

Orangutan Masks

The Orangutan SAFE (OSAFE) program is part of a larger mission and vision to save the most vulnerable wildlife species from extinction. It also utilizes the expertise of Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) members and partners to manage captive populations. The primary threats to orangutans in the wild are habitat loss and fragmentation, fires, and illegal hunting/trafficking. This activity, adapted from the resource [I Heart Orangutans...Do You?](#) created by OSAFE, is designed to engage children at home in a craft that is simple, entertaining, and that connects them to orangutans. Masks can come in different shapes and sizes – just like the three species of orangutan (the Bornean orangutan, the Sumatran orangutan, and the Tapanuli orangutan).

Materials:

- Recycled cardboard or cereal box
- Circles to trace (i.e. plate or trivet, cup or mug)
- Pencil / markers / paint
- Scissors
- Optional: Popsicle stick or chopsticks; glue
- Pen/pencil

Process:

1. Orangutans come in different sizes and shapes depending on species but also their age and whether they are male or female. In science, this is called sexual dimorphism. In this activity, you'll first have to choose if you want to make a male or a female, adult or baby.
2. Gather materials around your house, remembering that using recycled materials is a great way to help preserve the orangutan habitat.
3. Lay a piece of cardboard flat and use a round item (i.e. a trivet, plate, or bowl) to trace a circle for the face.
4. Use a smaller glass to trace a circle at one end for the chin.
5. Cut out the face and eyes, add a nose and mouth with a marker.

Stay at Home Science

6. Get creative as you decide what kind of orangutan you want to be and how you want your mask to look. Young orangutan often have crazy hair and adults are a lot larger with darker hair. The adult males have large cheek pads that are called flanges.
7. If you want a holder for the mask, use glue to add a popsicle stick or chopsticks to the back of your mask.
8. Take a picture, post on social media, and tag us @wcseducation so everyone at WCS can see your amazing creations!
9. Check out even more activities from OSAFE.
10. To learn more about [SAFE's Mission and Vision](#), [AZA](#), or the [Orangutan Species Survival Plan](#), click on the attached links.



Our completed Orangutan Masks!