

## MAKING MASKS

**Grade level:** K-5

**Subject Area:** Art, Science, Reading

**Time Needed:** 45 minutes - 1 hour



**Objectives:** To help students identify characteristics of chimpanzees' faces and apply this information to an art project.

**Materials:** Chimpanzee Mask Directions (Depending on the age of the student, these may either be handed out to each student or used as guides for teachers.)

### **Activity:**

Collect some books with pictures of chimpanzees (e.g., *The Chimpanzee Family Book* by Jane Goodall and *Life Cycles The Chimpanzee*). Show different pictures to the class and have them identify common features (eyes, ears, nose, etc.). Have them identify the similarities and differences between chimpanzee and human faces. Compare pictures of different chimpanzees and have them identify the similarities and differences of those as well.

"Just like humans, each chimpanzee has characteristics that makes them an individual. The more you get to know a chimpanzee, the more easily you can recognize them, just like a human friend."

Have students construct their own chimpanzee mask by following the directions from the handout or from the teacher. (Depending on the age of student, you may even have them try to draw a different facial expression by referring to the Chimpanzee Facial Expressions hand-out with pictures—See *It's Mime Time* lesson.)

After the masks are completed, compare each mask with the others in the class. What makes them different from each other? What makes them similar to each other?

**Extension:** Have students keep the masks in the classroom. Design a bulletin board displaying the variety of chimpanzee faces made by the class.

(The masks can also be used when students act out the behaviors in the *It's Mime Time* lesson.)

