

# EL día de los muertos

Lesson with interactive nicho box activity

Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates many aspects of Hispanic culture. In this lesson we are learning about the Mexican celebration of their ancestors called Día De Los Muertos. The day of the dead festival is celebrated on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November. People remember their loved ones who passed away. In some parts of the world, death is seen as a sad thing, but in Mexico, people think that death is just a part of life. On this day, Mexican people believe that their loved ones' spirits come back to visit them and party together. During this festival everybody is in a good mood and they visit their graves and decorate them with flowers, candles and they bring their friends favourite food and drinks.



There are parades and people dress up. Some people wear traditional Mexican clothes, with colourful embroideries and they also wear face paint to make them look like skeletons.



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People also build 'altars' at home. These are decorated tables where people place a picture of their family member who passed away and they also put their favourite things, foods and drinks.

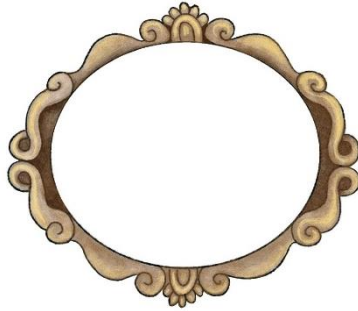


On the altars people use different crafts to decorate. For example, they use bunting with perforated paper forming drawings and designs, this is called 'papel picado'. They also use a special tablecloth, they lit candles and they scatter many marigold flowers.



On this day there are special treats: people give each other sugar skulls with their names written in the forehead. These are decorated with sugar flowers and pretty designs. There is also a sweet bread called 'pan de muerto' (bread of the dead). This bread is also placed in the altar as an present to the spirit of the dead friends.

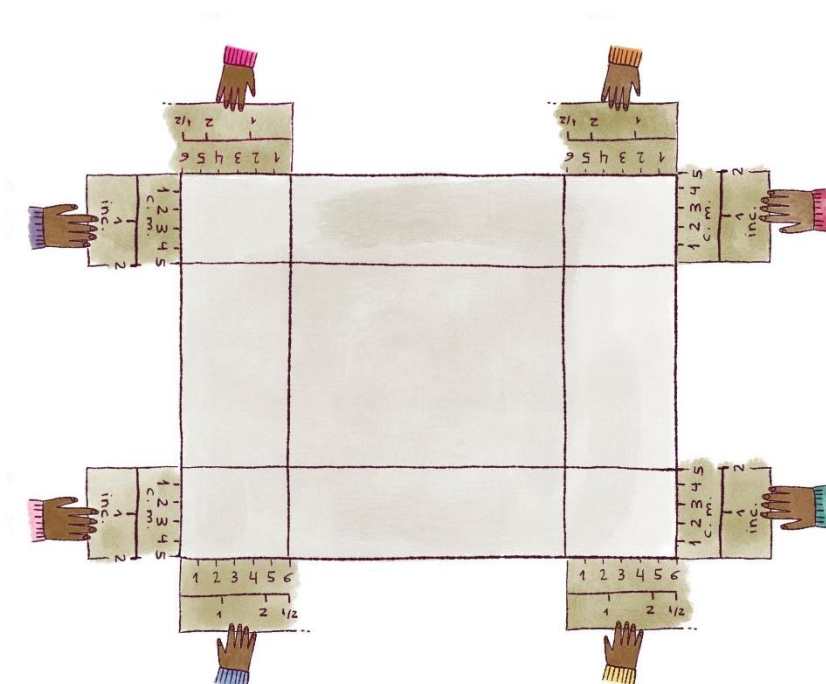
We are going to build a day of the dead altar box. First chose a family member, a friend or a pet who has passed away who you would like to honour. If you cannot think of one, chose a famous person, a person who you liked who passed away. You can get a photograph of this person or draw a picture of them inside the frame in the worksheet.



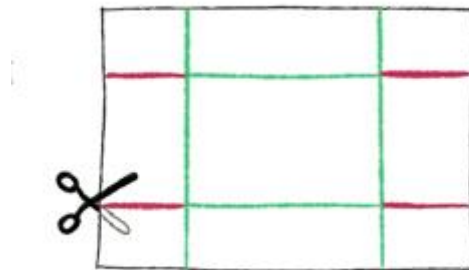
You are going to need to print the work sheet for this lesson and you will also need: scissors, glue, a pencil, a ruler and two A4 pieces of paper.



With your ruler measure the piece of paper like in the drawing, measure 5 cm or 2 in from both corners of the shorter side of the paper and 6 cm or 2,5 in from both corners on the longer side of the paper. draw lines and fold the paper along those lines:



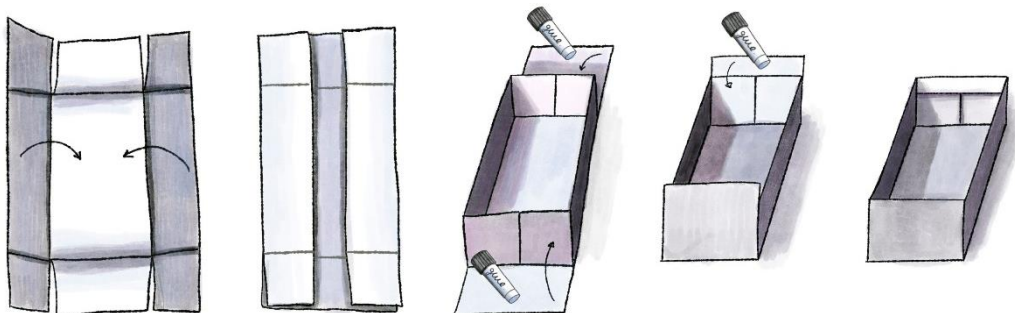
Use your scissors to make four cuts in the paper from the shorter side of the paper up to the fold:



Fold the paper along the longest side as in the picture.

Form a box as in the picture and spread glue in the indicated area

Glue your box and fold the remaining border over as in the image.

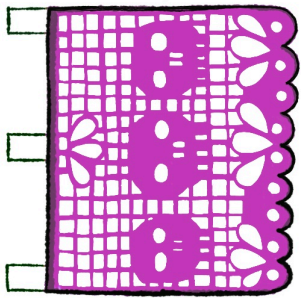
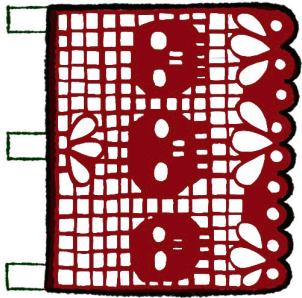


It would be cool to decorate your box with colourful paper, kitchen foil or even pictures from a magazine (first check that it is alright to cut up the magazine).

Cut all the decorations in the work sheet and use them to decorate your box. You can use the flowers to decorate the borders. If you want to, you could use some string to form a garland with the 'papel picado'. You can add some real flowers and some sweets. To finish off, stick your box to another piece of paper to make it easier to stand.

I hope you enjoy making this craft! Have fun!





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