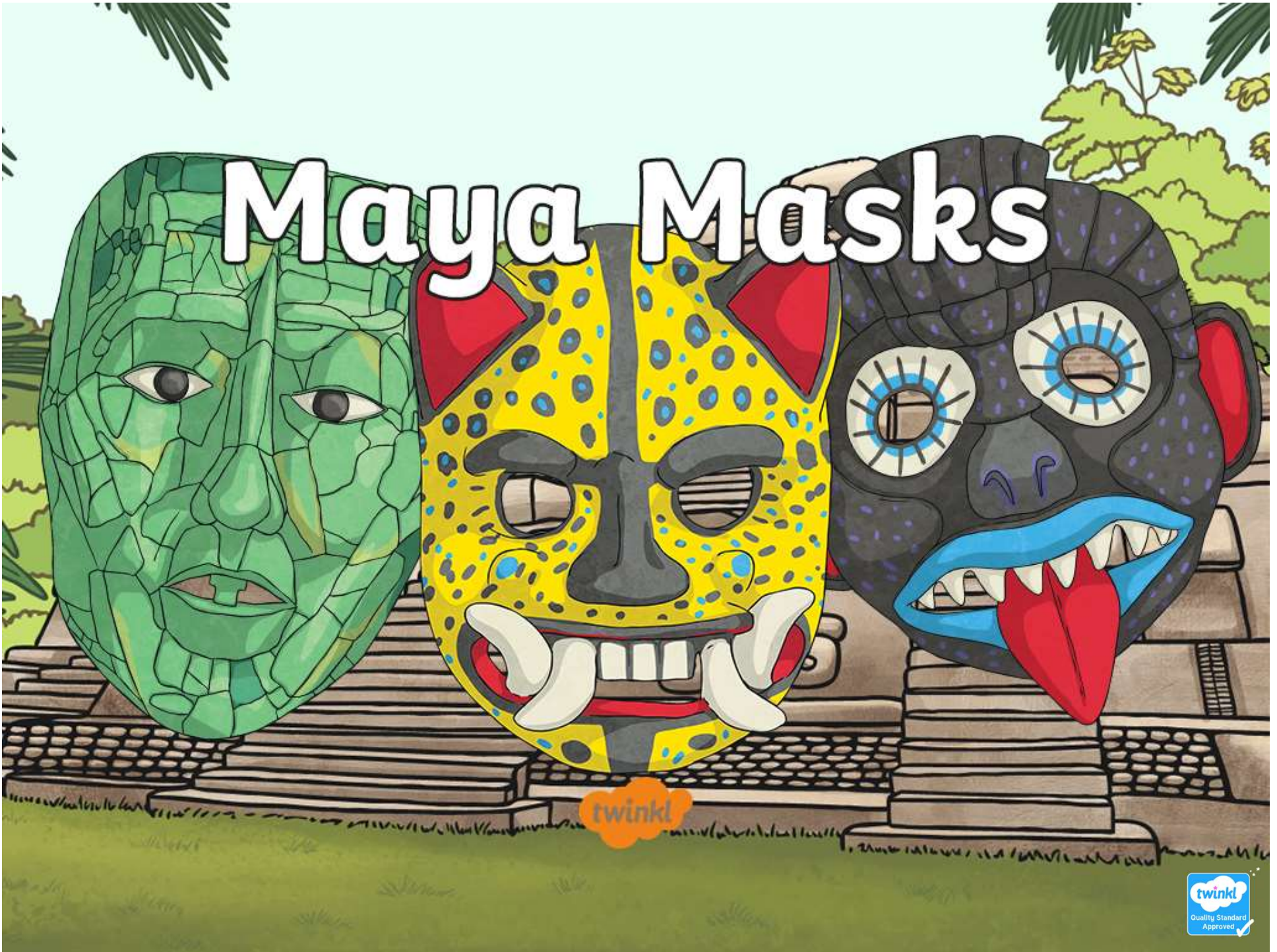


Maya Masks



Aim

- To explain the features and purposes of Maya masks.

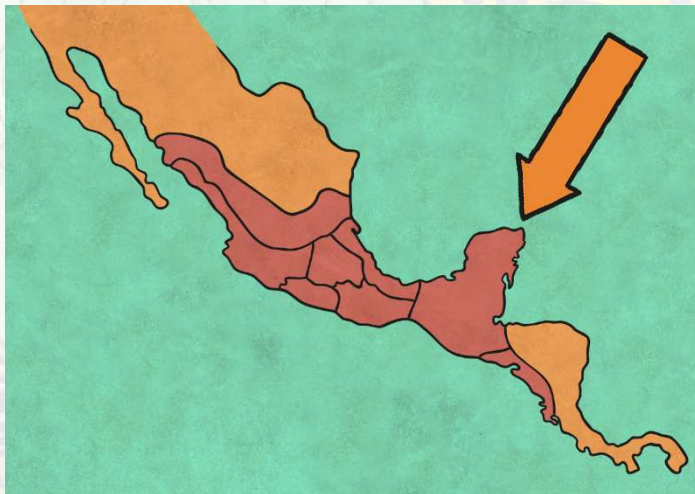
Success Criteria

- I can explain how Maya masks were used.
- I can locate the Maya civilisation in time and place.
- I can design and make a Maya mask.



Who Were the Maya?

The Maya were a civilisation who lived in modern-day Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Honduras and El Salvador. The Maya civilisation lasted from around 1000 BC to AD 1697.



Can you locate the Maya civilisation on the map?

[Click here to find it!](#)

What Were Masks Used For?

Masks played a central role in Maya culture. They were made for a variety of occasions and purposes. In fact, they were even used to decorate temples.



Event Masks

Masks were often inspired by animals; they were vibrant and colourful.

The Mayas believed that animals represented the spirits. For example, many Maya often associated strong kings with jaguars.

Event masks were usually made out of cedar wood.



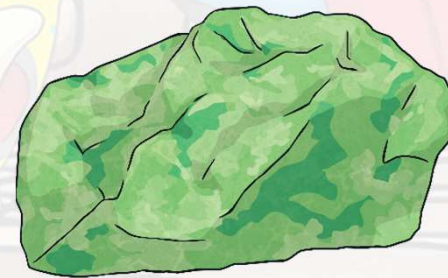
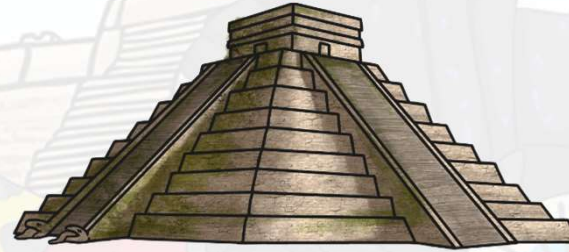
Death Masks

Mayas were buried with a death mask, which was intended to protect the wearer on their journey to the afterlife.



The death mask of King Pakal is one of the most famous Maya artefacts. Pakal ruled the city of Palenque for 68 years. During this time, the city became very wealthy.

Each mask was made by hand and inspired by the maker's own imagination. Jade, a precious stone, was used because it symbolised the soul.



Design a Mask

Your task is to design a Maya mask. Decide whether you want to design an event mask or a death mask. Use the template to develop your design.



Think about how you will make your mask.
Which materials will you need?

Aim

- To explain the features and purposes of Maya masks.

Success Criteria

- I can explain how Maya masks were used.
- I can locate the Maya civilisation in time and place.
- I can design and make a Maya mask.



