



ARTE PARA TODOS:
EL DIA DE LOS MUERTOS
PAPEL PICADO ACTIVITY



Papel picado are decorative paper banners that are an integral part of the altars. The fluttering tissue-paper cut-outs move with the slightest breeze, representing the element of air or wind. They are made with a chisel that cuts through several layers of paper at a time and hung on the altar to create decorations that remind the viewer of the impermanence of life, highlighting the fragility of the tissue paper, which will eventually disintegrate with time.

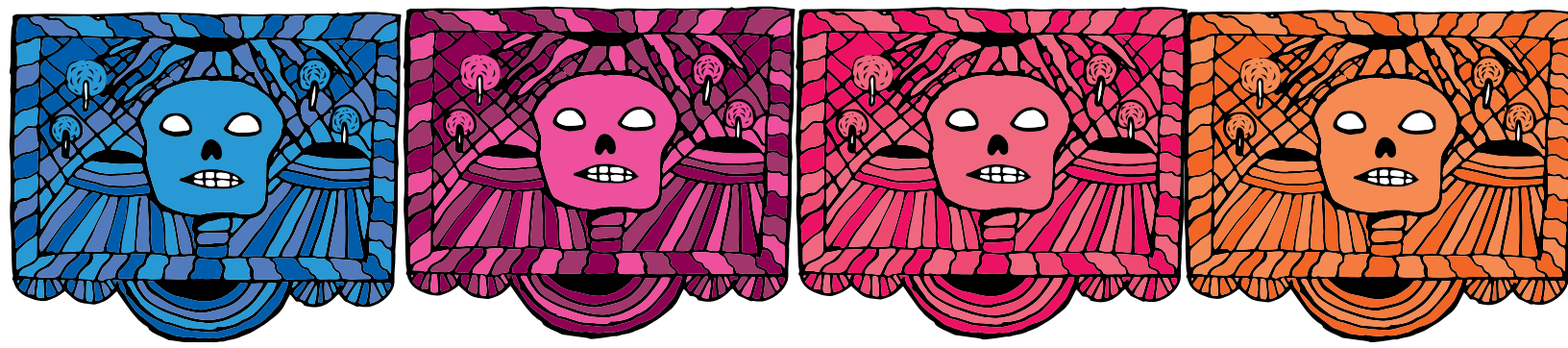


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MATERIALS

- Three 8 1/2" by 11" sheets of colored tissue paper (or more if making a longer banner)
- Thicker paper (loose-leaf or copy paper)
- Scissors
- A yard of string
- Glue stick
- Straight pins



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INSTRUCTIONS

Photocopy the pattern on a sheet of paper (8 1/2" x 11") or design your own pattern on paper. You will only need to draw half of the design, as the tissue paper will be folded in half and cut symmetrically.

Cut pattern page in half (5 1/2" x 8 1/2").

Cut three sheets of tissue paper to 8 1/2" x 11". Fold the three sheets of tissue paper in half length-wise (5 1/2" x 8 1/2") and pin the pattern on to

Carefully cut out your design. Make sure to leave a little space (about an inch) on the top of your design so that you can attach a string there.

Now remove the pins and unfold your paper carefully and lay the tissue paper out horizontally next to each other, 1" apart.

Lay your string horizontally across the top of the paper.

Fold the top of the paper over the string and glue it down so that it stays.

Lift up your banner by either end of the string and find a place to hang it.

PAPEL PICADO TEMPLATE

Fold over, put glue and string

Place on fold

cut out

cut out

cut out

cut out

cut out

cutout

cut out

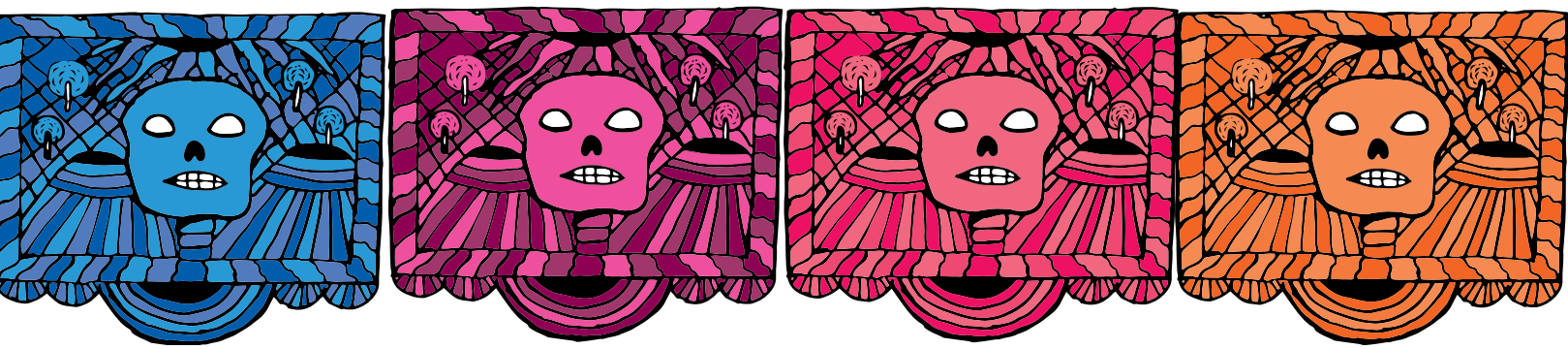
cut out

fold and cut

fold and cut

Place on fold

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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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