

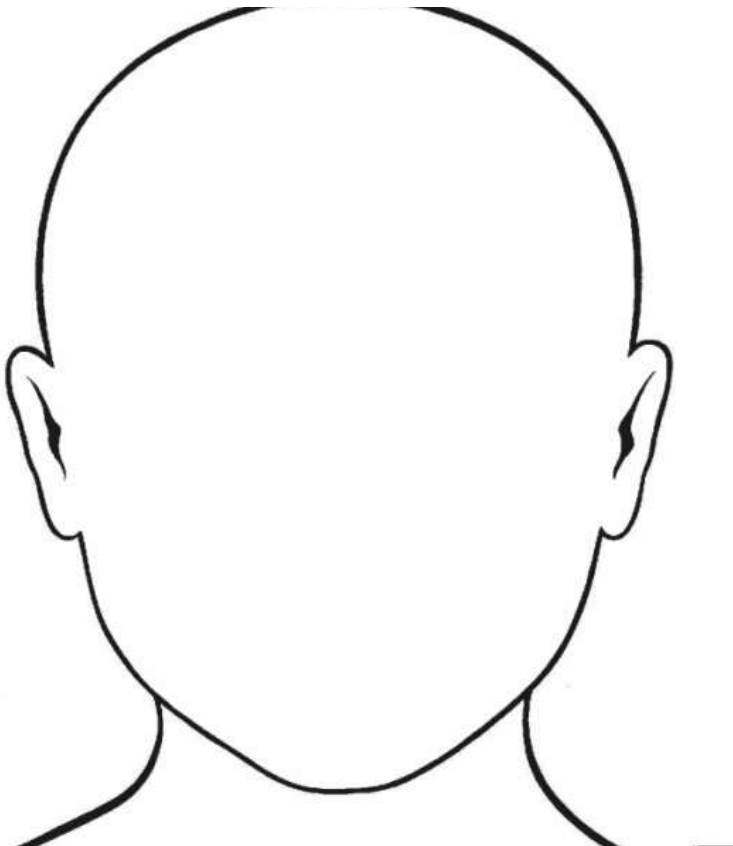
## Maori Ta Moko masks



Maoris honour their ancestors. This woodcarving is of an *ancestor*. The mask looks very fierce - the mouth is open, with the tongue sticking out and the eyes protruding. The expression is aggressive and looks like the grimaces that Maoris make during war dances.

The lines on this mask mirror Maori *ta- moko (tattoos)* which Maori traditionally had on their faces to make them look fierce, and so scare off their enemies. Today some Maori people are reviving this tradition as they try to preserve their culture and identity.

Here are some more examples of Maori face masks and tattoos.



Use the template to design your own Maori mask. Remember it should be symmetrical.