


Caped Crusader

WEEK


2

Experiment: Superhero Identity



Every superhero needs to be easily recognized. Things like masks, costumes and symbols help people in distress know who is there to save them. Create your own personal signal and mask.



SUPERHERO MASK MATERIALS

- ☐ Paper
 - ☐ Cardstock paper or felt
 - ☐ Mask template (available at msichicago.org/summerbrain)
 - ☐ Scissors
 - ☐ Pencil
 - ☐ String or ribbon
 - ☐ Ruler
 - ☐ Tape or stapler
 - ☐ Crayons, markers and other craft supplies
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INSTRUCTIONS

Start by making a mock-up of your mask so you can get the fit right. Print out the mask template or draw the same outline shape on a piece of paper. Ask a friend to measure the distance between the centers of your eyes. Mark that distance on your mask mock-up, and adjust the location of the eye holes so the mask will fit your face. Cut out the mask and the eye holes and hold it up to your face to make sure it fits. If the mask is too small or too big, make adjustments and try again.

Once you have a mock-up that fits, trace the shape onto the material you'll use to make your official superhero mask. Colorful cardstock or felt fabric work well. Decorate your mask with craft supplies, or add extra designs like your superhero symbol to make it unique. Use tape or a stapler to attach two pieces of string to each side of the mask near your ears so you can tie it on your head. Now go out and save the day!





SAVE THE DAY!

Now that you've created your superhero character, introduce yourself to us! Record a short video clip (10 seconds would be perfect) telling us your name, powers and anything else about yourself. Share it with us at summerbrain@msichicago.org or facebook.com/msichicago.

LEARN MORE

Who are some everyday superheroes? Scientists, engineers, doctors and inventors are all helping to make the world a better place. Learn more about these science-based careers at MSI.

RECOMMENDED READING

The Astonishing Secret of Awesome Man, by Michael Chabon

Heroes and Hotshots in Your Hometown, by Joe Rhatigan

SUPERHERO SIGNAL MATERIALS

- ☐ Paper towel tube
- ☐ Packing tape
- ☐ Paper
- ☐ Pen or pencil
- ☐ Rubber band
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Flashlight with single LED
(phone flashlights work really well)



INSTRUCTIONS

Design a symbol that represents your superhero. Your symbol should be simple, easily recognizable and be representative of your superhero identity.

Cut a square piece of paper that is bigger than the open end of the paper towel tube. Draw your design in the center of that paper so that it's smaller than the diameter of the tube. Cut out your design. Keep your design from ripping by placing clear packing tape on both sides. Place the design over the end of the paper towel tube with the design centered. Hold it in place with a rubber band.

Turn off the lights and shine a flashlight through the other end to see your projection on the wall.

You can also do a reverse of your signal by placing packing tape on the paper that surrounded the design you cut out, so that the center shape is empty and the light shines through.

