

Valhalloween! Viking Raven Masks

In Norse Mythology, Odin is the most powerful of all the Viking gods. He is the god of knowledge, war, and victory. Odin rules from Asgard, in a silver tower, and has two ravens that fly all over the world. When they return, they sit on Odin's shoulders and tell him everything that they have seen and heard. They are called Hugin and Munin. Hugin represents 'memory' and Munin represents 'thought'.



Selection of amber pendants. Dublin, Viking Age.



Replica of a Thor's Hammer pendant



Ravens are seen as very intelligent and smart birds, and Odin, as a very important god of Viking Mythology, is also seen this way. The Vikings believed that they could call on Hugin and Munin for guidance and power.

The Vikings who came and settled in Ireland believed in Norse gods including Odin and Thor. They made pendants, sometimes out of amber, and wore them for protection from the gods. These can be seen on display at the Viking Ireland Exhibition at the National Museum of Ireland – Archaeology.

What do you need?

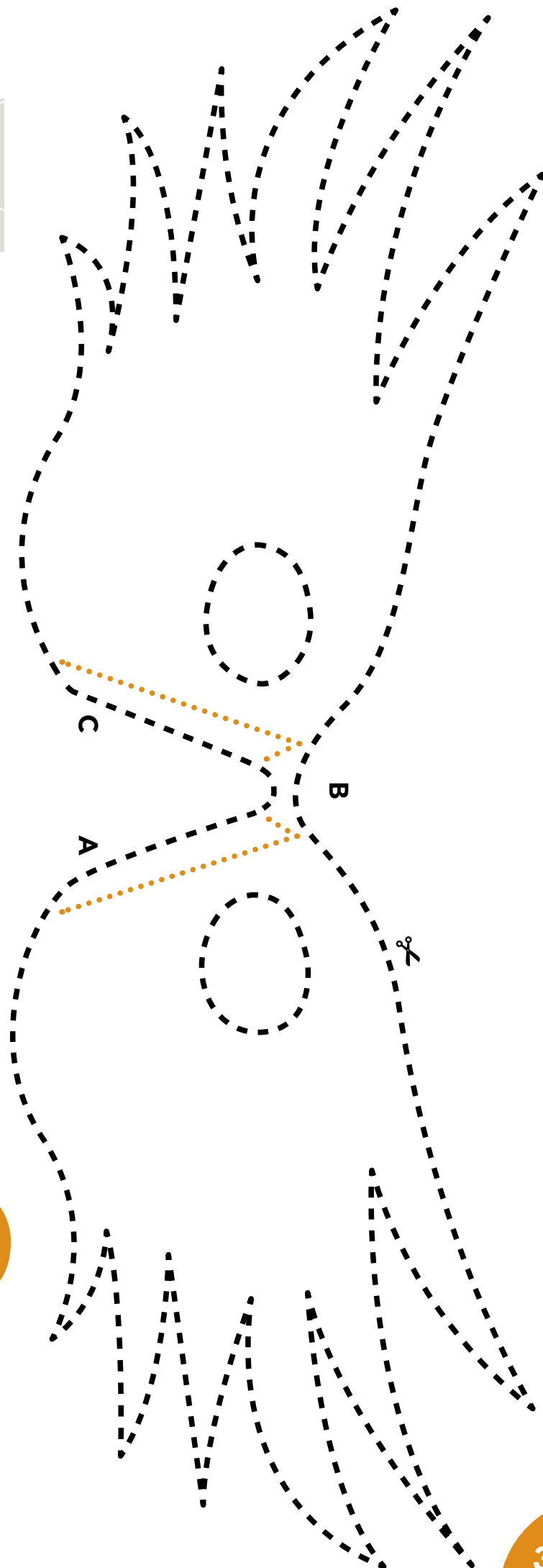
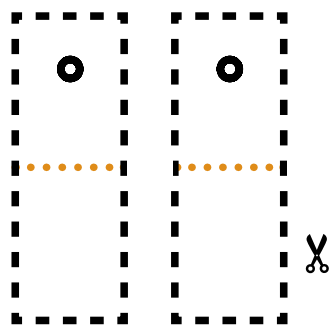
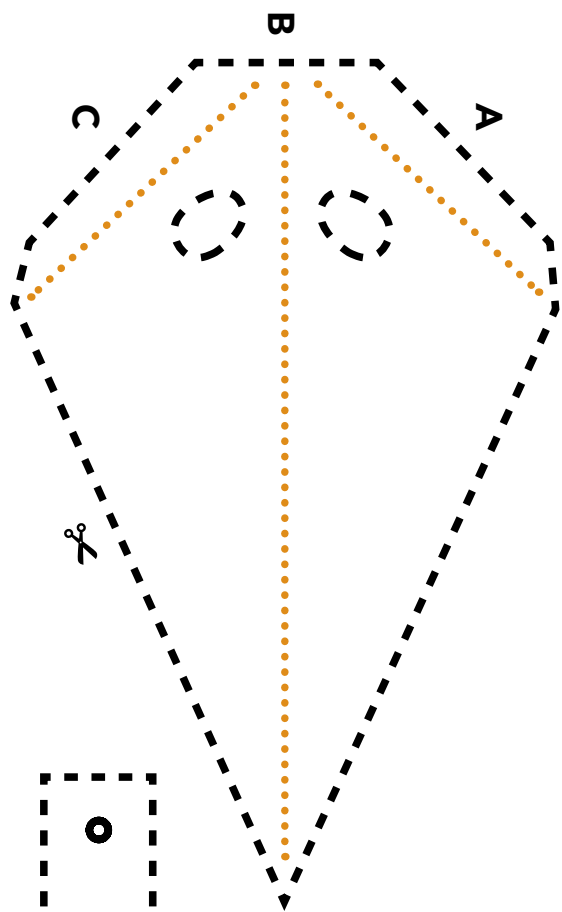
- **Viking Raven Mask template - page 3**
- **Glue**
- **Scissors**
- **Hole puncher**
- **Card, such as coloured card, or a cereal box**
- **Decorating materials. You can colour it, paint it, use glitter, feathers, sequins, beads, pipe cleaners, or whatever you can find**
- **String**

How do you make your mask?

1. Glue the template to a piece of card.
2. Cut out the template of the mask, nose piece, and strap pieces, by following the outline. You might need an adult to help you.
3. Carefully cut out the eyes on the mask and use a hole puncher to cut out the nostrils on the nose.
4. Fold the nose piece along the dotted lines and fold the strap pieces along the line. Use the hole puncher to make a hole in each of the strap pieces.
5. Glue the nose (A and B) to the mask (A and B). The letters show you where the nose piece should attach – make sure that the template side is on the inside so that the outward side is blank for you to decorate.
6. Glue the strap pieces (C) to the back of the mask (C), on either side of the eyes, with the hole section on the outside.
7. Thread a piece of string through the holes and tie it off. This will secure your mask to wear.
8. Decorate your mask however you like!



Viking Raven Mask Template



If you were a Viking and had a raven, what would you call it?



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museum

National Museum of Ireland
Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann