

West African Mask and Folktale Project

Imagine you are a griot, or storyteller, in medieval West Africa. The Mansa has asked you to create a traditional African folktale and mask to share an idea or lesson with your people.

Your Task

1. Write a folktale that teaches a lesson or moral.
2. Choose a character or idea from your story that best represents your folktale.
3. On a piece of construction paper create a mask of this character or idea.
4. Color your mask
5. Attach your folktale to your mask.

Nuts & Bolts

Folktale

- Your folktale must be at least 2 paragraphs.
- Your folktale must have a lesson or a moral (important values taught to children).

Mask

- Your mask **MUST** be colored.
- Your mask must represent a character or an idea from your folktale.



West Africa Folktale

Below is an example of a folktale. Your mask must represent a character or an idea (strength, honor, courage, wisdom, etc) from your story. Folktales must be at least 2 paragraphs and contain a lesson or moral. Spelling and grammar count.

The Tortoise and the Hare

There once was a speedy hare who bragged about how fast he could run. Tired of hearing him boast, Slow and Steady, the tortoise, challenged him to a race. All the animals in the forest gathered to watch.

Hare ran down the road for a while and then and paused to rest. He looked back at Slow and Steady and cried out, "How do you expect to win this race when you are walking along at your slow, slow pace?"

Hare stretched himself out alongside the road and fell asleep, thinking, "There is plenty of time to relax."

Slow and Steady walked and walked. He never, ever stopped until he came to the finish line.

The animals who were watching cheered so loudly for Tortoise, they woke up Hare.

Hare stretched and yawned and began to run again, but it was too late. Tortoise was over the line.

After that, Hare always reminded himself, "Don't brag about your lightning pace, for Slow and Steady won the race!"

| Criteria | Score | Comments |
|--|---|----------|
| Folktale 20 pts _____/20 | Lesson/Moral (10pts) _____ Yes _____ No | |
| | Spelling/Grammar (10pts) Many errors: 1 2 3 Some errors : 4 5 6 7 Few to no errors: 8 9 10 | |
| Mask 10 pts _____/10 | Related to Folktale (5pts) _____ Yes _____ No Colored (5pts) _____ Yes _____ No | |
| Total Score _____/30 | A: 27-30 D: 18-20 B: 24-26 F: 17↓ C: 21-23 | |