



Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) Sugar Skull Mask

Día de los Muertos is an important holiday in Mexico, Latin America, and other parts of North America. It is a 2-day celebration (November 1 & 2) that merges the traditions of indigenous people with the customs of Europeans. During the holiday, people remember and honor their deceased loved ones with parties and festivals. Rather than mourning the losses of relatives and friends, they celebrate life and remember their ancestors. Visit <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/media/dia-de-los-muertos/> to learn more about this important celebration.

A common visual symbol of Día de los Muertos is the sugar skull (calavera). Sugar skulls are decorated with beautiful designs and colors. They often demonstrate the following artistic elements:

- Symmetry – The same elements of the design on both sides of the face.
- Balance – Details are balanced on the skull and not just on the top or bottom.
- Color – Bright and beautiful colors are used to decorate the faces.
- Contrast – The use of exciting and bold colors creates a dramatic contrast with the white background of the skull.

Ready to make your own calavera mask? Follow these easy steps!

1. Get your supplies: Black marker, pencil, crayons/markers/colored pencils, scissors, and tape or glue. Your mask template, gems, and popsicle stick are in the envelope.
2. With parental permission, search for images of sugar skulls to inspire your design.
3. Plan your design. Use a pencil to lightly draw designs on your sugar skull. Use symmetry and balance to cover the whole mask with designs! You can use flowers, patterns, lines, shapes, or whatever design elements you want!
4. When you are done drawing with your pencil, trace your pencil lines with your black marker. This will help make contrast with your mask's colors.
5. Use your crayons/markers/colored pencils to fill in your design elements.
6. Cut out your mask.
7. Glue or tape your popsicle stick to the back of your mask.
8. Enjoy your sugar skull mask and celebrating Día de los Muertos!

Looking for more? Try this papel picado project!

<https://www.deepspacesparkle.com/how-to-make-a-papel-picado/>

Want to learn more about Día de los Muertos? Visit Epic! and check out these books!

1. Day of the Dead, by Julie Murray
2. Celebrating Holidays: Day of the Dead, by Rachel Grack
3. Celebrations in my World: Day of the Dead, by Carrie Gleason