

## Fun at home activity

### Mysterious thylacine mask

#### Inspiration

This activity is inspired by the thylacine display at the National Museum of Australia. The [thylacine](#), or Tasmanian tiger, had a dog or wolf-like head with short ears and powerful jaws, and a series of dark stripes down its back. Some early settlers thought thylacines were pests. In 1936, thylacines became extinct.

Can you imagine what thylacines were like? Were they friendly or ferocious? Crazy or calm? Big or small? Imagine the thylacine and make your own mysterious mask.

#### Time and difficulty

This activity takes about 30 minutes and is easy.

#### Activity

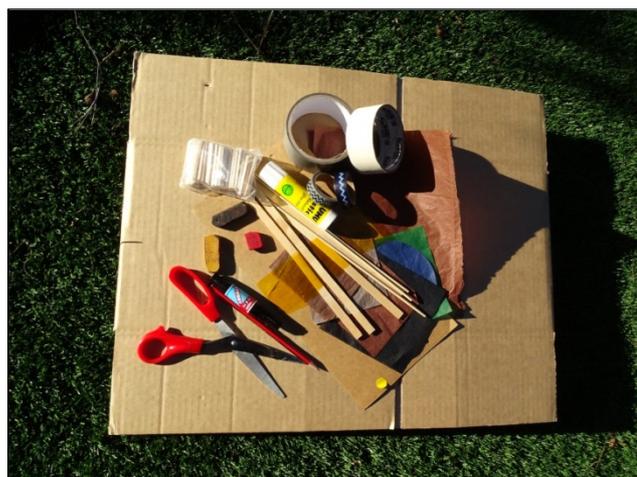
Make a thylacine mask at home from everyday objects, like children at our 'Native or Feral?' Discovery Space in spring 2015.

#### What you need

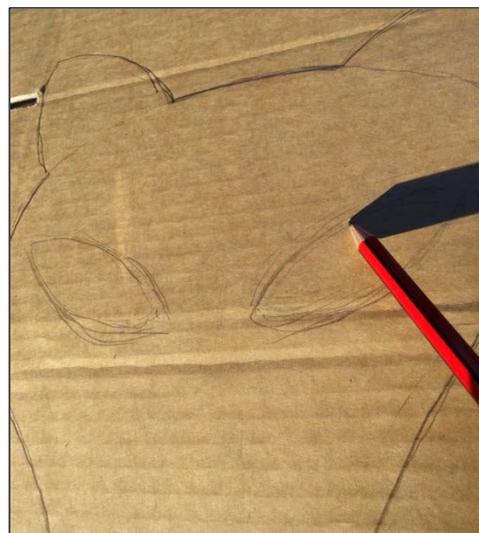
- cardboard (old boxes are great)
- coloured paper
- crayons, textas or pencils
- elastic or string to tie on the mask, or a stick or ruler to hold up the mask
- string, ribbon or wool to use as fur
- cellophane for the eyes
- straw or string for whiskers
- sticky tape and glue
- scissors (remember, these can be sharp, so ask an adult for help).

#### Steps

1. Find out what you can about the [thylacine](#). Imagine if thylacines were still in Australia. What would they be like? What impression would you like your thylacine mask to make?



2. Gather your materials. What size will you make your mask? Will it cover half or the whole of your face?
3. Draw the basic outline of your thylacine mask onto cardboard.
4. Use scissors (with help if you need it) to cut out your design.
5. You might like to add stripes to your mask using paint or textas, or by sticking on pieces of coloured paper. Try cutting out the eyeholes and gluing on cellophane, adding wool, straw or string to create fur and whiskers.
6. Attach ribbon or elastic to the edges of the mask so you can wear it. Or you could add a stick at the bottom, to hold the mask in front of your face.
7. Try on your mask and think about how the thylacine may have seen its environment. What could have been done differently to save this species? What lessons have we learned?



**Share your creation!** Make a few different animal masks and experiment with the materials you use. Share your creation with us by sending a photo or video to: [schoolholidays@nma.gov.au](mailto:schoolholidays@nma.gov.au). We will add this to the [National Museum's Flickr stream](#), where you can see other craft creations from our Discovery Space.

[Check out more fun at home activities, videos and games on the Museum's website](#)