## Día de los Muertos

*Originally written for 5th grade, but could be adapted for grades 3-12.*

### DESIRED RESULTS

| Lesson Objective(s) | Content Learning Target: Students will be able to understand the cultural significance of Día de los Muertos traditions  
Language Learning Target: Students will be able to define Día de los Muertos and explain how the holiday honors the deceased |
|---|---|
| Lesson Key Points  
(Concepts required to understand the objective, and to be expressed by scholars once they’ve mastered it) | ● Día de los Muertos is a holiday in Mexico in which people remember loved ones who have passed away. It is a celebration where people remember, rejoice and celebrate death.  
● *Altars* are set up to honor the dead. The spirits are believed to visit relatives and feast on the *ofrendas* displayed on the *altars*. Many of the things the dead person liked are placed on the altar such as foods, drinks, toys, and games.  
● Components of a traditional ofrenda: Water, salt, *calavera* (sugar skull), flowers, toys, bread, papel picado, foods, etc. |
| Academic Language  
(Vocabulary, Discourse) | ● Altar  
● Ofrenda  
● Calavera  
● Día de los Muertos |

### EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS

| Checks for Understanding | Lesson Assessment  
*What does mastery look like? How will you determine whether or not scholars have mastered your objective and deepened their understanding of the content?* |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Build into Learning Plan below.</td>
<td>SWBAT create and assemble a display of traditional components of Day of the Dead while expressing their own cultural identity.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### PREPARE FOR SUCCESS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Materials Needed</th>
<th>Other Reminders, Notes, or Context</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| ● Computer/projector  
● PowerPoint presentation  
● Scissors (papel picado, sugar skull)  
● Tape (papel picado)  
● String (papel picado)  
● Tissue paper, various colors (papel picado)  
● Papel picado stencils  
● Sugar skull examples, paper and real  
● Sugar skull paper photocopy (cardstock) | Students will work in small groups of 4-5 students to create a Día de los Muertos display inspired by traditional Day of the Dead offerings. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agenda (Major steps or points of transition)</th>
<th>Minutes</th>
<th>Description of Instruction (Teacher/Scholar Actions)</th>
<th>Notes (Reminders, key points, scripted question/other CFUs, anticipated misconceptions, etc.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scholars will view and discuss a short introductory animated film. Scholars will participate in the significance of Día de los Muertos and view images of traditional ofrendas.</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Introduction video of Día de los Muertos, discussion</td>
<td>Draw attention to symbols, colors, and story in the video. Brainstorm and list elements on the board. What happened in this story? What are some symbols in the video? Teacher will facilitate discussion surrounding Día de los Muertos and its meaning, traditions and customs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholars will work independently. Teacher will provide examples of completed projects, as well as authentic examples.</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Part 1 Project Introduction, norms &amp; material introductions</td>
<td>Teacher will explain and demonstrate the goal of expressing oneself through creating papel picado banners and decorating paper boxes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholars will clean up workstations and participate in a brain break dancing song.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Clean up materials, brain break</td>
<td>Please place your art expressions on your desk, clean up your workstations and put all materials away. Teacher will put on this song for students to stretch and dance to.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Notes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Part 2 Project Introduction, norms</td>
<td>Teacher will explain and demonstrate to students the goal of creating a Día de los Muertos display utilizing components created in part 1 and other provided materials (box, construction paper, salt, string). Teacher will set norms for group work time. Teacher will introduce materials and components to include.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Group work time to create Display</td>
<td>Scholars will work with their groups of 4-5 students to create a Display. Students are provided materials in a shoebox to create Day of the Dead Display on/around shoebox. 5 minute warning: We will now make sure our table spaces are neat and organized for the gallery walk. Please make sure your display is ready!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Music Immersion for gallery walk</td>
<td>You may move about the room to view other altars on a Zone 0 while <em>this</em> song plays</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Reflection in Artist journal</td>
<td>Scholars will reflect on the activities in their artist journals.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>World Music Immersion</td>
<td>Scholars will clean and line up for dismissal while <em>this</em> song plays.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
On the diagram to the right, check lines indicate lines you cut, fold lines indicate lines you score and fold. Fold the sides in at 90 degrees, and glue tabs shown in blue to the inside of the treat box. The sides do extend beyond the box. Other dimensions 3 inches high, 2 inches wide, 1 inch deep.

Sugar Skull Treat Box Template
by Shala Kerrigan
http://www.donteatthepaste.com
Don't Eat the Paste
MAKE YOUR OWN:

Mexican Papel Picado

BACKGROUND:
Papel picado is the Mexican art of cutting tissue paper to make elaborate banners. This folk art is displayed for all sorts of religious ceremonies as well as personal celebrations, but especially for the Day of the Dead (November 1 and 2). Traditionally, small chisels are used to create up to 40 banners at a time but scissors or an X-Acto knife (adults only) can be used to achieve the same result.

MATERIALS:
Papel picado template
Tissue paper
Sharp scissors or X-Acto knife (adults only)

INSTRUCTIONS:
Print out the Papel picado templates and fold in half. Fold a stack of 4-5 pieces of tissue paper in half and tuck inside the folded template. Use scissors or an X-Acto to cut out the gray areas and the scalloped edges. Unfold and hang together with a string!
References:

http://web.calstatela.edu/faculty/jshindl/teaching/GloriaDuranISP.htm
https://aupairbuzz.culturalcare.com/cultural-craft-for-kids-mexican-papl-picado/