

E.C.U.A.D.O.R

Fiesta Headdresses



In mountainous areas of Ecuador, in the provinces of Cotopaxi and Tungurahua, people hold a winter fiesta every year with special costumes and dances in preparation for planting. The men dance in the streets and plazas to drummed rhythms and melodies from flutes called *pinguyo* and panpipes called *rondador*. They wear painted hats, frequently bowlers, with coins suspended around the brim. It is an honor to be one of the *danzante*, who rent their costumes from the families who own them.

The fiesta headdresses sit on top of the hats, covering the curved crown and resting on the brim. They are made of fabric with a collage of buttons, charms, and ribbons that symbolize wealth. Feathers and ribbons stream down the back, making a *cola*, or tail. In addition to the fiesta headdresses, the dancers wear masks and costumes embroidered with foil, braid, and ribbon.

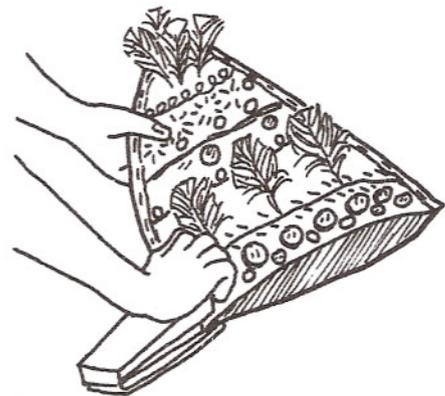
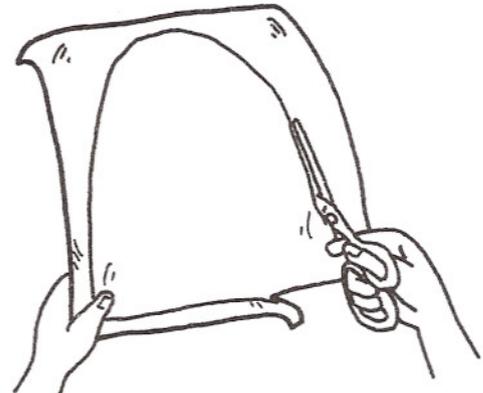
HOW TO MAKE A Fiesta Headdress

Materials

- scissors
- glue
- crayons or craypas
- stapler
- ribbon
- brown paper (from recycled grocery bags)
- feathers, buttons, fabric scraps, rick rack, sequins, glitter

Directions

1. Cut 2 inverted U shapes out of brown paper for each student. These form the front and back of the headdress. Make sure that both pieces are wide enough so that when the bottoms are stapled together they will fit over your students' heads.
2. Draw designs on the paper with crayons or craypas. Experiment with different types of lines: straight, squiggly, zigzags, dotted, thick, thin, and so forth.
3. Decorate by gluing on feathers, buttons, fabric scraps, rick rack, sequins, and glitter. Let dry.
4. Staple the 2 shapes together at the bottom.
5. Staple on ribbons.



Follow-up

- Have your students wear their fiesta headdresses in a parade around your school.
- Invite students to wear their fiesta headdresses during music and movement time.