



ACTIVITY

Make a Marines Hat

The Marines hat, called a shako, was a distinctive part of the Marines uniform. There were approximately 50 Marines on board USS *Constitution* during the War of 1812. This activity to make a paper hat is an advanced craft that takes time and patience to create from scratch.

Prior to conducting this activity, determine which steps listed in the “prepare the pieces” section you would like students to complete, and which steps you will have done in advance.

Materials (per shako hat):

- Black construction paper – one piece 18”x12” and one piece 8½” x 5½”
- Yellow/gold yarn (roughly 6 ft. long cut into one-foot lengths.)
- Red Paper (one 8½” x 11” sheet)
- Yellow Paper (Note: one sheet 8½” x 11” sheet will complete four shakos)
- Metal brad
- Templates: plate & brim
- Clear tape
- Scissors
- Hole punch

Prepare the pieces:

For the base of the shako

1. Cut a piece of black paper (18” x 12”) in half to create two long, thin strips. To help cut a straight line, fold the paper in half and make a sharp crease. Then unfold the paper and cut along the crease.
2. Using the template, trace the brim onto the smaller, 8½” x 5½” piece of black paper.
3. Cut out the prim and fold the tabs up.

For the plate

1. Photocopy the plate template onto yellow paper. (Note: the template makes four plates)
2. Cut out one plate.

For the plume

1. Roll a piece of red paper into a thin tube no larger than one inch wide.
2. Tape the bottom of the tube so it cannot unroll
3. Hold the taped bottom end of the tube and carefully make five or six cuts down from the top to the middle of the tube. Do not cut all the way down to your taped bottom.
4. Slowly pull on the cut ends to create the tall plume. If needed, use more tape to hold the tube closed.

For the cord

1. Cut three pieces of yellow yarn, each 1 ft. long.
2. Gather the three pieces and knot the ends together.
3. Tape the knot to a table or have a friend hold it for you.
4. Braid the three pieces together, just like when you braid someone's hair, and tie another knot at the end to secure it.

For the tassel

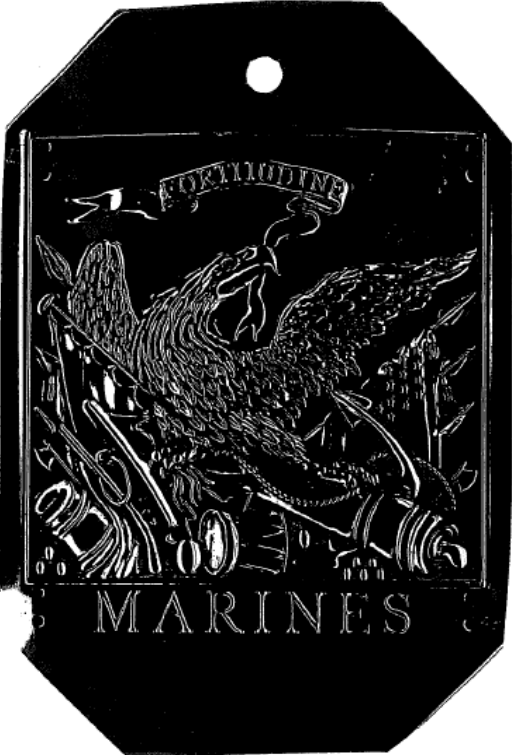
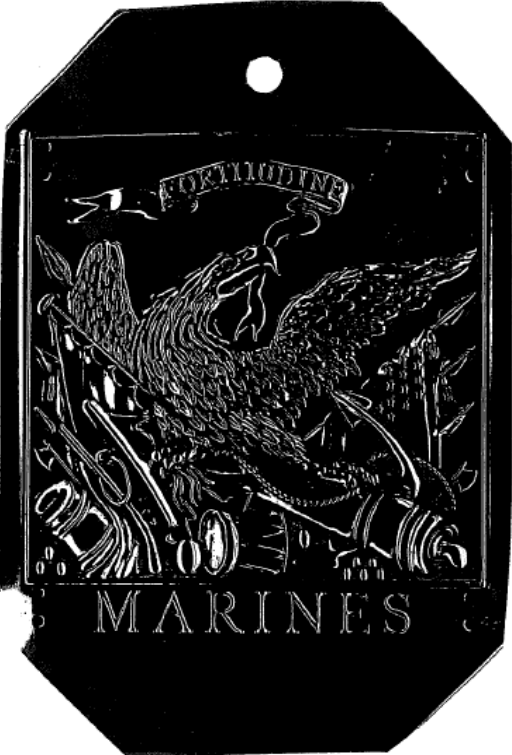
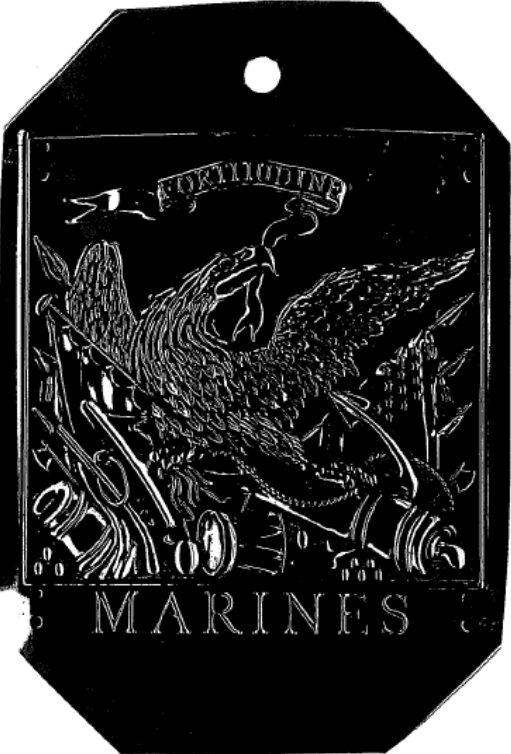
1. Cut a piece of yellow yarn 1 ft. long.
2. Bend it in half and create a knot at the top leaving a loop.
3. Tie on 2-3 one foot long sections of yarn at the knot, creating a tassel
4. Trim the tassel so that all the yarn hang at the same length.

Assemble your shako

1. Overlap the two eighteen long black strips of paper and tape them together to create one long, 36" strip.
2. Wrap the strip around the head of the student and tape the ends together so it fits comfortably.
3. Tape the brim tabs to the inside of your base and set it aside.
4. Flatten the taped bottom of your plume and punch a hole through the center.
5. Punch a hole in the top of the plate as indicated on the template.
6. Punch a hole one inch down from the top of the shako base. Make sure you center the hole with the brim.
7. Push a metal brad through the holes in the plate, shako base, and plume. Flatten the ends of the brad to hold all of the paper pieces together.
8. Tie the braided cord to the loop at the top of the tassel.
9. Position the yarn braided cord so it drapes around the plate and tape the ends to the inside of the base. The tassel should come out and hang on the left side of the plate.

Congratulations! After all that hard work you are ready to wear your shako with pride!

Plate Template



Brim Template

