



Year 3-4

Design a Face Mask

*This lesson was written in January 2021
and reflects information available,
and guidance issued at the time.*



Objectives:

- To identify wearing face masks/coverings as a prevention measure of spreading the virus
- To test materials and suggest those that will be suitable for a face mask/covering, giving simple reasons to support their suggestions

Curriculum Links:

- **Y3&4 - Science:** asking relevant questions and using different types of scientific enquiries to answer them

Key Vocabulary:

- face covering
- face mask
- suitable material
- breathable
- flexible
- saliva droplets

Resources:

- PowerPoint
- Teddy (optional)
- Selection of materials (fabric in various patterns/thicknesses; hessian; plastic; paper/baking paper)
- pipette / basting tool
- elastic bands
- teddy face worksheet
- scissors
- glue
- toilet paper tube
- Glitter / flour

FAQs:

Why do some people not like wearing a face mask/covering? They are not very comfortable. Those wearing glasses find they steam up.

Why don't younger children (under 11 years old) have to wear a mask? UK government (gov.uk) says:

- children under the age of 11 do not have to wear a covering, no specific rationale given, they do say Public Health England does not recommend face coverings for children under the age of 3 for health and safety reasons

Does wearing a mask stop you from getting the virus? It mainly stops transmission to others.

Why are some people wearing shields instead? Are they just as effective? Face shields are not as effective as face coverings as they don't cover the mouth and nose and therefore do not adequately reduce viral spread from the wearer. They can be used in addition to a face covering.




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Introduction:

Watch COVID-19 Warriors Video Introduction.

10 mins 

Test suitable materials to design a face mask/covering (can use teddy, to make a face mask/covering for teddy)

Questions: *What is the correct way of wearing a face mask/covering? Why?* (covering mouth and nose, so the air droplets that come out of our mouth as we speak and out of our nose as we breathe, don't spread too far)

What kind of material is suitable for a face mask/covering? Look at the selection of material and discuss why paper, plastic, hessian are not suitable. Can the children suggest any other materials?

Demonstrate how to test materials using glitter and toilet roll tube (cover end of the toilet paper tube with a piece of fabric, using elastic band, put some glitter or flour in it and blow air in the tube, using a pipette/basting tool).

Main Activity:

15 mins 

Children to test different materials using the pipette/basting tool, toilet tubes and glitter/flour (in groups, one group test plastic, another test hessian, another test thin fabric and thick fabric, etc).


Come back and report on which material is most suitable. Discuss why plastic and paper, although they don't let glitter through, are not suitable for a face covering (breathable, and paper can get wet/get ripped, not flexible to cover the face). Discuss why very thick fabric may not be a good choice, perhaps two layers of thick fabric instead?

Children record their findings on the sheet, listing which materials were tested. They choose a material to cut and stick on their design poster. Explain their choice of material.

Include How to wear a Face mask/covering correctly points (cover mouth and nose, don't touch your face, wash/sanitise hands before and after, take off using ear loops)

Optional: As a class, choose a suitable material and make a face mask/covering for teddy. This is a simple design that requires a piece of fabric and elastic bands. See example in PowerPoint.

Plenary:

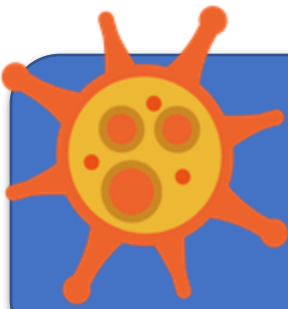
3-5 mins 

- What have we learnt about face masks/coverings?
- How do they slow the transmission of the virus?



Possible Extension Activities:

- If possible - leave out other materials for the children to test throughout the week.
- Make posters showing how to wear a face mask correctly



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Worksheet

Design a face mask / covering for Teddy

We tested these materials:

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This is a suitable material for a face mask/covering, because:



Design a Face Mask

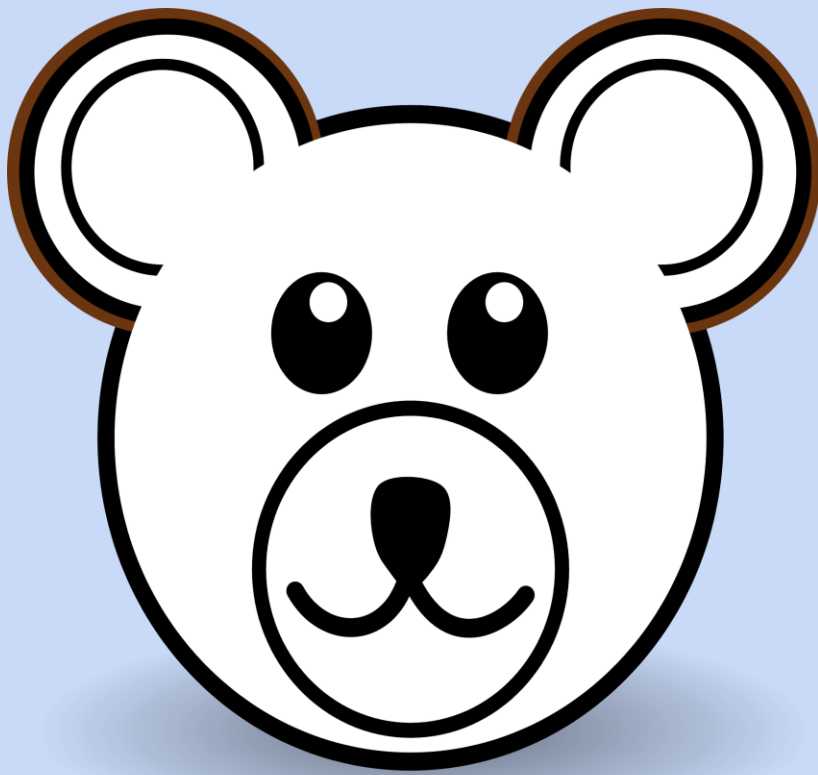
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Worksheet

Design a Face Mask/covering for Teddy

Now put a face mask / covering on Teddy



Make sure he wears it properly!

Remember to:
