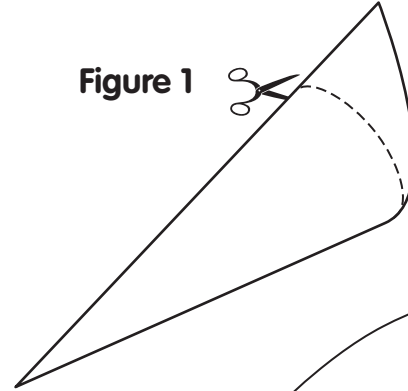


Make a plague mask

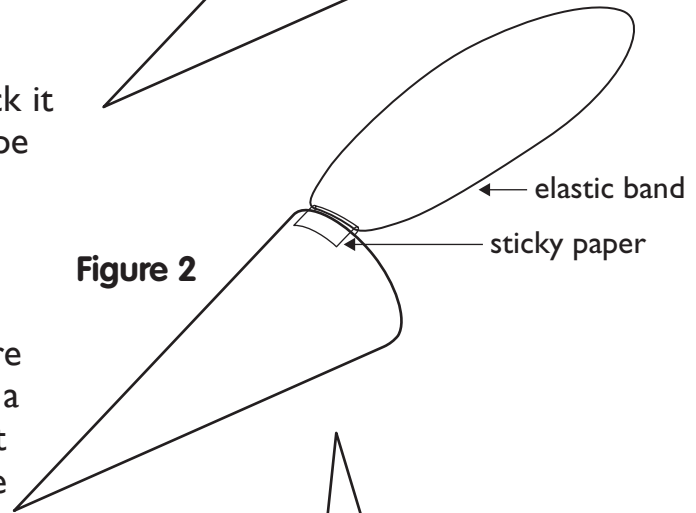
1. Take a piece of A4 card and bend it into a cone. Cut off some of the edges at the open end to make a rim about 8cm in diameter (see figure 1). Use sticky paper to hold the card in a cone shape.

Figure 1



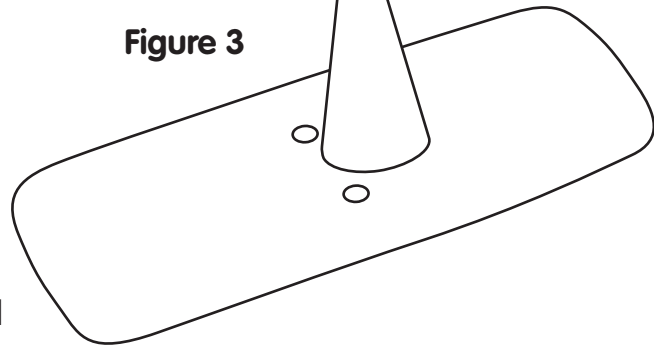
2. Take a large thin elastic band and stick it to one part of the rim with sticky tape as figure 2 shows.

Figure 2



3. Take a piece of cloth about one metre long and by 70cm wide and lay it on a table. Place the cone upright at about 30cm from one end. Draw round the cone. Mark two places for eye holes (figure 3).

Figure 3

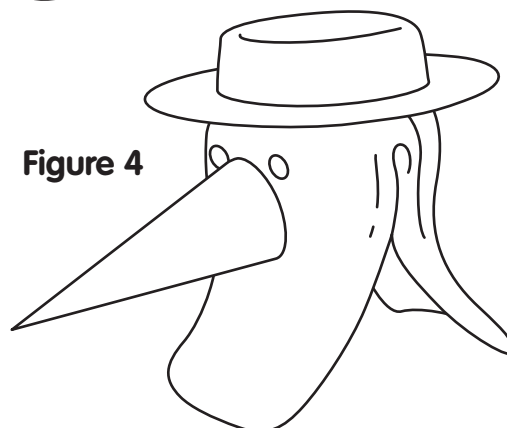


4. Cut a hole inside the circle you have drawn. Cut small holes for the eye holes.

5. Put the cone over your nose and hold it in place with the elastic band positioned between your eyebrows and the top of the back of your head.

6. Carefully pull the cloth over the cone and move the cloth around so that you can see through the eye holes.

Figure 4



7. Wear a hat such as a duck hat to get the effect of a Tudor doctor visiting a patient with the plague (figure 4).

Make a plague mask

Age range

- Years 3/4 (SP4/5).
- Years 5/6 (SP6/7).

Resources

Each person making a mask will need an A4 sheet of thin card, a long thin elastic band, sticky paper, scissors, a sheet of cloth about one metre long by 70 cm wide. The cloth should be one colour preferably grey or white. A duck hat or similar "pie shaped" hat. Older students need secondary sources about plague masks.

Using the worksheet

Like everyone else, doctors were terrified of the plague. A symptom of the plague was the production of large boils. Doctors were called to deal with the boils in the following way. They had to put the end of a metal rod in a fire then touch the end onto the boil. This would make the boil explode. To prevent them getting the plague, doctors wore a plague mask. Although it looked like a beak it was in fact a holder of herbs which had a sweet smell. It was thought that this would give the doctor some protection from the plague. The plague masks were scary and must have done little to comfort the patient. The students could make their masks at school or at home. They could give the eye holes more support by making cardboard discs and cutting holes in the centre then sticking the discs over the holes in the cloth.

Younger students

The students may like to work in pairs as they will need to help each other when they are sticking the cardboard to make the cone and when putting on the cloth over the cone. Students who wear spectacles should remove them before they put on the cone. Be prepared for a reaction from the class when the first person wears a plague mask.

Outcomes

The students can:

- Follow instructions and work together.
- Use materials safely.
- Appreciate how the plague mask scared people.

Older students

The students may assemble their own masks but will need help in making the cones and putting on the cloth and cone. They can look at secondary sources about plague masks and compare them with the masks they have made.

Outcomes

The students can:

- Use materials safely to assemble a plague mask.
- Assess the accuracy of the model they have made using secondary sources.