Día de los Muertos Paper Crafts

Día de los Muertos is a colorful celebration. Have fun making some of these decorations and papercraft projects!

- Papel picado
- Coloring masks
- Potato stamp greeting cards
- Calavera paper puppet

Papel picado, meaning perforated paper, is a traditional art in which intricate designs are cut into paper and often hung up as banners during major holidays such as Día de los Muertos.

You will need

- Colorful tissue paper
- Scissors
- Tape
- String/Ribbon

1. Fold the paper into fourths.
2. Fold in half.
3. Snip 3 edges to make your own design.
4. Unfold.

5. When you have your cutout, fold the top edge over a ribbon or string to make a banner. Add as much papel picado to your and you like.
Using a Template for Papel Picado

During Día de los Muertos, papel picado are usually decorated with both flowers and calaveras, representing the mixture of life and death. Below are two skull templates for you to try out.

**Instructions:**

Fold your tissue paper in half and place a template on top, lining the right side up with the folded edge.

If you like, tape it down so it doesn’t move. Use your scissors to cut the gray spaces out.

When you unfold, you’ll have the full skull cutout to add to your banner!
Line this side up with folded edge
Line this side up with folded edge
Make a Calavera Mask!
You can draw your own designs on the blank mask or just color in the patterned one. Once you are done making your mask vibrant and fun, cut out the mask, cut out eye holes and punch a hole on both sides. Then, tie a ribbon through the holes and adjust it to your head! Now you can celebrate like a Calavera!
Making Día de los Muertos Cards

To celebrate this year from a distance, sending a handmade card with a smiling skull can be a great way to reach out and wish someone a happy Día de los Muertos.

*Note: Knives can be dangerous; this activity is advised for older students or students with adult supervision.*

**Instructions:**

1. First, prep your cards by cutting the piece of paper to the appropriate size and then fold in half.
2. To start making the stamp, cut your potato in half down the center.
3. Then, use your paper towel to dab and take away any excess moisture.
4. Use your water-based marker to draw a happy skull.
5. Cutaway outside of your skull and then cut away all the parts you marked in ink.
6. If you need to, dab again with the paper towel.
7. Paint the surface of your potato with your chosen paint and then press down on where you would like to stamp. Try using a blank piece of paper first as a trial run and then onto the cards.

Write a nice message inside for someone you love! You can even make a card or letter for someone who has passed away and place it on their ofrenda.

**You will need**

- Potato
- Paint
- Knife
- Water based Marker
- Blank paper
Make A Skeleton Puppet

Materials
Crayons, paint, markers, scissors, string or yarn, paper punch, glue, glitter, buttons, tissue paper, feathers etc.

Instructions
Print out the skeleton parts. Punch holes in the bones next to letters (each leg and arm bone with have a hole at either end, etc.). Cut out all of the parts. Color and decorate with glitter, paints, feathers etc. as you like. Let dry and tie bones together matching the letters (string will go through both B holes and both C holes, for example). Once the skeleton is assembled, you can move him about as you like.

ALL SAINTS DAY - NOVEMBER 1

EL DIA DE TODOS LOS SANTOS - 1 DE NOVIEMBRE

THE DAY OF THE DEAD

EL DIA DE LOS MUERTOS
Resources:

Day of the Dead mask making – United Art and Education
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uxja2UmekKk

What is Day of the Dead? – National Geographic
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_sSawpU81cl

NM True TV - Dia de los Muertos Marigold Parade
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iinDrddZRto&feature=youtu.be

2018 Muertos y Marigolds Parade and Celebration
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SdeziyWI-LA&feature=youtu.be

The traditions of Dia de los Muertos

Day of the Dead website with history, traditions, recipes and more
https://dayofthedead.holiday/

Award Winning CGI 3D Animated Short Film: "Dia De Los Muertos" - by Team Whoa Kazoo | TheCGBros
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jCQnUuq-TEE&feature=youtu.be

National Geographic photo resource library on Dia de los Muertos
https://www.nationalgeographic.org/media/dia-de-los-muertos/

Honoring our Ancestors: Smithsonian Latino Virtual Museum Day of the Dead/ Dia de los Muertos – Google Arts and Culture online exhibition
https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/honoring-our-ancestors/pAJCjUNS7L8iIA

Dia de los Muertos K-12 Educators Guide – UNM Latin American and Iberian Institute
https://laii.unm.edu/info/k-12-educators/assets/documents/dia-de-los-muertos/complete-guide.pdf

Day of the Dead Teachers Packet from AZCentral.com

Books:


Lulu - a fan of bones! (And paper creations!)