

ARTE PARA TODOS

# PAPER MARIGOLDS



# TEXAS ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS

THIS LESSON HAS BEEN WRITTEN FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS WITH TEKS ALIGNED TO GRADES K-5. SUGGESTIONS ARE INCLUDED FOR SCAFFOLDING CONTENT TO ACCOMMODATE STUDENT NEEDS. TEACHERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ADAPT LESSONS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THEIR STUDENTS AND TO FIT THEIR TEACHING OBJECTIVES.

## Primary

Art: 117.102 - 117.303

- (1A)(1B)
- (2A) (2B) (2C)
- (3A)(3B)(3C)(3D)
- (4A)(4B)(4C)

## Secondary

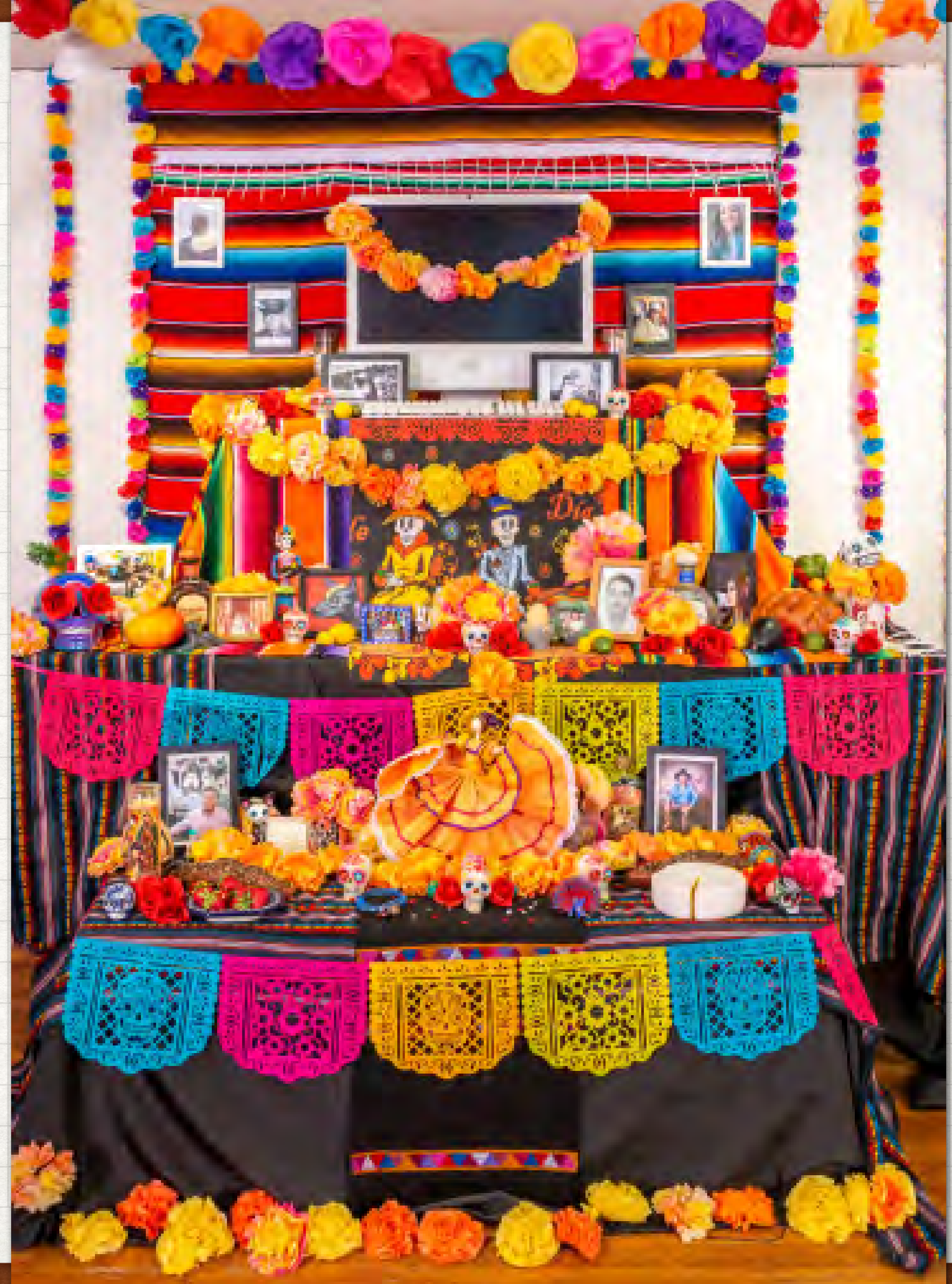
Art: 117.102 - 117.303

- (1A)(1B)
- (2A) (2B) (2C)
- (3A)(3B)(3C)(3D)
- (4A)(4B)(4C)



WHY DO WE CELEBRATE DIA DE  
LOS MUERTOS WITH MARIGOLD  
FLOWERS?

# A PRE- COLUMBIAN TRADITION



# WHAT IS PAPEL PICADO?

Marigold or cempasuchil is flower native to Mexico that blossom from September to December. The flowers bloom with bright yellow or orange petals and a strong, fragrant scent.

Cempasuchil (also spelled cempazuchitl) comes from the Aztec language (Nahuatl) term for the flower cempohualxochitl, literally translated as "twenty flower". It is cultivated for ornamental, medicinal purposes, or to be used as a dye.


During pre-Columbian times, the Mexica chose it for their altars and offerings dedicated to the dead.



# Symbolism

Flowers are a symbol of transition. They represent love and the cycle of life and death as they grow, die, decompose, and give nourishment to new life. The cempasuchil is the official flower of the Day of the Dead since its pungent scent and bright gold are believed to draw souls to the altars. Its shape and color are symbolic of the sun which gives energy and light to all life.





Around the offerings, paths of petals are laid out, together with incense and copal, they serve to guide the dead back to the world of the living. In present times, during the Day of the Dead celebrations, natural and paper cempasuchil are used all around Mexico to decorate altars, tombstones, and used for festivals.

After the Spanish conquest, paper imported from Spain and China became widely used in Mexico. The craft of creating paper flowers evolved. Talented artisans made different types in a variety of shades, accomplishing realistic, bright, and colorful paper flowers which are still popular today.



Paper flowers are not only used in Mexico, but have become popular all over the world.

**Create your own paper flowers to adorn your own altar!**





# MATERIALS

- Sheets of yellow or orange tissue paper
- Scissors
- Pipe cleaners



# STEP 1

Fold the tissue paper in half.



# STEP 2

Cut tissue paper on the fold.



# STEP 3

Fold and pleat the paper into an accordion fold.



# STEP 4

Cut a curve at each end of the tissue paper.



# STEP 5

Use your pipe cleaner to wrap around the middle of your paper to hold it in place.  
This will also act as the stem.



# STEP 6

Fan out the paper.



# STEP 7

Gently separate the rest of the paper to form layers of petals.





# STEP 8

Fluff out your flower. Now it is finished!

