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Snorkel and mask tips

By Jakob Jelling

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Before you start your diving activities and using a snorkel for the first time, there are some important tips and notions which you must learn and take into account. When done properly and following some main guidelines, diving and wearing a snorkel can be a great and very enjoyable activity, but if it is done without following the basics problems might arouse and it might end up being a headache rather than gratifying.

Your snorkel and the rest of your diving equipment might be the most important factor which you must pay attention to when you wish to dive. First of all, you should choose a good diving mask, which adapts to your face and fits it properly. With your diving mask, you should also buy a defogging solution which will allow you to avoid having fogging problems while you dive.

The most important aspect to which you must pay attention to when you buy a new diving mask and snorkel is the way it fits your face. The mask you buy must fit you perfectly or otherwise water might enter into it and become a big problem. You should also make sure that your snorkel can be attached to the mask without any problems. If your mask's strap is too wide or too narrow for your snorkel to be properly attached to it, you might have to look for another mask.

Besides your mask, the fins you choose are a very important part of your snorkel complementary equipment as well. The fins you choose should fit you and allow you to feel comfortable while wearing them as well as they should adapt to the specific kind of diving activities you will practice. You should make sure that they fit you and adjust to your fit size but without making you loose mobility.

Another very important factor which might have a great impact on the way you practice and enjoy diving is the way you feel while being into the water. In order to be able to enjoy your diving practice you must be able to relax and feel comfortable while using your snorkel as well as while being in the water. This is a must if you wish to start practicing this sport and acquiring new skills and techniques, you can not practice this activity if you feel scared of the water or of using a snorkel.

Jakob Jelling is the founder of <http://www.divepilot.com>. Please visit his website to discover the world of diving!

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Halloween Craft: Make Halloween Masks With Paper Mache

By Susanne Myers

You'll need just a few things to make just about any mask you can imagine. Those items include balloons, newspaper, wallpaper glue and some acrylic paint. A pair of sharp scissors comes in handy to cut out eyes and mouth. Wear old clothing, or put an apron on both you and your child. Making the mask can get a bit messy.

Cover your work area in plenty of newspaper to protect it from glue and paint. Next, cut several newspapers into strips. Blow up a balloon so it is slightly larger than your child's head. Now dip a newspaper strip completely in the glue and stick it on the balloon. Continue doing this back and forth until you have the entire balloon covered in several layers of newspaper. Work out any wrinkles as you go along. The more layers of newspaper you have, the sturdier the mask will be.

Finally add any features specific to the mask you are making. For example, if you are making a frog mask, sculpt two ball shapes at the top of the mask that you can later paint as eyes. If you are making a cat, dog, or monkey mask, form the snout and of course don't forget about ears. The only limit is your imagination.

Allow the mask to dry completely, preferably over night. Once it is completely hardened, start cutting into the mask to pop the balloon. Cut a large enough opening so your child can get his or her head inside the mask, then cut eye and mouth openings. For younger children, you may prefer to cut the back of the mask out completely, and, instead, wrap a piece of ribbon or yarn around the back of the head to secure the mask to allow better air–passage.

Paint the mask in a solid color and allow it to dry completely. Then add details like eyes, nose and lips in different colors. Once that coat of paint is completely dry, it is ready to wear. For a longer lasting and shiny mask, cover the mask in several layers of hodge podge before using it.

Would you like to quickly make creative Halloween costumes that you and your children will be proud of — for a fraction of the price of store–bought? Susanne Myers has co–authored a book to show you how — no sewing involved. Visit

to learn more.



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