

# Comedy and Tragedy Masks

## Introduction

*Read the Ancient Greece article on World Book Online.*

The ancient Greeks are famed for their literature, including tragic and comedic plays that are still performed today. Plays were performed during Greek festivals, where writers sometimes competed for prizes. The Greeks built elaborate theatres to host these plays; some theatres could hold as many as 14,000 audience members! The theatres were planned carefully and constructed so that even the farthest viewer could hear the action on stage. Men played all the acting roles and used different masks to show what their characters were feeling.

## Materials:

Papier-mâché  
Markers  
Paint  
Feathers  
Spare scraps of cloth

## Directions:

Create an actor's mask based on a character for a Greek play. It can be a tragic or comedic character. Make sure the character's emotion is shown clearly. Then tell the class who you chose and how your mask reflects the character.