

No-sew Mask with Alutiig Design



Developed by Alyssa Madrid

Produced with support from the
City of Kodiak Youth Recreation Grant.



MATERIALS:

Scrap paper/cardboard
Pencil
Ruler
Scissors
Cotton tee shirt
Non-toxic fabric markers

Instructions adapted from:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VUvjpJtNl34&feature=youtu.be>

Step One: Make a Template

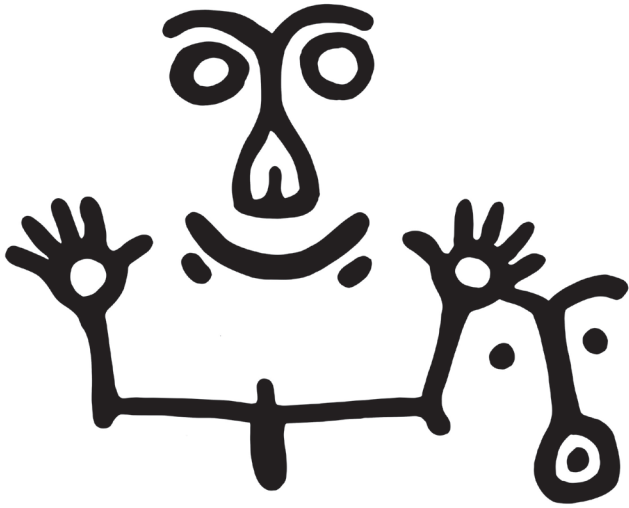
1. Choose a mask size. Suggested sizes:

Adult (large): 11.5 x 6 inches

Teen (medium): 10 x 5.5 inches

Child (small): 9 x 5 inches

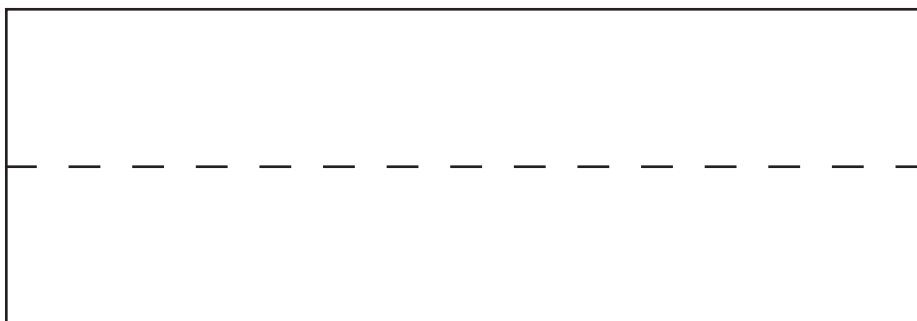
2. Measure out your selected size on scrap paper or cardboard and cut it out. This is the template for your mask.



Petroglyphs from Cape Alitak.

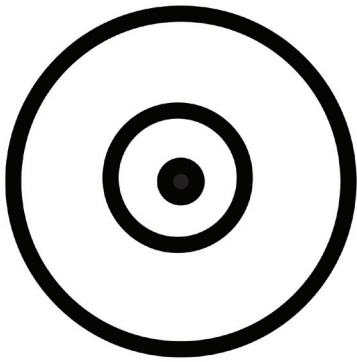
Step Two: Make Your Mask

1. Lay a cotton tee shirt out flat on a clean tabletop and cut up the sides of the shirt until you reach the armpit.
2. Take one layer of the t-shirt and fold it over so you have two layers. Lay the fabric flat and place the long side of your template along the fold in the shirt.
3. Using a pencil, draw around your template to trace the pattern onto the shirt. Cut the shirt so you have a two layered piece of fabric that matches your template. Make sure to keep one long end of the template along the fold.
4. Starting with the folded edge at the bottom, fold the fabric in half from the bottom up.

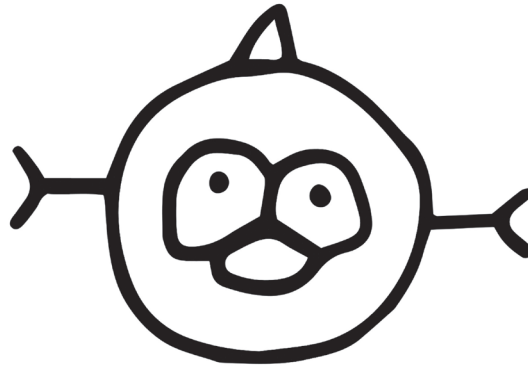


Fold the fabric in half at the dotted line.

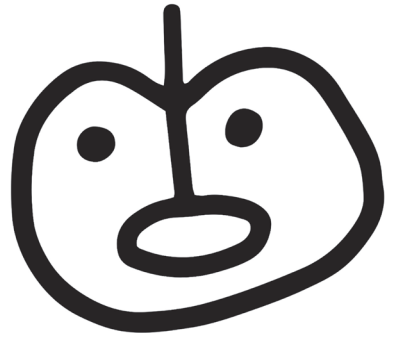
This is your folded edge.



Pictograph from Kodiak Island.



Petroglyphs from Cape Alitak.

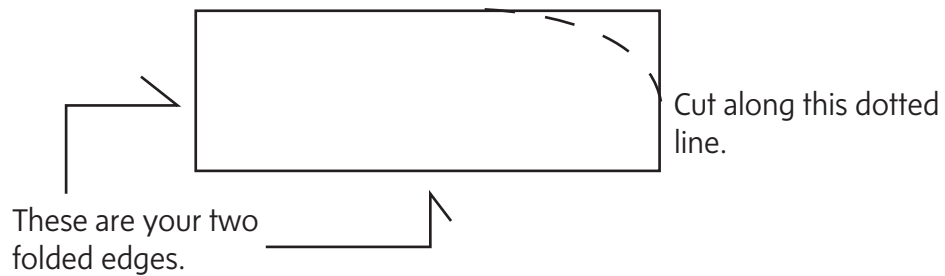


5. Next fold the fabric down the middle from left to right.

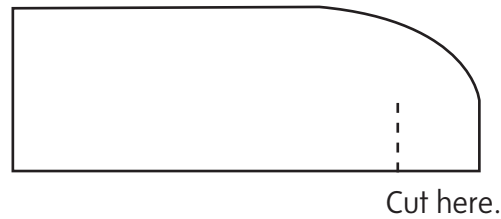


Fold the fabric in half at the dotted line.

6. You should now have a small rectangle of fabric with a folded edge along the bottom and on the left side. Cut the top right corner into a rounded edge.



7. Without unfolding the fabric, mark 0.7 inch (1.5cm) from the bottom right edge. Measure up from the bottom edge 1.5 inches and cut a slit in the fabric to make the ear holes.

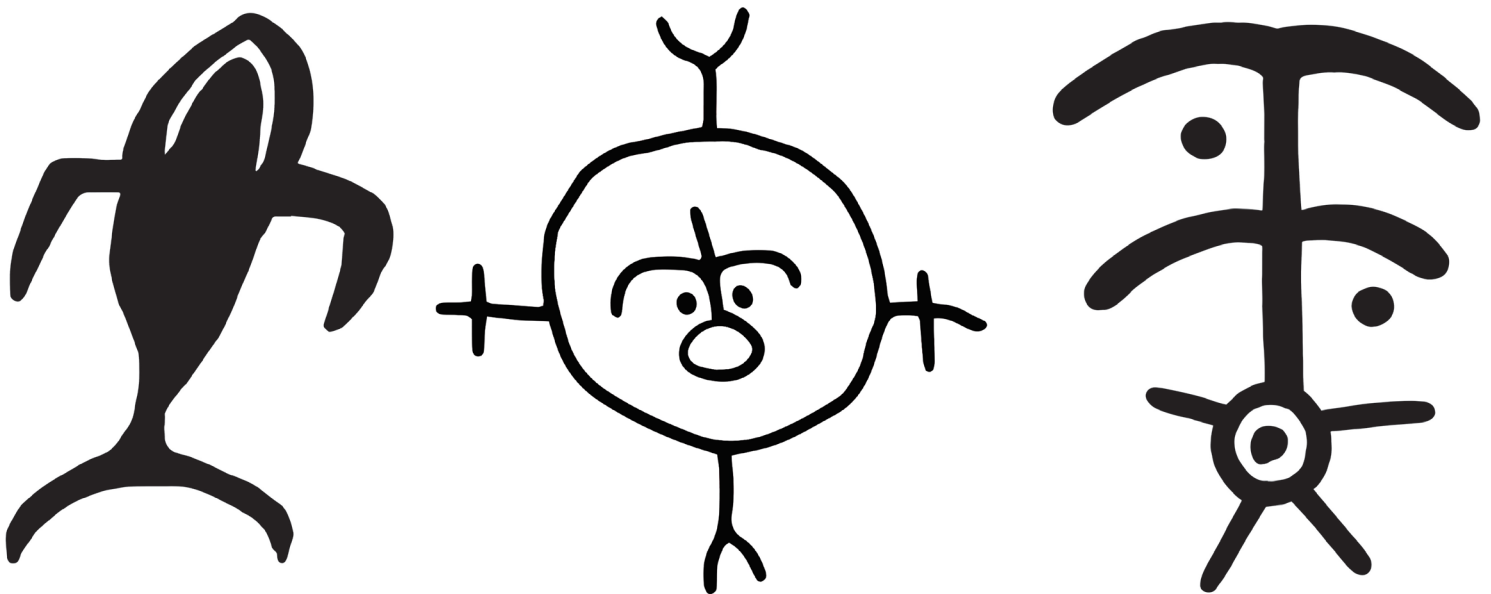


8. Unfold your mask and make any adjustments so the mask fits comfortably. If it is too big you can twist the ear straps to tighten the mask.

Step Three: Decorate Your Mask

We recommend using some of the ancestral designs in this handout, which are from petroglyphs (rock art), paintings and drawings.

Be safe. Use only non-toxic fabric markers or non-toxic fabric paint to make your designs. The Alutiiq Museum and its partners accept no responsibility for experimentation.



Petroglyphs from Cape Alitak.

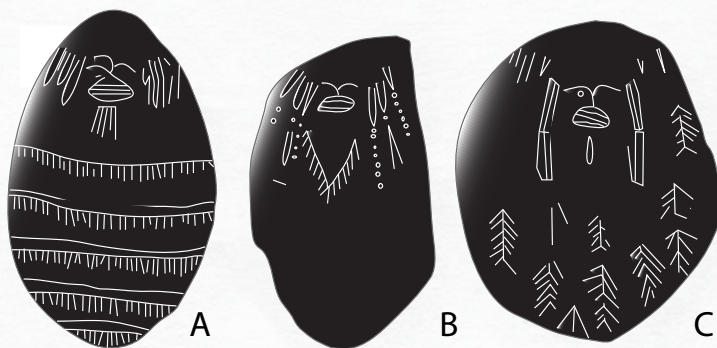
Yaamat Quliangua'it – TALKING ROCKS

Objects left in archaeological sites tell many stories. Tools indicate the tasks people performed and animal remains record ancient meals. In the Kodiak Archipelago a unique type of artifact also documents how people dressed. Between AD 1300 and 1500, Alutiiq people sketched images of people on small slate pebbles, cutting their designs into the rock. These “talking rocks” show human faces, but many also include drawings of clothing, jewelry, and headdresses. Some individuals are even pictured with a ceremonial item—a drum or a rattle. For archaeologists these pebbles provide information that is not available from any other source.

These pebbles illustrate different types of clothing and jewelry. Example A (below) shows an individual wearing a decorated gut skin garment (represented by horizontal lines) and a labret (lip plug) with hanging attachments.

Example B shows an individual with a V-neck garment and a headdress decorated with beads. Example C displays a person in a bird skin garment (represented by a feather motif) with a labret and a headdress. Patterns seen in these pebbles suggest that people in different parts of the archipelago once wore different styles of parkas and labrets. People all over the world use clothing to signal their affiliation with social groups. Perhaps each Alutiiq community had its own unique dress code.

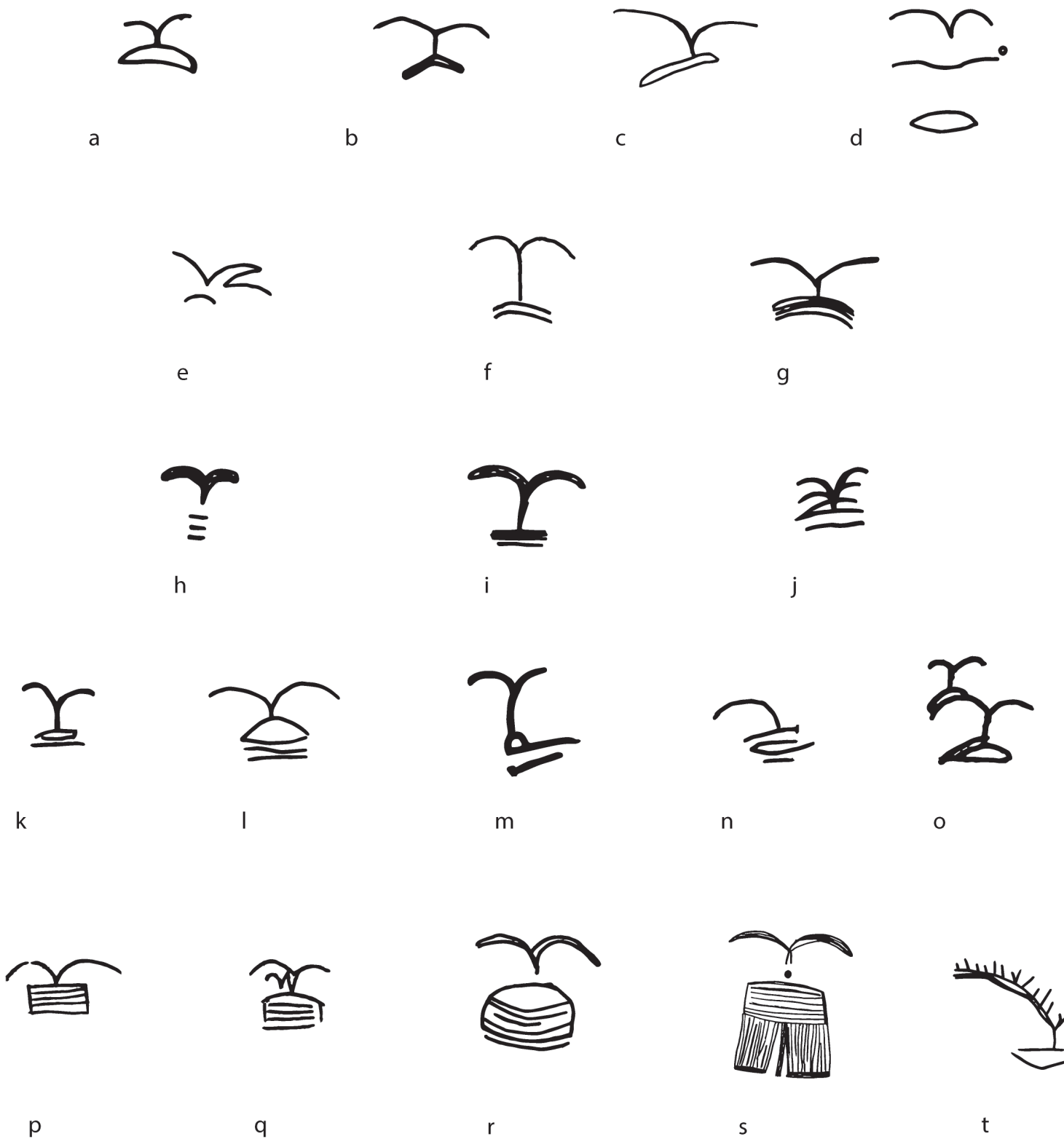
What were talking rocks used for? Some archaeologists think they were pieces for a throwing game, others suggest that they were used to record the pictures of powerful people. Whatever the answer, they continue to speak to archaeologists, providing valuable information on ancient Alutiiq life.



Slate pebbles with etched designs, ca. AD 1500, Koniag, Inc. Collection, Karluk One Site.

LEARN MORE:

Incised Slate Images and the Development of Social and Political Complexity in South Alaska, 1992, by Chris Donta. In, *Ancient Images, Ancient Thought: The Archaeology of Ideology*, edited by A. Sean Goldsmith, S. Garvie, D. Selin, and J. Smith, Pp. 11-18. University of Calgary, Calgary.



Examples of brow and mouth motifs found in incised stones.
Igaruacirpet Our way of Making Designs, Figure 3.44, pg. 82

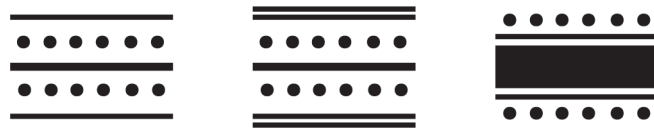
Narrow or wide straight lines



Three or more parallel lines



Three or more parallel lines with lines of dots



Spurs on one side of a line



Spurs mirrored across a center line



zigzag Design



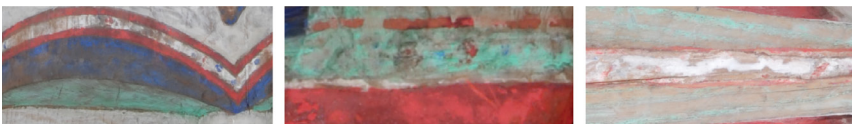
Bands of painted elements found on Alutiiq Masks. From Desson 1995:376-378.
Igaruacirpet Our way of Making Designs, Figure 4.40, pg. 137



Allayak, 988-2-193, ca. 1872, Pinart Collection, Musée Boulogne-sur-Mer, France.



Narrow or wide straight lines.



Three or more parallel lines.



Three or more parallel lines with lines of dots.



Spurs on one side of a line.



Spurs mirrored across a center line.

Zigzag design.

Styles of painted lines on Alutiiq masks from Kodaik and Afognak Islands, ca. 1872, Pinart Collection, Musée Boulogne-sur-Mer, France.