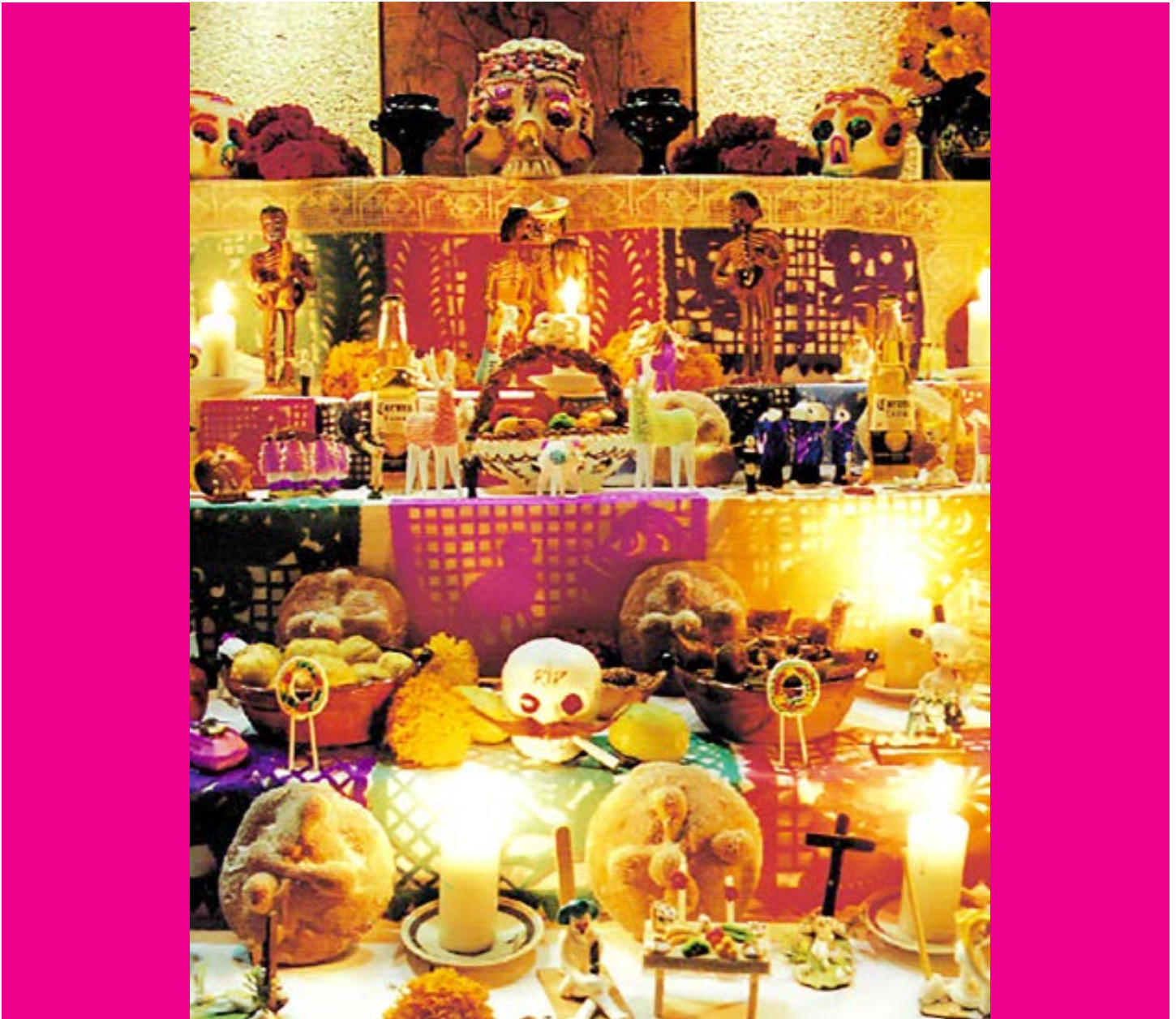




## ARTE PARA TODOS: EL DIA DE LOS MUERTOS SUGAR SKULLS LESSON PLAN



**Sugar skulls** are a popular offering since it marks the sweetness of life and ties back to the pre-Columbian skull motifs. Sugar skulls, are traditional candies molded into skulls and decorated with frosting. Children are often given sugar skulls with their names written on the forehead.

<b>Arte Para Todos Lessons:</b>	<b>Dia de los Muertos Unit</b>
<b>Concepts</b>	Cultural Identity
<b>Subject Area</b>	Art & Social Studies
<b>Lesson</b>	Sugar Skulls
<b>Examples:</b>	
<b>TEKS Correlations</b>	<p>Art: 117.102-117.303</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(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>
<b>Essential Question</b>	What role does color play in the mood of this tradition/celebration? How do shape and line on sugar skulls appear to bring them to life?
<b>Abstract</b>	This 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 by creating their own sugar skull.
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	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 while learning how to create their own traditional sugar skull/calavera.



<b>Materials</b>	<p>Skull Ingredients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 1/2 cups sugar</li> <li>• 1 egg white from an extra large egg, or 2 from small egg</li> <li>• 1 teaspoon light corn syrup</li> <li>• Cornstarch, about a half cup for powdering surface</li> <li>• Colored sprinkles</li> <li>• Food coloring</li> <li>• Fine paint brush</li> <li>• Colored Icing</li> </ul>	<p>Optional Icing Ingredients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2/3 cup water</li> <li>• 1/2 cup meringue powder</li> <li>• 2 lbs. powdered sugar</li> <li>• Food coloring</li> </ul>
<b>Lesson Components</b>	<p>Sift sugar into a large mixing bowl. In another bowl, mix the egg whites, and corn syrup. Slowly pour the liquid into the powdered sugar. Mix with your hands until a sandy dough forms. Form dough into a ball. At this point you can continue or you can refrigerate dough for later use. Lightly dust surface with cornstarch as well as your hands. Pinch off a heaping tablespoon of dough and shape it into a skull. If you're using them, lightly press colored sprinkles into the soft candy.</p> <p>Icing: Add all of the ingredients into a mixing bowl and mix on high for a minute or two, then scrape the sides of the bowl down to make sure everything is mixed in. Beat on high for another 7 to 8 minutes. Once the icing is mixed, pour it into a container and put the lid on to keep it moist. Because it has no fat in it, the icing will dry out fast. Separate into different cups to create a variety of colors. Add food coloring and place in bags to pipe onto dry skulls.</p>	
<b>Accomodations</b>	<p>Student may need additional 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. Offer gloves or alternative materials if student has sensory sensitivities to the ingredients.</p>	
<b>Final Product</b>		

## 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?

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

Why are the correct measuring techniques important for a successful product?

How do you read, interpret and produce a recipe?

How will understanding equivalents, abbreviations and action words help with preparing a recipe?

## 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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