

Mexican Day of the Dead

Throughout this project you will learn about the Mexican festival Day of the Dead. You will learn:

- About the festival and Mexican culture
- About the significance of symbols
- To produce and refine ideas
- How to put together a composition
- How to mix and apply paint, show different tones, and blend colours

As a final piece, you will produce a large scale painting! This will be based on your research into Mexican culture, sugar skulls, art by David Lozeau, and drawings of skulls.



Read this!

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/destinations/north-america/mexico/top-ten-day-of-dead-mexico/>

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/destinations/north-america/mexico/sponsor-content-the-living-colors-of-mexicos-day-of-the-dead/>



Try this!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UmieCPK4fOI>
Watch the video and produce your own sugar skull design following the steps of the video.



Block colour



Gradient



Colour blend



Key Words and Definitions

Day of the Dead – a Mexican festival held on 1st & 2nd November every year to celebrate the lives of loved ones who have died. Activities and traditions vary depending on the local community. It is believed that the spirits of the dead visit the living during the celebration: angelitos (children) on 1st November; adults on 2nd November.

Calacas and calaveras – skeletons and skulls.

Altar – people create altars by gathering together photographs and mementos of loved ones, flowers, candles, and food. This is a place to remember the dead.

Papel Picado – paper cut into decorative designs is laid on tables and hung up like bunting.

Ofrenda – offerings are left for the dead at altars and graves. Ofrendas include things that would be missed in the afterlife, such as Bread of the Dead, fruit, sweets, cigarettes, coffee, and alcohol.

Sugar skulls – are moulded from a mixture of water and sugar. They are decorated with patterns, and sometimes people's names, in bright colours.

Marigold flowers – the vibrant colours and scents of the flowers guide spirits to their altars. Marigolds, or flowers in general, also represent the fragility of life.

Symbol – a sign understood as representing an idea, object, or relationship.

Tone/value - highlight, mid-tones, and shadow. Tone is applied to create the illusion of 3D form and depth.

Block colour – colour in a single tone, with no variation.

Gradient – a smooth transition from one tone to another.

Colour blend - a smooth transition from one colour to another.

Colour mix – combining at least two colours to achieve a new colour.

WAGOLL:

- Good scale
- Good use of space
- Mexican Day of the Dead symbols
- Full range of tonal value, from light to dark
- Colour mixing
- Colour blending
- Bright, joyful colours

Art Knowledge Organiser –
 Drawing
 AO1 Developing idea–Thought shower, artist research
 AO2 Using Resources– testing out ideas/media
 AO3 Recording ideas–photos and drawings
 AO4 Making a personal response– final ideas



Dia de los Muertos Day of the Dead



Images used: Sugar skulls, Flowers, Marigolds, candles, Gifts, hearts, swirls, bright colours, black, skeletons. Happy event celebrated with food, drink and parties. Celebrating and remembering the loss of life and the love they had for each other. Mexican foods– Chilli, sour cream, guacamole, tortilla, Jalapenos, salsa.

Festival celebrated
 October 31st
 – November
 2nd



Keywords:
 Contrast
 Pattern
 Colour
 Festival
 Shape
 Proportion
 Texture
 Tone
 Form
 Composition
 Observation
 Balance
 Mark making
 Crosshatch
 Dash
 Blending
 Shade
 Directional
 Gifts
 Flowers
 Oil pastel
 Symmetry



Face
 Painting

Films to watch:
 Coco
 The Book of Life



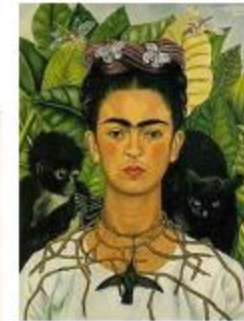
Artist:
 Jose Guadalupe Posada

Mexican Artist

Frida Kahlo (6 July 1907 – 13 July 1954) was a Mexican painter known for her many portraits, self-portraits, and works inspired by the nature and

artifacts of Mexico. Artist **Frida Kahlo** was considered one of Mexico's greatest artists who began painting mostly self-portraits after she was severely injured in a bus accident. **Kahlo** later became politically active and married fellow communist artist Diego Rivera in 1929.

Heather Galler inspired by Frida Kahlo– colourful folk art style



Techniques:
 Dry print
 Mono print
 Duplicate
 Sgraffito
 Collage
 Tonal drawing



Working with air drying clay



Air drying clay:

- Manmade, using fibres, paper etc
- Dries in the air and can be painted using any normal paints.
- Is more fragile and easily breakable.
- Can't be washed or put in a dishwasher - porous

Normal clay:

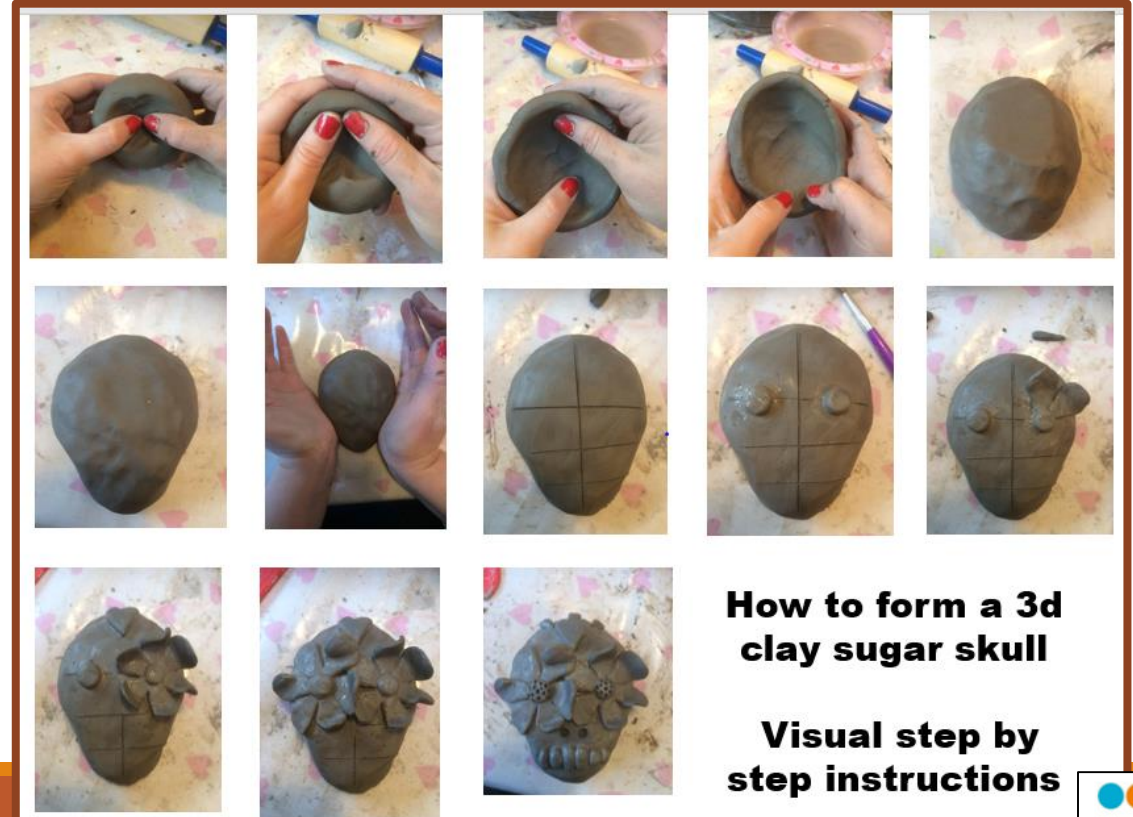
- Comes from the earth
- Is fired in a kiln when dry
- Glazes are used to decorate
- Is strong and hard
- Can be washed or put in dishwasher – non-porous



Small Family by Beate Kuhn 1988

Key words and terms

Pinch pot	A 3D shape made out of clay by pinching it.
Slip	A running clay used to help join clay together.
Score	Marks scratched on the clay to join it together.
Score and slip	The method to join to pieces of clay together.
Plastic	Wet clay that can be sculpted.
Leather hard	Clay that has dried out a little.
Bone dry	Clay that is completely dry and can be painted or fired.
Sgraffito	Scratching a design onto a surface to show a colour underneath.
Relief	To build out pattern on a surface.



How to form a 3D clay sugar skull

Visual step by step instructions



Porcelain faces by Johnson Tsang 2016