

Title: Sugar Skulls

Grade Level: K-5

Objective: Students will create art in the style of Day of the Dead cultural holiday from Mexico.



Lesson Plan

Materials: Day of the Dead sugar skull template, crayons and markers.

Opening Activity: Ask students if they've seen COCO, to describe the movie: What country is "COCO" based in? What is the holiday celebrated or depicted in the movie? Share with students that November 1 and 2 are celebrated in Mexico as the Day of the Dead, a holiday celebrated in Mexico and Latin Americans of Mexican heritage living in the United States and Canada. Traditions include building private altars honoring the deceased, using sugar skulls, marigolds, and the favorite foods and beverages of the departed, and visiting graves with these as gifts. Learn more here: https://youtu.be/_sSawpU81cl

Core Activity:

- Distribute Calaveras templates to members- use the pre-decorated skulls for younger members and let them color in with crayons/markers.
- Distribute the blank skulls for older members- have them decorate with vibrant patterns and heart, flower, star, paisley shapes.
- Invite them to use vibrant colors, colors that help create a sense of happiness and positive energy.

Reflection: Students are going to want to take their sugar skulls home, see if you can have them pose and take a photo. Have students reflect upon the liveliness of the celebration of the Day of the Dead, and how the choices of vibrant colors create a sense of happiness. The mood of sugar skull art is a happy reflection of the past. Use this activity to make a connection between color and mood.