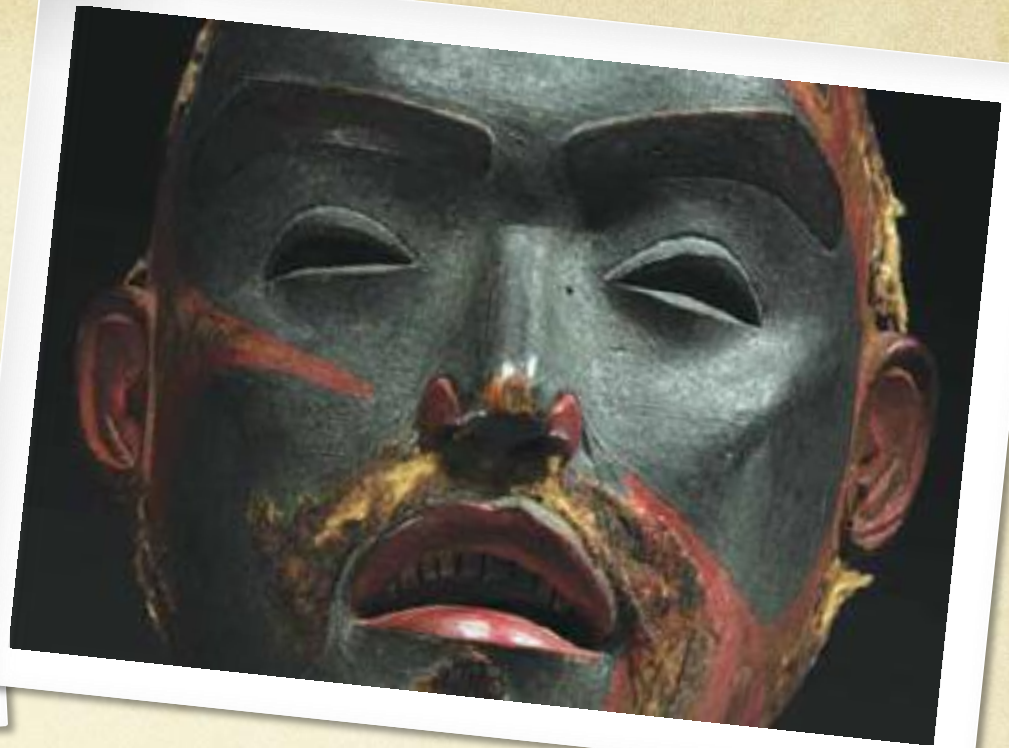




## Asia

- In Japan, China and other parts of Asia, masks had religious purposes or were incorporated into theater
- Many of the masks were influenced by Buddhist, Hindu and Indian literature, and were inspirational in the creation of various Asian art and theatrical performances





## Native American

- Native American masks were used for purposes similar to that of the masks in Africa with its spiritual roots
- The Native American mask was sometimes used for entertainment as well as for medicinal purposes for healing





# Mardi Gras

- Masks allow the wearer to celebrate without judgment
- The upper class were able to celebrate with the lower class without social criticism
- When wearing a mask you can express your secret inner personality or alter ego without fear of being recognized

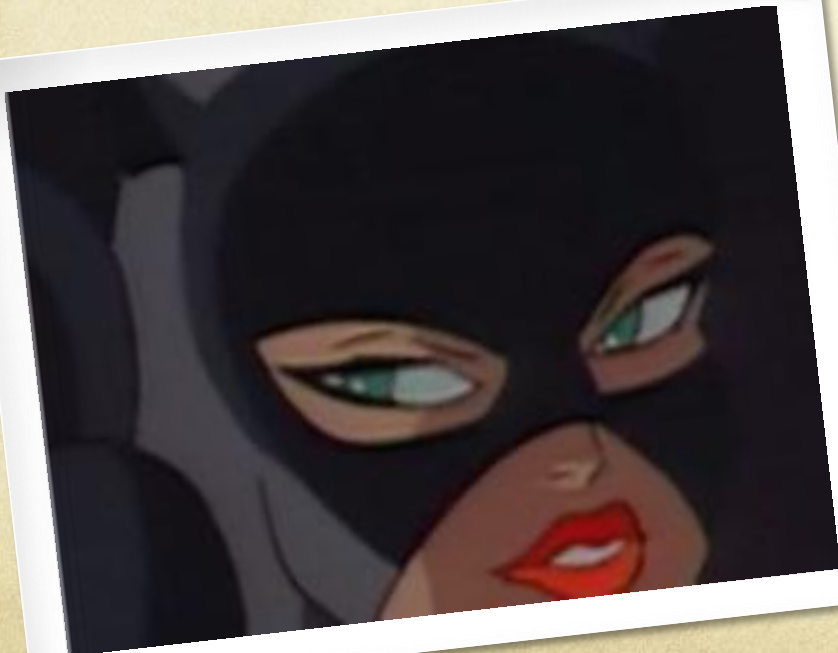






# Superhero

- Similar to Mardi Gras Superhero's also wore masks to conceal their identities while saving the world







## South American

- In South America, the mummies of Inca royalty wore golden masks and the mummies of lesser personages wore masks that were made of wood or clay
- Some of these ancient Andean masks had movable parts, such as the metallic death mask with movable ears that was found in the Moon Pyramid at Moche, Peru (300-400A.D.).





## Compare and Contrast

What are the differences between these two masks? What are the similarities?