

# Maya Craft Ideas

## Maya Masks

The Maya made many different masks. Some were delicate mosaics made out of jade, some were created to represent gods, some showed faces of snakes and other animals. Children could use a balloon and papier-mâché to make a 3D mask with a mosaic or animal design.

## Maya Codex

Children could make their own codices using paper folded like a concertina and drawing pictures that show scenes of everyday life as well as hieroglyphics.

## Pottery

The Maya made bowls out of clay to use for cooking as well as making ceremonial pots that had pictures or patterns on them. Children could make their own clay pots using rolled out sausages of clay and building the base and sides from coils, smoothing the sides. An upturned plastic pot can be used to support and provide an even shape to coil around. Paint a design on it when dry.

## Maya Jewellery

Decorate yourselves with your very own Maya jewellery. The Maya created jewellery such as beaded necklaces, pendants, bracelets, earrings, ear plugs, and rings. They used bone, jaguar teeth and claws, stones, feathers, and various colourful shells. Where it was available, they used gold, silver, copper, jade and bronze. Jade was a particularly prized material. beads often contain religious themes, geometric patterns, animals, flowers, and carved out faces.

## Maya Houses

Their houses were made from sun dried mud bricks or mud smeared over a framework of wooden poles. They had a basic rectangular base and a pitched roof. Use cardboard to make a net (or separate pieces to fix together with masking tape if using corrugated cardboard), paint the walls a reddish-brown with sand mixed in to give it texture, and stick straw (from a pet shop) on the roof.

## Headdresses

The more important the person, the bigger the headdress. Make yourself important! Use card to make the basic shape and attach string to tie it on the head. Use feathers, paint, sequins and beads to decorate.

## Weaving

The Maya would spin thread and weave it into cloth. Use cardboard and string to set up your own loom and have a go at weaving using different coloured wool.