

**ACTIVITY 3.2****MAKE A GREEK THEATER MASK**

The ancient Greeks invented drama more than 2,500 years ago. The first plays were staged in Athens in huge theaters, holding up to 20,000 people. So that everyone in the audience could see and understand the action, actors wore masks with exaggerated features—large eyes, noses, and mouths that clearly showed emotions such as happiness, sadness, and anger (Nardo, 1995). For this activity, you'll make your own Greek theater masks.

**Materials**

- » large paper plate
- » poster board
- » marking pen
- » pencil
- » scissors
- » ribbon or string

**Directions**

- » Using the paper plate as a guide, trace a circle onto the poster board; cut out the circle.
- » Hold the circle up to your face, and ask someone to mark the approximate position of your eyes and the center of your mouth.
- » Draw an exaggerated face onto the circle with a pencil. When you're happy with the face, trace over the lines with the marker. You can also go to the websites below for other mask ideas (or you could do a Google search for "Greek masks"):
  - › <http://www.princetonol.com/groups/iad/lessons/middle/Cathy-Greek.htm>
  - › <http://www.umass.edu/arthist/masks/masks.html>
- » Hold the mask up to your face and ask your friend to mark a small spot on each side just above your ear; poke a small hole into each spot.
- » Thread a length of ribbon or string through the hole, make a knot, and tie the mask onto your head.