

Dia De Los Muertos



El Dia De Los Muertos is an important holiday for Mexican and Mexican/American people. It is a three day festival to celebrate the Mexican people's ancestors. El Dia De Los Muertos begins on October 31st. It is believed that the spirits of the dead visit their families from October 31st to November 2nd.

The streets are filled with flowers, decorations and parades to celebrate the dead. In the parades, children carry bunches of cempazuchitl, people dress in skeleton costumes and carry coffins.

Each family makes an altar for the departed. They are heavily decorated with colorful decorations, flowers and lots of food. Photos of the deceased are also placed on the altar. The flowers placed on the altar are yellow marigolds or cempazuchitl. Bread baked in the shape of skulls is called pan de muertos. Candles are burned all night for the deceased.

The art of El Dia De Los Muertos reflects the feelings that the Mexican people have of death. The Mexican people fear death but also celebrate it and mock it. The symbols of death are sometimes comedic, silly skeletons and stylized coffins. The pictures of the skeletons or skulls are colorful and bright.

In the cemeteries music is played and people dance and celebrate death and their departed loved ones. The families clean the area around their loved ones gravesite and decorate the gravesites. They then spend the night in the cemetery.

Kindergarten-1st Grade



Activities

Piñata

Each student has a paper bag. Using paints they will decorate it as they desire. They can fill the bag with treats or candy. The top is then folded down and stapled or taped. Tissue paper strips or streamers can be glued to the bottom of the bag; a string tied through a hole in the top makes it hang-able.

Kleenex Box Guitar

A Kleenex box is painted and decorated. A round whole is cut in the end of one side of the box. A painted paper towel roll is stuck through the whole. String is then strung through the paper towel tube and the Kleenex box hole to form strings.

Paper Plate Maraca

Paint and decorate two paper plates. Fill the plates with small gravel or beans. Staple the plates together to seal. Streamers or ribbons can be glued or stapled to one end for decoration.

Tissue Paper Flowers

Layer four sheets of the tissue paper. Fold the papers like an accordion so it looks like a thin rectangle. At the center of the rectangle, twist a pipe cleaner around. This is the center of the flower and the pipe cleaner is the stem. With the stem pointing straight down, gently pull up one layer of tissue into the center. Pull up the remaining layers, one by one. Fluff the flower.

State Education Standards

Social Studies;

1SS-R1- Describe how history is the story of events, people, and places in the past.

1SS-F1- Demonstrate the ability to place events in chronological sequence.

1SS-F2- Describe everyday life in the past and recognize that some aspects change and others stay the same.

1SS-F3- Use stories to describe past events, people, and places.

Arts:

1AV-R1- Identify and use a variety of art media and techniques to communicate ideas, experiences, and stories.

1AV-R2- Recognize that the visual arts are a form of communication.

1AV-R3-

Identify various subject matter, ideas, and symbols used in one's own work and work of others to convey meaning.

1AV-F1- Select and use subjects, themes and symbols in works of art.

1AV-F2- Use additional arts media, techniques, and processes to communicate a variety of ideas, experiences, and responses.

1AV-F7- Expand knowledge and use of different arts media.

3AV-R2- Know that art is a visual language and is a form of expression and communication.

3AV-F2- Understand there are various purposes for creating works of art.

3AV-F5- Describe how personal experiences and outside influences may affect the work of the artist, as well as the perceptions of the viewer.

Reading Resources

Andrade, M. J.(19). *Dia De Muertos en Mexico-Oaxaca.*

Gonzalez & Fukuda. (19). *Cuentos de el Dia de los Meurtos, Day Of The Dead Folk Tales.*

Johnston, T. (19). *Day of the Dead.*

Luenn (19). *A Gift For Abuela.* Rising Moon

2nd- 3rd Grade



Activities

Metal Ornament

Students sketch geometric designs on paper. They use a metal pie tin. Copy the design onto the pie tin. Cut out the shape with

scissors. Punch hole along the perimeter. A ribbon tied through one of the holes makes it easy to hang.

Piñata

Each student has a small paper bag. Paint the bag with tempera. Decorate the bag with ribbon, beads and other craft items. Fill the bag with treats or candy. The top is then folded down. Blow air into the bag and staple or tape closed. Tissue paper strips or streamers may be glued to the bottom of the bag; a string tied through a hole in the top makes it hang-able.

Kleenex Box Guitar

A Kleenex box is painted and decorated. A round whole is cut in the end of one side of the box. A painted paper towel roll is stuck through the whole. String is then strung through the paper towel tube and the Kleenex box hole to form strings.

Paper Plate Maraca

Paint and decorate two paper plates. Fill the plates with small gravel or beans. Staple the plates together to seal. Streamers or ribbons can be glued or stapled to one end for decoration.

Tissue Paper Flowers

Layer four sheets of the tissue paper. Fold the papers like an accordion so it looks like a thin rectangle. At the center of the rectangle, twist a pipe cleaner around. This is the center of the flower and the pipe cleaner is the stem. With the stem pointing straight down, gently pull up one layer of tissue into the center. Pull up the remaining layers, one by one. Fluff the flower.

State Education Standards

Social Studies:

1SS-F1- Demonstrate the ability to place events in chronological sequence.

1SS-F2- Describe everyday life and recognize that some aspects change and others stay the same.

1SS-F3 Use stories to describe past events, people, and places.

Arts:

1AV-F1- Select and use subjects, themes, and symbols in works of art.

1AV-F2- Use additional arts media, techniques, and processes to communicate a variety of ideas, experiences, and responses.

1AV-F7- Expand knowledge and use of different arts media.

3AV-F1- Identify and discuss the similarities and differences of art produced by themselves and others, using technology as one means of communicating personal ideas in a variety of forums.

3AV-F2- Understand there are various purposes for creating works of art.

3AV-F5- Describe how personal experiences and outside influences may affect the work of an artist, as well as the perceptions of the viewer.

Reading Resources

Andrade, M. J. (19). *Dia De Muertos en Mexico-Oaxaca*

Gonzalez et Fukuda (19). *Cuentos de el Dia de los Meurtos, Day Of The Dead Folk Tales.*

Harrington, K. A. (19). *Dia De Los Muertos.*

Levy, J. (19). *The Spirit of Tio Fernando: A Day of the Dead Story.*

Albert and Whitman Company

Luenn, N. (19). *A Gift For Abuelita.* Rising Moon

4th- 6th Grade



Activities

Metal Ornament

Students sketch geometric designs on paper. They use a metal pie tin. Copy the design onto the pie tin. Cut out the shape with scissors. Punch hole along the perimeter. A ribbon tied through one of the holes makes it easy to hang.

Piñata

Each student has a paper bag. Using paints they will decorate it as they desire. They can fill the bag with treats or candy. The top is then folded down and stapled or taped. Tissue paper strips or streamers can be glued to the bottom of the bag; a string tied through a hole in the top makes it hang-able.

Tissue Paper Flowers

Layer four sheets of the tissue paper. Fold the papers like an accordion so it looks like a thin rectangle. At the center of the rectangle, twist a pipe cleaner around. This is the center of the flower and the pipe cleaner is the stem. With the stem pointing straight down, gently pull up one layer of tissue into the center. Pull up the remaining layers, one by one. Fluff the flower.

State Education Standards

Social Studies;

1SS-E1- understand and apply the basic tools of historical research, including chronology and how to collect, interpret, and employ information from historical materials.

1SS-E8- Demonstrate and apply the basic tools of historical research, including how to construct timelines, frame questions that

can be answered by historical study and research, and analyze and evaluate historical materials offering varied perspectives.

1SS-E9- Describe the geographic, political, and social characteristics of the ancient civilizations of Egypt, Mesopotamia, and China and their contributions to later civilizations.

1SS-E11- Describe the major religions, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

1SS-P2- Demonstrate knowledge of research sources and apply appropriate research methods, including framing open-ended questions, gathering pertinent information, and evaluating the evidence and point of view contained within primary and secondary sources.

1SS-P3- Develop historical interpretations in terms of the complexity of cause and effect and in the context in which ideas and past events unfolded.

Arts:

1AV-E1- Choose the most appropriate media, techniques, and processes to enhance communication of one's own ideas and experiences.

1AV-E2- Demonstrate increasing technical ability and skill to complete visual arts assignments.

2AV-E1- Use subjects, themes, and symbols that demonstrate knowledge of contexts, values, and aesthetics to communicate intended meaning in their artworks.

2AV-E4- Describe the role art plays in culture and how it reflects, records, and shapes history in various times, places, and traditions.

Reading Resources

Andrad, M.J. (19). *Dia De Muertos en Mexico-Oaxaca*

Gonzalez et Fukuda (19). *Cuentos de el Dia de los Meurtos, Day Of The Dead Folk Tales.*

Harrington, K. A. (19). *Dia De Los Muertos.*

Levy, J. (1900). *The Spirit of Tio Fernando: A Day of the Dead Story*. Albert and Whitman Company
Luenn, N. (19). *A Gift For Abuelita*. Rising Moon

Recommended Websites

<http://www3.niu.edu/newsplace/nndia.html>

<http://www.library.csi.cuny.edu/dept/history/lavender/diadelos.htm>

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<http://www.holidays.net/halloween/muertos.htm>

<http://dia-de-los-muertos.123holiday.net/>

<http://www.azcentral.com/ent/dead/>

