

CRYSTAL CAVE

Wisconsin's Longest Show Cave Educational Program

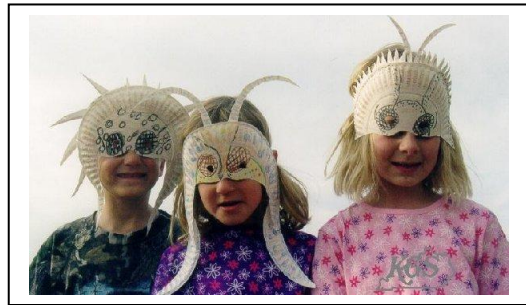
Trilobite Masks

Trilobite facts:

- Arthropods
- Lived in the seas of the Paleozoic Era
- They are called trilobites because their bodies were divided into three parts
- Lived in the Cambrian Period and the Paleozoic Era (between 500 million and 250 million years ago)
- Trilobite fossils have been found on almost every continent
- One of the first animals with complex eyes
- Trilobite's soft body was covered with a hard shell, called an exoskeleton
- Their exoskeletons developed many different patterns, with bumps, spines, and other features for protection.
- Trilobites are Wisconsin's state fossil

Materials needed:

- Paper plate for each student (not wax covered)
- Crayons or markers for coloring on plates
- Hole punch to make eyes
- Scissors
- 2 Pipe cleaners per student for optional antennae
- 1 elastic string for each mask
- Other items to decorate masks with, example: construction paper, cardboard, stickers



Directions:

1. Cut the plate in half near the center point. Students may make a concave cut if they wish. Save the remainder of the plate for use later.
2. Cut out a half circle nose notch in the center of the cut that was just made.
3. Using a hole punch create the eyes on the mask making sure the students will be able to see out of them.
4. Punch holes on each side of the mask for the elastic string to go through to hold the masks on.
5. Have each student decorate their trilobites. They can use the remainder paper plate to make spines and attach them to their masks. The possibilities are endless.