


ARTE PARA TODOS:

EL DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

PAPER MARIGOLD FLOWERS LESSON PLAN



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 altar. Its shape and color are symbolic of the sun that gives energy and light to all life.

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| Arte Para Todos Lesson: | Dia de los Muertos Unit |
| Concepts | Cultural Awareness |
| Subject Area | Art & Social Studies |
| Lesson | Make Paper Marigold Flowers |
| Example: |  |
| TEKS Correlations | <p>Art: 117.102-117.303 (1A)(1B) The student considers concepts and ideas from direct observation, original sources, experiences, and imagination for original artwork and identify and understand the elements of art, including line, shape, color, texture, form, space, and value, as the fundamentals of art. (2A)(2B)(2C) The student integrates ideas drawn from life experiences to create original works of art; create compositions using the elements of art and principles of design; and produces modeled forms. (3A)(3B)(3C)(3D) The student demonstrates an understanding of art history and culture by analyzing artistic styles, historical periods, and a variety of cultures. The student develops global awareness and respect for the traditions and contributions of diverse cultures. (4A)(4B)(4C) The student responds to and analyzes artworks of self and others, contributing to the development of lifelong skills of making informed judgments and reasoned evaluations.</p> |
| Essential Question | What is a symbol? How are symbols used in celebrations and holidays? |
| Abstract | The lesson incorporates elements of a traditional Dia de los Muertos ofrenda, a historically rich tradition that integrates both pre-Columbian and contemporary Mexican customs. Through learning about each element of an ofrenda, students will gain respect for the traditions and contributions of Mexican culture. |
| Learning Outcomes | The student will be able to identify the cultural roots of Day of the Dead and list traditional components that are associated with an ofrenda. |

Lesson Components

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 6 - 8 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

Try making those with smaller sheets of paper.
Make gigantic flowers with large sheets of paper.
Make multi-colored flowers with different colors of tissue paper.
Cut different shapes off the edges of your petals.
Make a stack of more pieces of paper for a fuller flower.

Accomodations

Student may need addictional time, review of directions and redirection. Reword steps or questions in simplified language and allow space for movement or breaks.
Supportive visual or auditory aids. Try a variety of materials if student has sensory sensitivities to paper mache mixture or paint (e.g., paper, colorful pens or markers).
Modified art tools such as spring loaded or loop scissors when cutting.

Final Product

Additional Essential Questions

What is Dia de los Muertos?

What holidays and festivals are important parts of your culture?

What holidays and festivals are important in other cultures?

Why is Dia de los Muertos significant to Mexican and Mexican American culture?

What do celebrations around the world have in common?

What is a symbol? How are symbols used in celebrations and holidays?

What are the primary artistic and cultural symbols associated with Dia de Los Muertos?

How are belief systems represented and reproduced through history, literature, art, and music?

Which family stories, histories, traditions, etc., do I keep from my family as I am building my own identity?

Why is it important to learn about holidays that other cultures and countries celebrate?

Why should we study other cultures and what do they teach us?

How does the Mexican concept of death differ than what is taught in America?

How does your family shape you?

What do you admire about your family?

What stories might be told about you in the future?

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](#)

[Mexic-ArteMuseum.org](#)

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