Art of the Inca Lesson Ideas

Submitted by: Jill Hanson-Fahnoe, Blake Lower School, Highcroft Campus
UNIT: Art of the Inca - Foil Tooling - Masks
Lesson: Inca Gods - Foil Tooled Mask
Grade level: Elementary (grades 4 through 6)

Lesson Summary:

These masks were made by fourth graders at The Blake School, Highcroft Campus. As part of their classroom social studies they learned about South America. During art class they explored the art of the Inca, a lost civilization from Peru. They looked at hand-crafted Inca objects made of metal- taking a close look at gold and silver masks unearthed from Inca tombs. Through these they learned about the Inca people’s awesome craftsmanship. They thought their use of design was very good - like patterns, geometric shapes and symbols.

Next they drafted a design for a mask of their own - combining what they knew about the Inca people with what they knew about their style of art, and threw in a bit of imagination as well! The ideas were then embossed into and then cut from a sheet of metal foil. Some of them "antiqued" masks to make them look like they were tarnished or old. Students then wrote about the meaning of their masks - showing an understanding of Incan culture.

Here are the stories written by these students.

"Goddess of Silver"

I am the goddess of silver. I rule the world with silver. I am made of silver and will be beautiful until the end of the world. I make the light when the earth moves. When you sleep I sleep. When I am asleep the god of gold takes care of you. He makes the sand for the sandman. I'm getting sleepy now, so it's time for the gold god to take over. Good night!

By “A”
Grade 4, The Blake School

"Incan Sun God"

I am an Incan Sun God. My people cherish me. They say that I save them from famine after
thunderstorms. They decided to put me in the sun temple by a window to catch the sunlight. The light makes me shine and sparkle. Instead of being made of bronze or copper, I am made of gold. The moon goddess is made of silver. She is my wife. According to the other gods in the temple, she gave birth to the earth. Thank you for reading my story.

By S
Grade 4, The Blake School

"God of Water"

I made this mask at Highcroft. I used simple shapes because it is supposed to be a mask from the Age of Incas. The mask represents the god of water. It can make rivers in the deserts and can also make water appear anywhere. It helps animals because it is the giver of water.

By C
Grade 4, The Blake School

Objectives: Students will

- Show an understanding and awareness of Inca culture and religion
- Show an appreciation for art of the Inca - discuss artifacts
- Create a mask showing design concepts of the Inca - pattern, repetition - adornment
- Demonstrate craftsmanship in tooling and cutting foil

Materials:

- newsprint - pencils
- handouts of Inca art - Inca gods chart
- Tooling foil (gold, copper, aluminum)
- newspaper pads
- modeling tools (rounded and pointed)
- masking tape - ballpoint pens
- India ink - brushes
- black poster board or mat board

Motivation:

2. Show examples of Inca gold - and metal tooling. Discuss the Inca gold masks
3. Demonstrate foil tooling techniques - working both sides of the metal

Procedures:

1. Design a mask on newsprint showing characteristics of Incan art combined with original ideas. Design mask to meet the needs of the Inca or personal need.
2. Transfer mask drawing to tooling foil - Tape drawing to foil. Place on newspaper pad and trace over all lines making an impression. Remove drawing and save for reference as needed.
3. Tool mask. Place on newspaper pad. Press down some shapes while making other come out in relief. Go back over lines as needed to make shapes show up.
4. Cut out mask - Antique with India ink if desired. Mount on black poster board or mat board.
5. Write about mask. What need does your mask fulfill?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>ROLE IN MYTHOLOGY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apocatequil</td>
<td>God of lightning and chief priest of Coniraya, the moon god</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apu Illapu</td>
<td>God of thunder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catequil</td>
<td>God of thunder and lightning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chasca</td>
<td>Goddess of the planet Venus; servant of the sun and protector of young girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illapa</td>
<td>God of the weather and the bringer of rain; shown as a man carrying a club</td>
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<tr>
<td>INTI</td>
<td>Also known as Apu Punchau; sun god and the supreme deity of the Incas depicted as a golden disc</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mama Allpa</td>
<td>Harvest and fertility goddess, depicted with many breasts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mama Quilla</td>
<td>Also known as Mama Kilya; goddess of the moon; sister and wife of Inti.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manco Capac</td>
<td>Creator of the Incas and god of fire; brother of Pachacamac</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pachacamac</td>
<td>Earth god and creator of the world</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pachamama</td>
<td>Goddess of the mountains, rocks, and plains</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supay</td>
<td>God of death and lord of the Underworld</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urcaguary</td>
<td>God of the underground treasures; sometimes depicted as a snake with the head of a deer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viracocha</td>
<td>Supreme deity of the Incas, creator of the sun and moon so father of Inti and Mama Quilla</td>
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Resources

Inca Gold Sun Mask Check your local library for books - the best web source is no longer online. Inca Gold Sun (Nova)

Inca Masks

- Copper Sun Mask
- Copper mask, 'The Creator'
- Ceramic mask, 'Incan Priest'

Art of Ancient Peru- some good gold examples http://www.tribalarts.com/feature/peru

Here are some sites to give you background information - not necessarily for students.
http://www.wsu.edu/~dee/CIVAMRCA/INCAS.HTM
http://lsa.colorado.edu/~lsa/texts/Incas.html

PBS site - good for students - Conquistadors
http://www.pbs.org/opb/conquistadors/peru/peru.htm
http://www.pbs.org/opb/conquistadors/peru/adventure1/a2.htm#txt