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Carnival in Malta

Carnival Week is undoubtedly one of the most colourful events in the Maltese calendar. Traditionally preceding Lent, Carnival provides five days of revelry with many dressing up in colourful costumes and covering their faces with masks in the many towns and villages.

It has been celebrated in Malta since the arrival of the Knights of St. John in 1535, but some studies even date the first carnival revelry back to the year 1470. Up until 1751, carnival was an activity exclusive to Valletta, the capital city. Nowadays, revellers gather in every corner of the islands during the five days preceding Ash Wednesday from Nadur in Gozo to Ghaxaq in the south of Malta.

Valletta is taken over by colourful floats – the basis of the Maltese carnival. Prizes are awarded for the best dances, costumes, floats and grotesque masks. The programme includes the opening, dancing competitions, the grand defilé, local and foreign bands, a children's carnival programme, and carnival by night.

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Years ago, in the villages of Gozo, ready-made costumes were expensive, so, they would make up their own Carnival attire out of sheets, blankets and everyday clothes. At sunset, the maskarati (wearing a mask to disguise themselves), used to come out into the streets, shouting, whistling and throwing sweets and sweet almonds out to the people. Nowadays they keep the same tradition and you can see all sorts of costumes and maskarati.

The origin of the name 'carnival' is unclear, as there are a number of theories. The most commonly known theory states that the name comes from the Latin *carnem* (meat) and *levare* (lighten or raise), literally "to remove the meat" or "stop eating meat". It has also been claimed that it comes from the Latin words *caro* (meat) and *vale* (farewell), meaning "farewell to meat".

Make a Carnival Parade

Why don't you make your own parade at
your HQ?

Let the children cut strips of paper from
newspapers or magazines, make musical
instruments and sing along to carnival songs.

I'm sure you will have a blast!



Wasal iz-zmien mistenni minn kulhadd
Iz-zmien li jgib il-ferh tal-karnival
U dan iz-zmien tixtieq ma jghaddi qatt
Ghalkemm mhux zmien ta boloh spiss jintqal

U dan iz-zmien kulhadd kuntent ikun
U dan hu ta bil-fors u bir-ragun
U jghidu x-xjuh u jghidu t-tfal....Viva l-jiem tal-Karnival

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Prinjolata

A traditional Maltese dessert prepared especially for Carnival. The name Prinjolata comes from the word 'Prinjol' which means Pine Nuts in Maltese. The Prinjolata is a delicious carnival cake that is instantly recognizable from its unusual shape. When ready, the Prinjolata resembles a snow capped mountain.

Ingredients :

25g chocolate
A packet of biscuits
100g of white butter
100grams of icing sugar
50 grams of almonds
25g of cooked almonds
25 grams cherries
Cream



How to do it:

- Cut the butter into small pieces and mix it with the icing sugar
- Break the biscuits into small pieces
- Cut the chocolate into fine pieces
- Break the almonds into small pieces
- Mix everything together
- Work out the mixture to the shape that you want it in
- Cover it with cream and stick some cherries and almonds to decorate

*Il-perlini w prinjolata,
għal matul il-karnival,
għax dawn huma jiem ta' briju,
kemm għall-kbar w għalina t-tfal.*

*Hemm min jilbes ta' xi buffu,
hemm min jilbes ta' pirat,
ejj' ilkoll inċapċu w nidtku,
ħadd m'għandu jkun irrabjat!*

*Mel' evviva l-maskerati
u evviva l-ħmerijiet!
Ejj' ningħaqdu lkoll mal-folol,
ħa naraw il-karrijiet.*

*Viva, viva l-karnival!
Viva, viva l-karnival!*

Make a funny photo booth



Create this photo booth by finding funny images and sticking them to kebab sticks or simply by just holding them in your hands.

Then all you need is a camera!!

Enjoy



Indian Hat

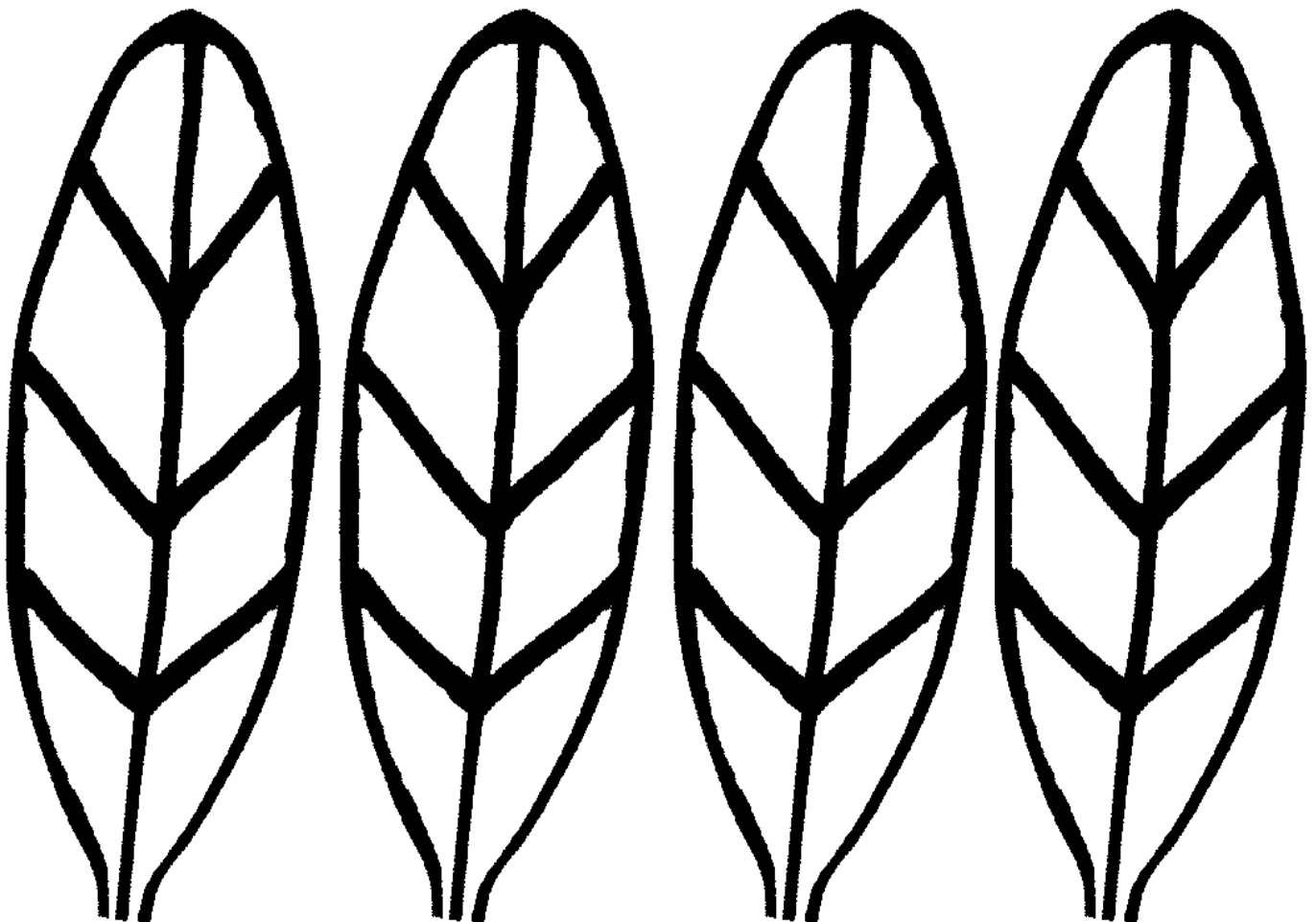
What you'll need:

Cardboard
Feather templates
Colours/Paints
Glue



How to do it:

- Cut a long piece of cardboard (any colour) that will fit into your head when stuck together
- Design and colour or paint to your liking
- Cut the feather templates, colour or paint them and stick the to the cardboard.



Make a HULA HULA Skirt

What you'll need:

- A flower garland or make your own flowers
- Ribbon or string
- Crap paper
- Glue
- Scissors

How to do it:

- Make your own hula skirt by purchasing an inexpensive artificial garland which has flowers or else make your own flowers with materials.
- Take the garland apart.
- Cut crap paper into strips.



- Use some wide ribbon (check how much you will be needing before) and stick the crepe paper to it.
- Cover the top with the flowers one by one.

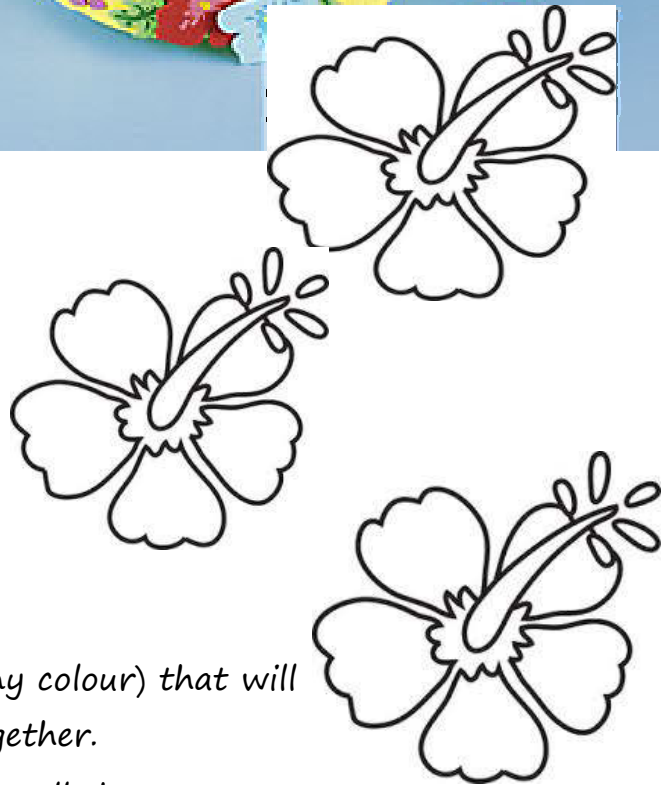


Make a HULA HULA Hat



What you'll need:

- Glue
- Flower templates
- Cardboard
- Scissors
- Colours



How to do it:

- Cut a long piece of cardboard (any colour) that will fit into your head when stuck together.
- Cut long strips, next to each other all the way round the cardboard.
- Do not cut all the way down, but instead leave a small uncut piece so that the hat will hold steady.
- Colour the flowers and stick them to the front of the hat.



Masks

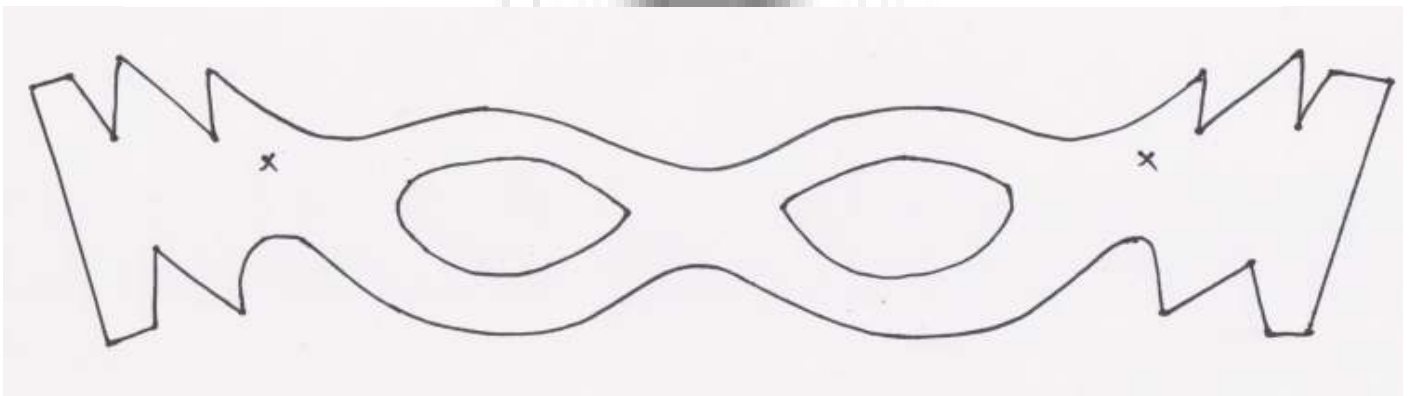
- Choose any mask
- Colour or paint and design the mask as you wish
- Stick the template on a cardboard to strengthen the mask
- Cut the template out
- Punch two holes at the side and use the required amount of elastic ribbon or stick a lollipop stick

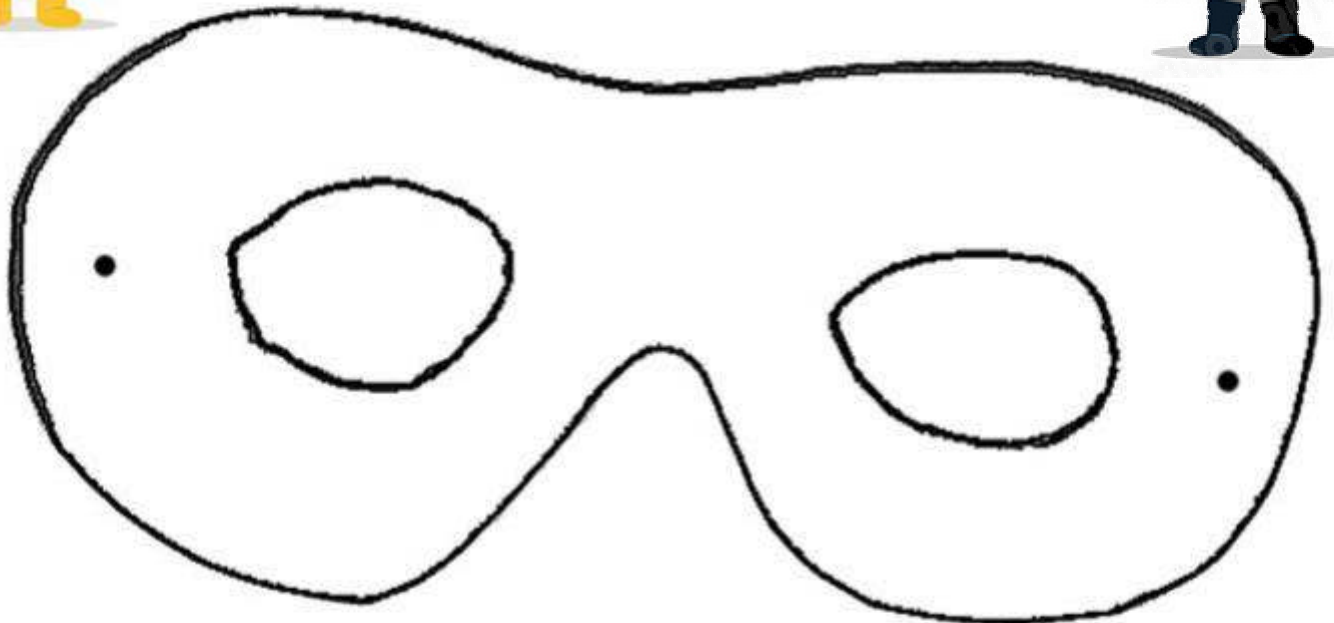
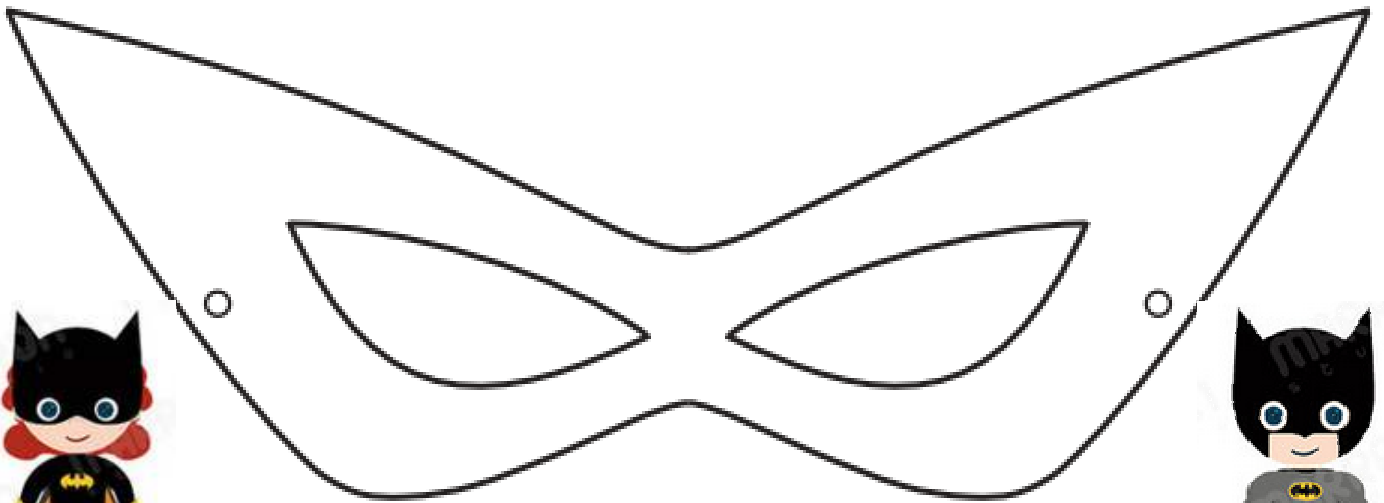
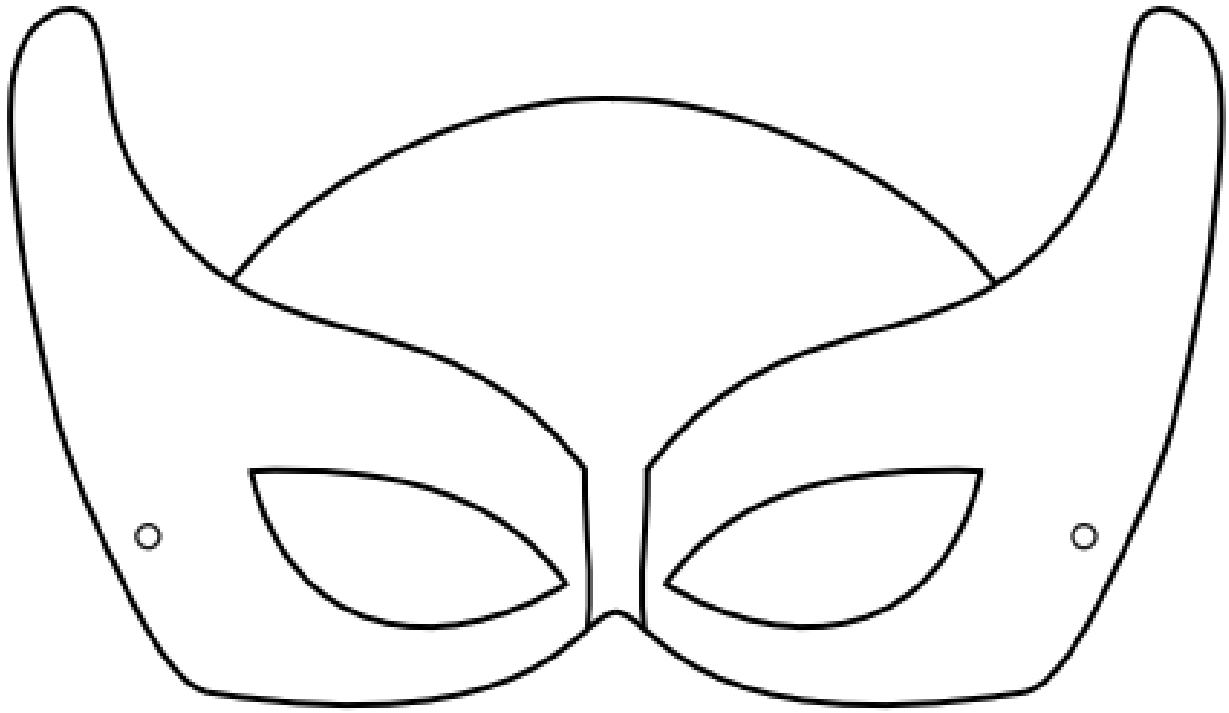
What do I want to be this carnival??

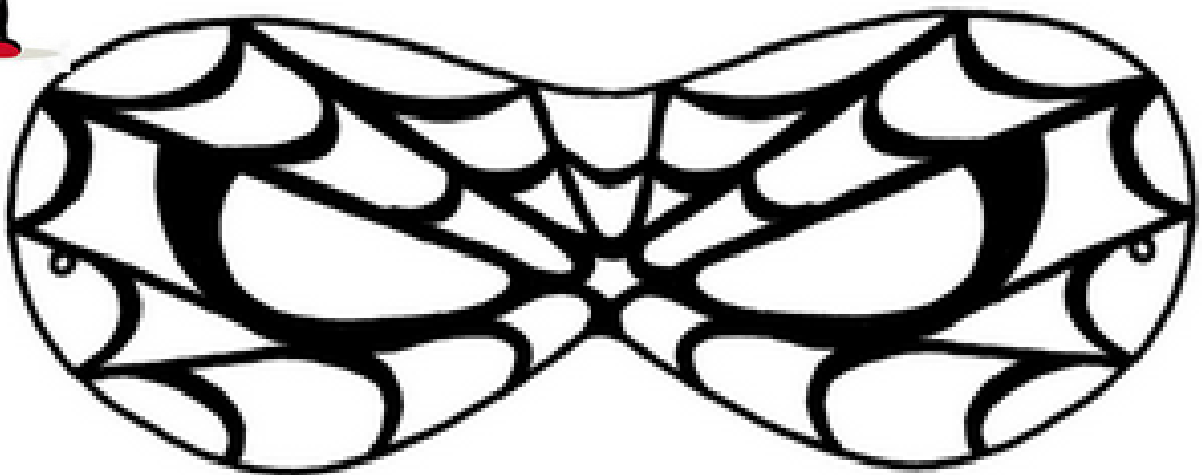
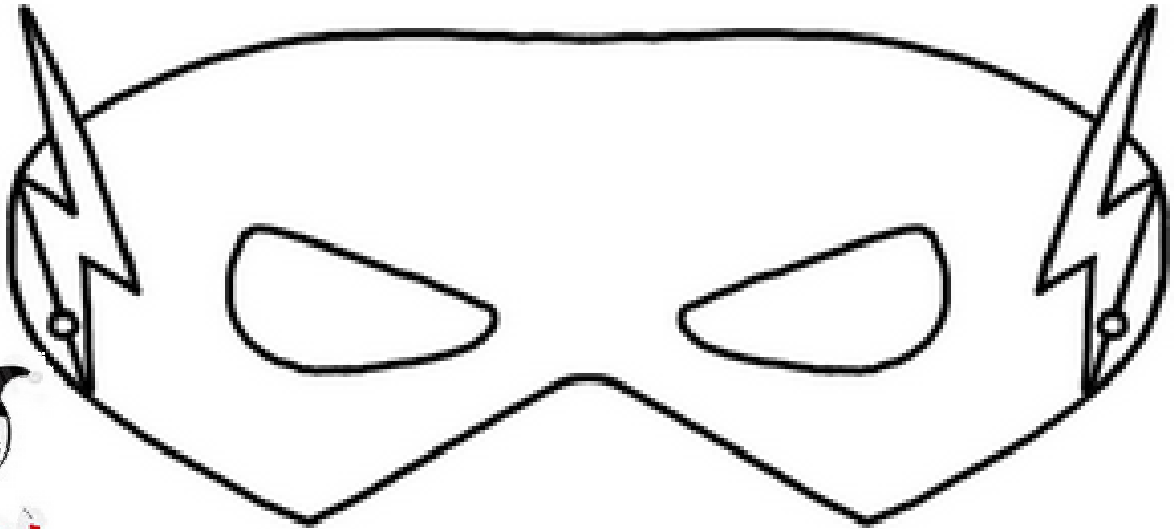
A superhero? An animal? A cowboy? A pirate? A clown? A princess?

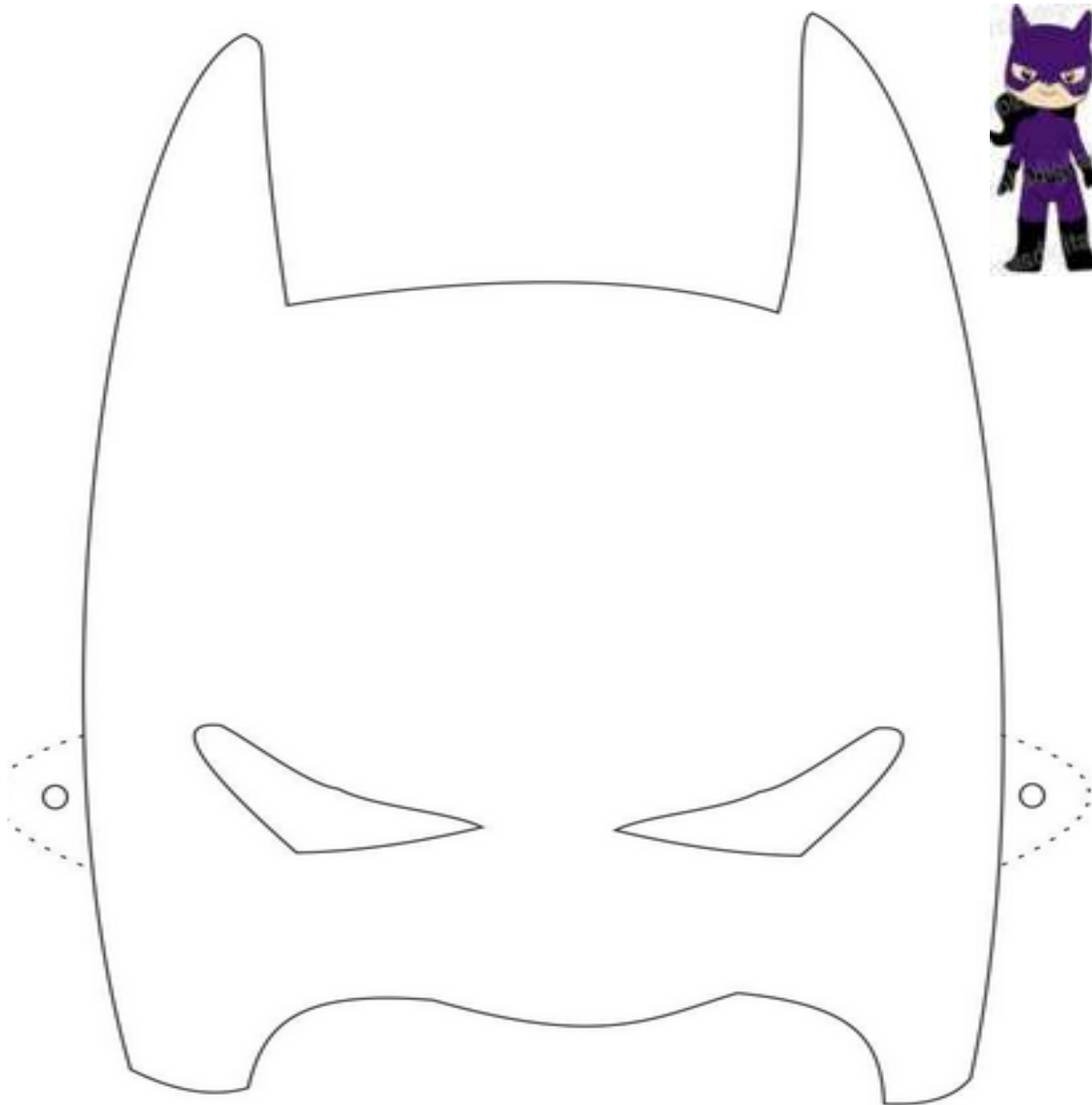


Mask Templates









Make your own magic wand

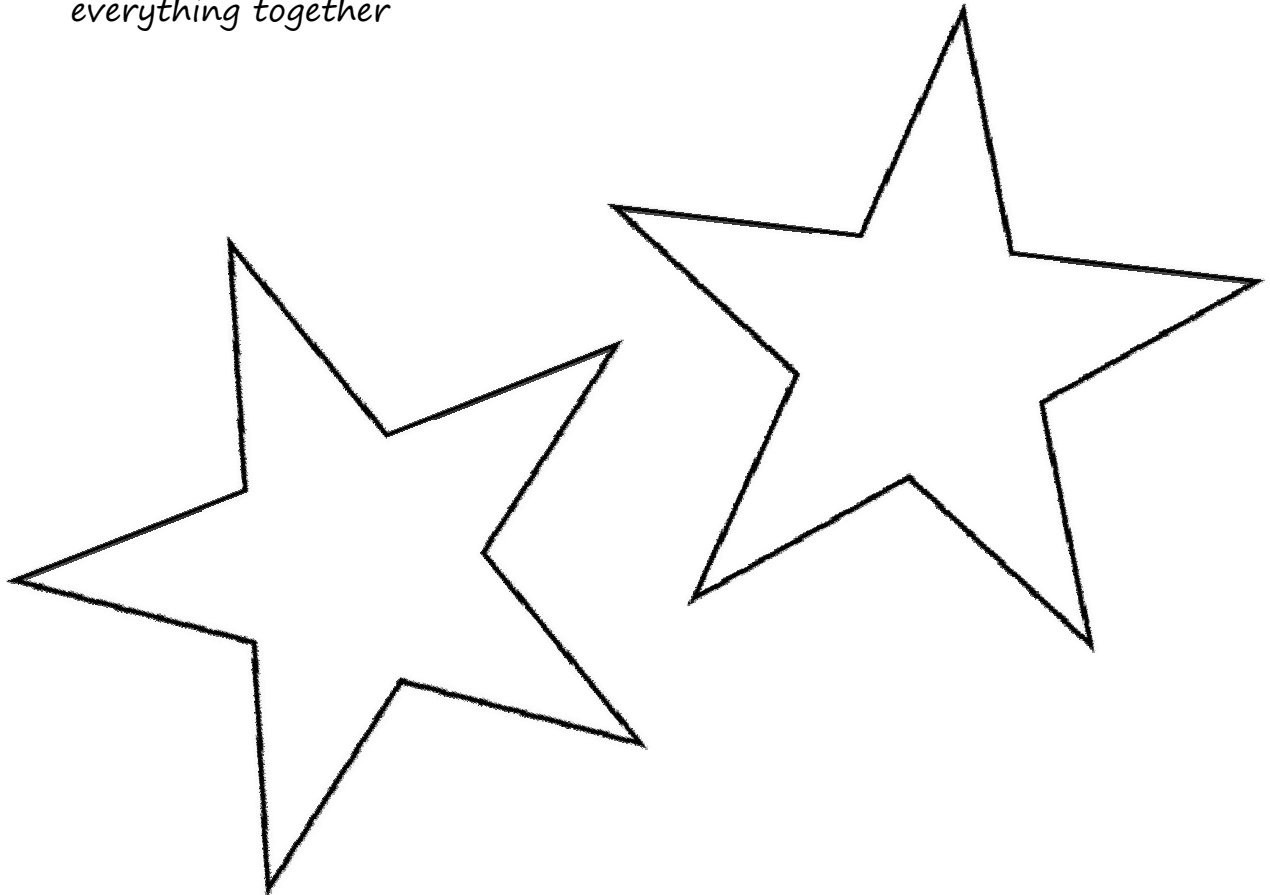
What you'll need:

- Star Pattern
- Cardboard Paper
- Plastic Straw
- Glue
- Glitter
- Paints/Colours



How to do it:

- Print the template and stick it on cardboard paper
- Cut the stars out
- Colour and decorate the star to your liking
- Apply glue to the stars, place the straw between them and stick everything together



Pirate Patch

What you'll need:

- Cardboard
- Pirate Patch Template
- Elastic band
- Scissors



How to do it:

- Cut a piece of elastic cord to a good length which fits around the kid's head.
- Slip the end through one of the holes on the patch
- Carefully tie a double knot and then trim the excess
- Then tie the other end of the elastic in a knot on the other hole in the patch and you're good to go.



Sing along with Jake and the Never Land Pirates



Just off the shores of Never Land

A hideaway at sea

Yo Ho! Yo Ho!

Let's Go! Let's Go!

A pirate band outwits the plans

Of Captain Hook and Smee

Yo Ho! Yo Ho!

Let's Go! Let's Go!



The merry crew of Never Land Pirates

Through & Through - they're jolly buccaneers

Join with Jake and the Neverland Pirates

Come Along - We need some volunteers.

Jake - Ahoy!

Izzy - Ahoy!

Cubby - Ahoy!

Skully - Ahoy!

Yo-oooooO! Yo Ho!

Jake and the Never Land Pirates

Climb aboard, Me Hearties, and be a pirate true.

Let's go! With Jake and the Neverland Pirates

We'll set the course together - Come on and join the crew

Yo ho lets go!

Pirate Flag

What you'll need:

- Pirate flag template
- Wooden dowel
- Tape



How to do it:

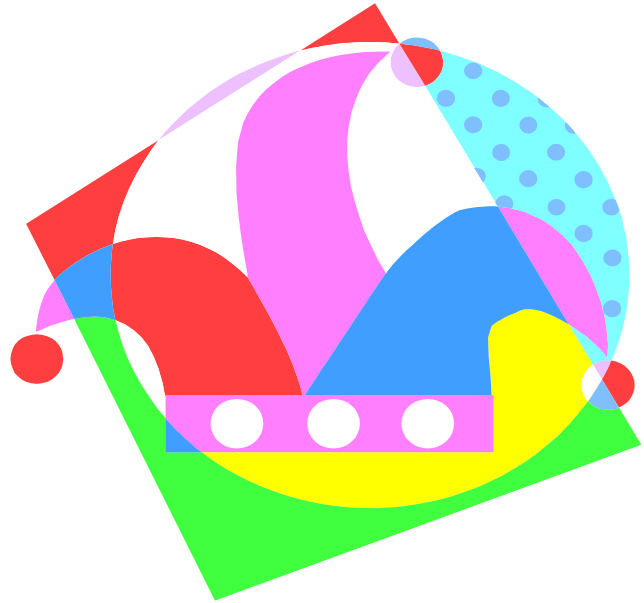
- Cut a piece of dowel to the desired length.
- Print the template of the flag
- Cut the template out
- To attach the flag to the stick you will need to cut a long piece of tape which is the length of the side of the flag, and then place the dowel over it, making sure to line up the top of the flag with the end of the dowel.
- Then just roll up the tape and trim the excess tape from the sides with the scissors.



Jester Hat

What you'll need:

- Different coloured cardboard
- Scissors
- Glue
- Tape
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Bells (optional)



How to do it:

- Cut a strip from construction paper long enough to go round your head
- Glue the end of the paper strip together. That will be the headband
- Draw six triangles and cut them out.
- Stick the triangles with tape all around the inside of the headband.
- Draw 12 circles from the different coloured cardboard
- Cut and stick the circles to the end of the triangles, on both sides.



- You can also add bells to the hat.



Carnival Float

Make a carnival float in lodges or as a colony. You will need big boxes and lots of recycled items to decorate it, but its great fun for the children. Let the children come up with their own ideas and let their imagination come to life.

What you'll need:

Big boxes

Crap paper

Coloured papers

Used cd's

Bottle caps

Paints

Glue

Scissors

Any item which children might decide to use.



CARDBOARD TRAIN

