


## Art – Egyptian Death Masks

In ancient Egypt, burial rites for the dead were a sacred duty, and needed to be performed to help put the soul to rest. Egyptians would make death masks in the likeness of the deceased to help their souls recognize their own body and return to it, ready to be led by the Egyptian god Anubis to be judged if they would be allowed to pass on to the realm of the dead.

Key facts	Key Vocabulary	
Early masks were made from wood, in two pieces and connected with pegs. After that Egyptians used, so called, cartonnage, a material made from papyrus or linen and soaked in plaster and then molded on a wooden mold. That was, of course, a cheap variant intended for lower class. Royal death masks were made from precious metals, first of all - gold or gold leaves on bronze.	<b>Acrylic</b>	Acrylic paint is water-based fast-drying paint widely used by artists since the 1960s. It can be used thickly or thinly depending how much water is added to it.
One of the most famous death masks is the mask of the Tutankhamen ( <b>see below</b> ). It is made from two layers of gold, and the eyes and collar are made from coloured gemstones and glass, such as lapis lazuli, quartz and obsidian.	<b>Casting</b>	Casting involves making a mould and then pouring a liquid material, such as molten metal, plastic, rubber or papier mache into the mould. A cast is a form made by this process.
<p><b>Tutankhamun's Death mask:</b></p> 	<b>Emboss</b>	carve, mould, or stamp a design on a surface or object so that it stands out in relief.
	<b>Medium</b>	The method in which an artist works; oil-painting, gouache, pastel, pen and ink, etching, collage, sculpture, etc., are all mediums that could be used.
	<b>Modelling</b>	Modelling is where a soft material is worked and added by the artist to build up a shape or form (rather than scraping or material away as in carving). Also unlike carving, soft materials such as clay and wax can be changed and reworked.

This is the death mask of Lady Tjuya. She is thought to be the grandmother of King Tutankhamun.

