

Y5 Art Knowledge Organiser—Clay Facial Sculpture



Key Knowledge

Clay Masks for Greek Theatre

Greek Masks had greatly exaggerated features so the type of character being portrayed could be seen from anywhere in the theatre.



Specific colours were used to identify the type of character being portrayed.

Male masks had yellow or brown skin colour. Female masks had white skin colour Satyr (beast) masks were painted with a reddish skin.

Key Vocabulary

Word	Definition
Acoustic	Of or relating to hearing of sound
Score	To mark or cut out a surface using a pointed tool
Slip	A mixture of clay and water used to join pieces of scored clay together.
Natural Pigment	A substance that gives colour to another material often found naturally occurring in nature such as rock or plants.
Authentic	Not a copy - genuine
Septum	A partition separating two chambers such as that between the nostrils or the chambers of the heart.

Key Skills



To be able to use the slip and score method effectively

Scoring a piece of clay means marking it with a pointed tool. It is mainly used when joining pieces of clay together. Both pieces of clay are scored and then a **slip**, which is a mixture of clay and water, is added to both pieces before joining them together. Using this method means the pieces are much stronger and unlikely to fall apart.



To be able to create realistic eyes by doing the following:

Gently mark your face exactly in half vertically then into guarters horizontally

Cut out the eye holes along the top guarter line.

Roll out three thin sausage shaped pieces of clay to form the eye shape.

Using the score and slip method, place one of the sausage shapes in a curve above the eye and a smaller one in a curve below the eye.



To be able to make a realistic 3D nose by doing the following:

Slice open the clay under the eyes along the vertical mark line as far as the half way horizontal line.

Next slice open the width of the nose along the horizontal line before pealing back the clay to leave a triangular hole.

Cut out a piece of triangular clay that would fit over the gap you have made.

Slip and score to attach the nose flaps to the triangular piece of clay then smooth out the joints, shape and add a septum



To make realistic cheeks and a mouth and chin by doing the following:

Place screwed up newspaper under the clay to form the shape of the cheeks and chin

Cut out the shape of your mouth using the bottom quarter horizontal line as a guide.

For the lips make two more sausage shaped lengths of clay, then use the score and slip method to position one Above the top of the cut out mouth shape and one below the bottom of the cut out mouth shape. Smooth out the joins.



To be able to use a variety of clay manipulation tools to create textured features such as hair and eyebrows

By adding another sausage shaped piece of clay above each eye you can form eyebrows. The way you position those eyebrows and the length you make them will alter the facial expression. Remember to attach them using the score and slip method.

You may also want to add a beard and hair using wire loop tool or a sieve.





Rib Tools— Used for shaping and smoothing clay



Wire loop Tools — Used for carving, sculpting, trimming texturing and making fine details or coils.



Modelling Tools — Used for creating smooth edges or curves as well as for cutting out lines and adding detail.



Needle Tools — Used for cutting, piercing, scoring and adding fine detail