

African Mask (Mukenga)



Primary Focus: Texture

Secondary Focus: Functional Art

This embellished mask creates a vibrant discussion for the many words used to describe the texture of an object.

Think of the many words used in the sense of touch as well as all of their opposites. Have the students try to come up with as many as possible as you go through the various materials found on this mask.

Materials. The use of regional materials in this mask are important to discuss.

Describe each of them what they symbolize.

Discuss the important roll this mask plays in ceremonies.

Locate on the classroom map where this mask originates in Africa.

Some questions to pose:

- How do you think it would feel to wear this mask?
- Do you think it is heavy or light?
- If you could touch this mask how would it feel?
- What colors are used?
- Do you see any patterns?
- What type of lines do you see?
- Can you find some opposite examples of texture here? (soft / hard or rough / smooth) Where are they?