

VMFA TAKE & MAKE

Egúngún-Inspired Bracelet

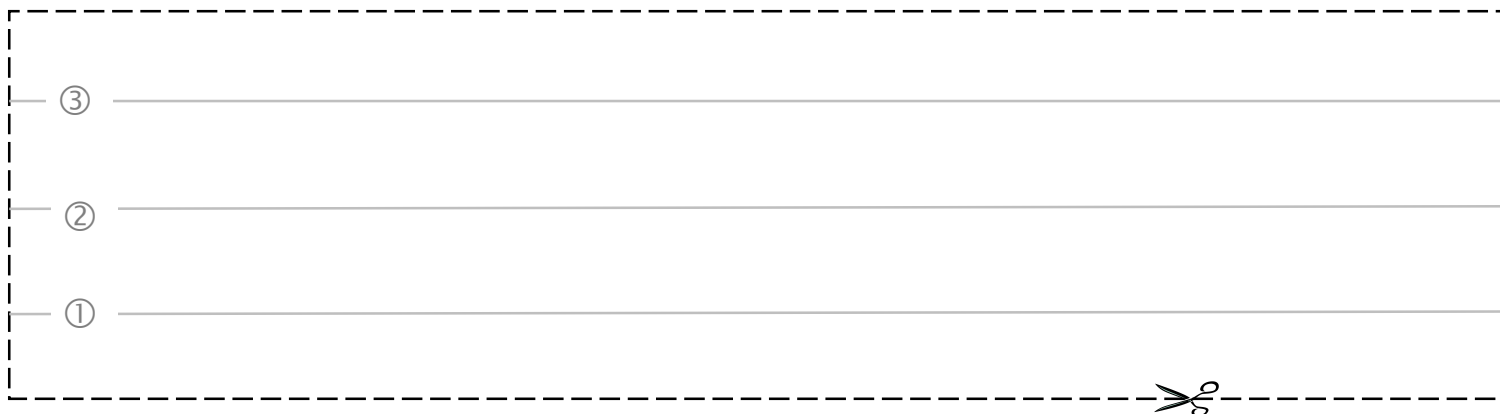
The Yoruba (yoo-roo-BOO) Egúngún (eh-goong-goong) masquerade is a festival that celebrates ancestors. Ancestors are the people in your family who lived long ago. During these celebrations, dancers wear masks and perform to honor those who are no longer physically present. We think of masks as objects that cover faces only, but Egúngún masks—like many African masks—cover the dancers' entire bodies. Egúngún masks are made out of many layers of fabric. Different generations of family members add more fabric to the mask to create the layering effect. During ceremonial dances, as the dancer spins, strips of fabric fly out dramatically representing the return of the ancestral spirits to the living community.

DIRECTIONS

1. Find old scrap fabric, paper, or even photographs and, if you have permission to do so, use kid-friendly scissors to cut them into long strips that are 1–2 inches wide. Suggested material: old T-shirts or magazines
2. Cut the bracelet template, pictured here, along the dotted black line.
3. Working horizontally, from left to right, glue or staple one end of the cut strip of fabric or picture at a time, along the solid gray line, marked 1. Be sure the strips hang loosely. Repeat for lines 2 and 3.
4. If using a stapler, cover the underside of the bracelet with masking tape to protect your wrist and to reinforce the paper.
5. Once the bracelet is covered, fasten it around your wrist by taping it underneath. As you dance and move about, the layers will fly about in a way similar to the Egúngún mask!



Egúngún Costume, African (Yoruba culture), 20th century, cloth, mixed media, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Gift of Dr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Hammer



It's your art.