Flowers are a beautiful reminder of transience. They represent love and the cycle of life and death as they grow, die, decompose, and then give nourishment to new life. The cempasúchil (marigold flower) is the official flower of the dead since its pungent scent and bright gold color draw souls to the altars. Its shape and color are symbolic of the sun that gives energy and light to all life.
MATERIALS

- Tissue Paper
- Chenille stems/pipe cleaners
- Scissors
INSTRUCTIONS

Cut the tissue paper so that you have two sheets: 13” x 20” each.

Cut each of those pieces in half. You will now have four sheets that are about 10 “ x 13” each.

Cut each of those pieces in half. You will now have eight sheets of paper.

Stack eight sheets of paper. Pleat the paper in an accordion fold.
Cut a half-circle shape from the each end. (You could also cut a point or zig-zag)

Wrap a pipe cleaner around the middle of the paper to hold it in place. This will also act as the stem.

Fan out the paper. Gently separate the first layer of paper from the rest, and move it up to form the top layer of petals.

Gently separate the rest of the paper layers. Fluff out your flower.

Repeat with the other stack of four papers.

Experiment with different techniques:

Try making those with tiny sheets of paper. Make gigantic flowers.
Make multi-colored flowers with different colors of tissue paper.
Cut different shapes at the edges of your petals.
Make a stack with extra pieces of paper for a fuller flower.
ARTE PARA TODOS:
EL DIA DE LOS MUERTOS
PAPER MARIGOLDS ACTIVITY

RESOURCES

Papel Picado Lesson Video

Mexic-Arte Museum Education Department Dia de los Muertos Lesson Powerpoint

Mexic-Arte Museum Education Department Dia de los Muertos Education Guide

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