

The Incan People and the Funerary Mask

**Grade: 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Subject: Social Studies**

**Topic- History/Art**

**Lesson: Supplemental Lesson**

**Learning Objectives:**

In this lesson students will engage in an art activity known as repousse and chasing to replicate the Incan "Funerary Mask." The purpose of this lesson is to find a fun and creative way to expose students to the cultural contributions made by ancient civilizations of Latin America. If you want to provide students with examples there are some links listed in the source box.

**Materials**

**Needed:**

- A Map of South America
- Safety Scissors
- Gold Foil
- Tin Foil
- Sheet of paper
- Pen or marker with a rounded cap.
- Gold Spray Paint (if unable to find gold foil)

**Prep time-  
25-30 mins**

**Structure Activity:**

**Take a moment to discuss with students the fact that the mask they will be making are in direct reference to past cultural practices in modern day Peru.**

**It is ideal to have a pre-cut mask or two that are available for your students to view as a reference. You can also demonstrate the method of repousse via projector or smart board before distributing the materials for the activity. There are some images and information available in the source list below.**

**Allow time for students to draw a design on a sheet of paper before they commit to a design with tinfoil or gold foil. Make sure that each student has a rounded marker or pen to make the impressions or chase the design they have made.**

**The Gold Spray paint should be used by an adult, after the students have completed the activity. If the students used regular tinfoil to make their mask, the spray paint can be added as a finishing touch to give the mask a more authentic look. It is best to spray paint outside or in a well-ventilated area.**

**Notes:**

**Content Standards: SSP .06**  
**G 2.02, 2.11,2.18**

**Assessment: Informal**

Give students an exit ticket of writing in their journals for the last 5-10 minutes of class about what they learned about the Incan people, or do a small group discussion.

Sources:

[https://americanindian.si.edu/collections-search/objects/NMAI\\_212628](https://americanindian.si.edu/collections-search/objects/NMAI_212628)

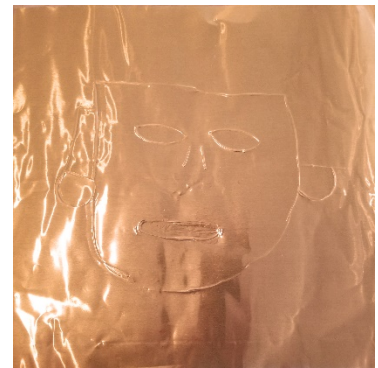
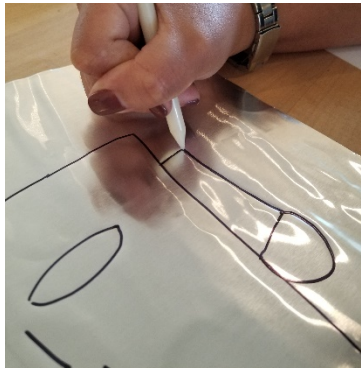
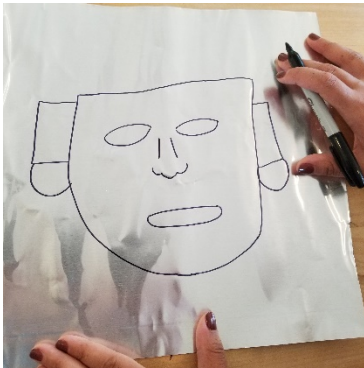
<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/309959>

<https://museoperu.com.pe/>

## The Incan People and the Funerary Mask

The Incas were a group of people who lived in South America many years ago, exactly 1400 AD<sup>1</sup>. The Incas mainly lived in modern-day Peru but experts discovered that many of them lived in a few other parts of South America, places that we now call Ecuador and Chile. The Incas had their own money, their own laws, and their own artwork. They made lots of things out of gold and metal such as jewelry and masks. We are going to try to make our own Incan mask out of tinfoil. The technique that we are going to use is called repousse (or repujado). We will create a face on the sheet of tinfoil by pressing lines and shapes into the foil. The mask that we are going to try and make are called Funerary Mask.

These Funerary masks were made for Incan people who were wealthy. The gold mask was not made for everyone because gold had so much value and it also took a long time to make the mask<sup>2</sup>. Funerary Mask were made of gold that had been hammered into a thin sheet of metal that looks almost like paper<sup>3</sup>. Each mask was different, and custom made.



<sup>1</sup> Britannica, T. Editors of Encyclopedia. "Inca." Encyclopedia Britannica, May 5, 2020. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Inca>.

<sup>2</sup> The Metropolitan Museum of Art. "Funerary Mask 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> century." JoannePillsbury.2015.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/309959

<sup>3</sup> The Metropolitan Museum of Art. "Behind the Mask the Archeology of the Golden Kingdoms." JoannePillsbury.January31st 2018.metmuseum.org/blogs/2018/search/golden-kingdoms