

Celebrate Dia de Muertos with the Gaston County Public Library

Read All About It

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The Day of the Dead = El Día de los Muertos by Bob Barner

Mi Familia Calaca = My Skeleton Family by Cynthia Weill

Day of the Dead by Carrie Gleason

Funny Bones: Posada and His Day of the Dead Calaveras
by Duncan Tonatiuh

*Day of the Dead Crafts: More Than 24 Projects That Celebrate
Día de los Muertos* by Kerry Arquette

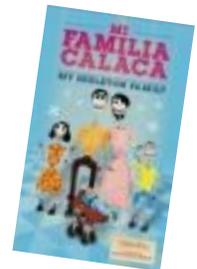
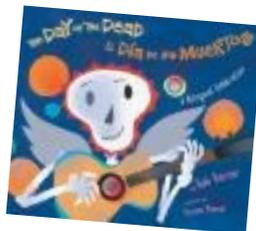
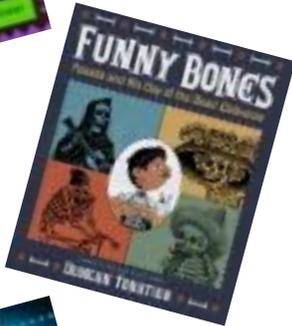
Day of the Dead by Tony Johnston

The Spirit of Tío Fernando: A Day of the Dead Story by Janice Levy

Día de los Muertos by Hannah Eliot

Cultural Traditions in Mexico by Lynn Peppas

Gustavo, the Shy Ghost by Flavia Z. Drago



Recipe: Easy Pan de Muerto (Day of the Dead bread)

Pan de muerto is the bread made to celebrate Day of the Dead. The strands and ball over the bread represent skulls and limbs. It is traditionally made with dough that begins with yeast and is left to rise twice. Below is a shortcut recipe using a can of crescent rolls!

Ingredients

- One can refrigerated crescent dinner rolls
- 1/4 cup orange juice
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1/2 cup sugar

Directions

- 1) Preheat oven to 350 °F.
- 2) On a lightly floured cutting board unroll crescent dough. Place two crescent sections apart (these will be used to decorate the top of the bread).
- 3) With a lightly floured rolling pin, gently roll together remaining dough to seal perforations. With your hands, shape dough into a smooth small round ball. Place on a baking sheet.
- 4) Whisk together the orange juice and milk and brush over top of bread. With a pizza cutter or knife, slice one remaining crescent section into four-six strands and with hands shape into strands to place over bread.
- 5) Use remaining crescent section to form a ball and place in the middle of bread, brush the strands and ball with the orange/milk mixture. Sprinkle entire bread with sugar.
- 6) Bake for 10-15 minutes until golden brown, slice and serve warm.



Craft: Tin Skulls

Tin has been used for traditional Mexican handicrafts and art forms for many centuries. You can design your own tin skull!



You will need:

a piece of tin foil (thicker the better)

scissors

a thin plastic paint brush

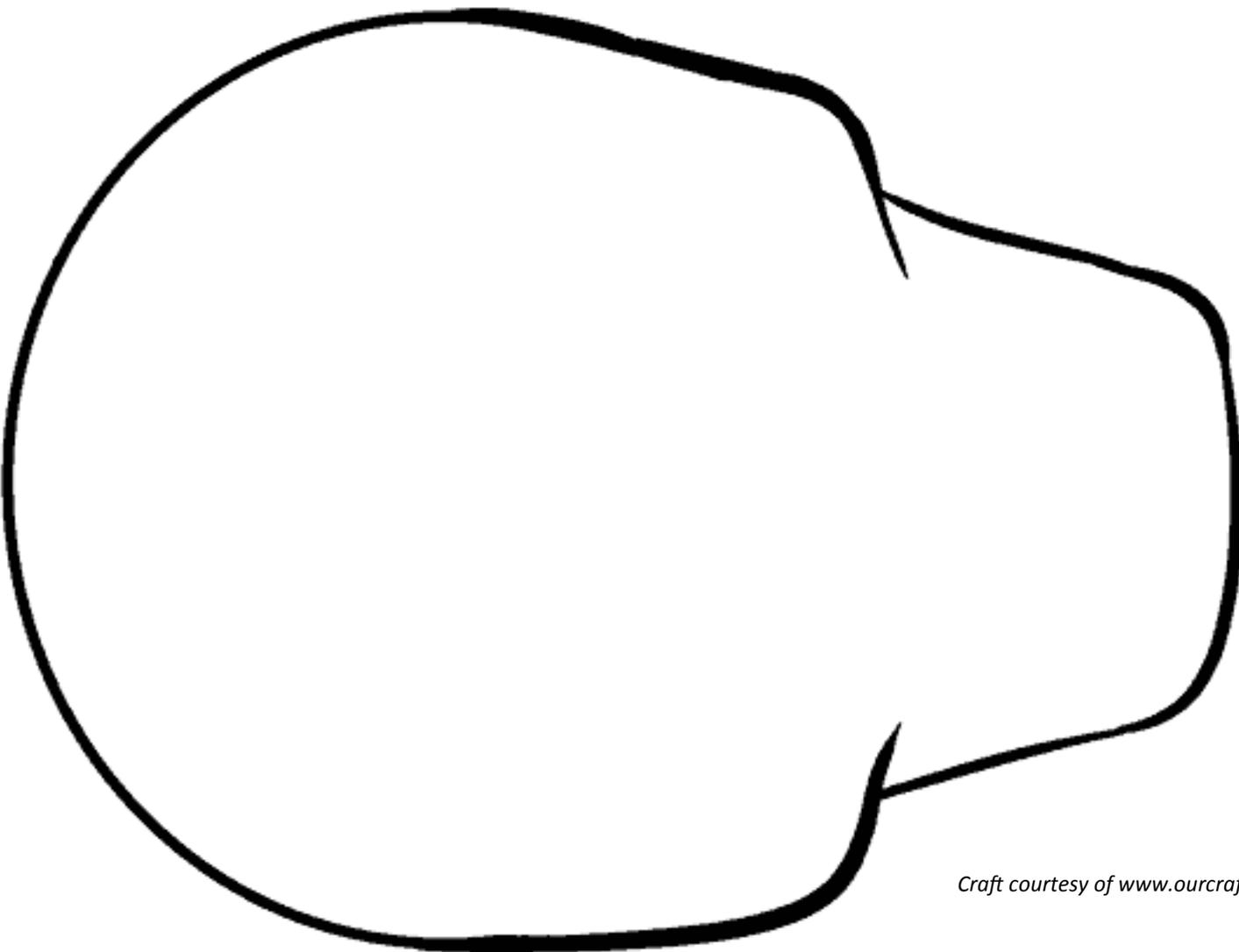
a dull pencil (optional)

craft stick (optional)

flat surface

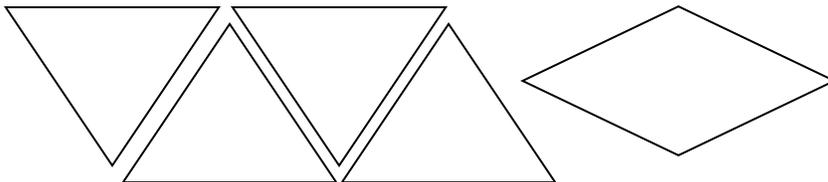
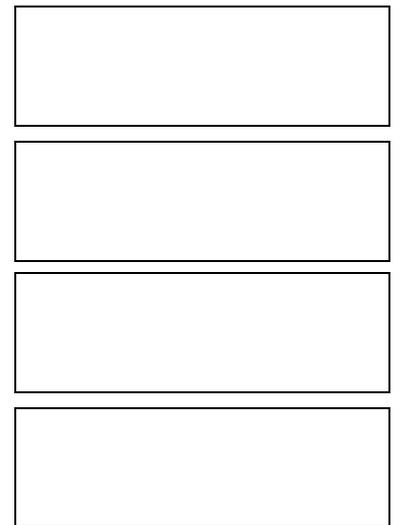
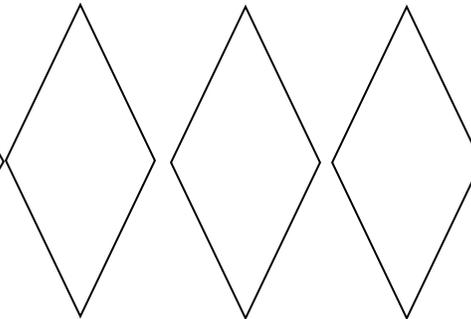
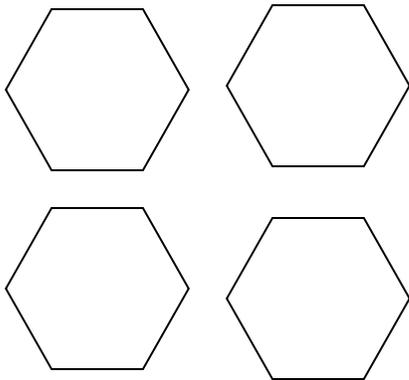
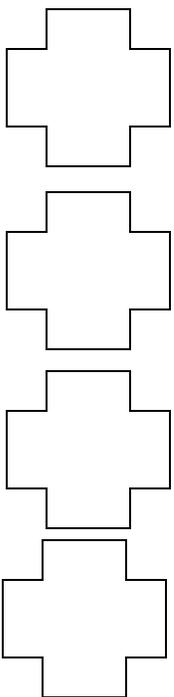
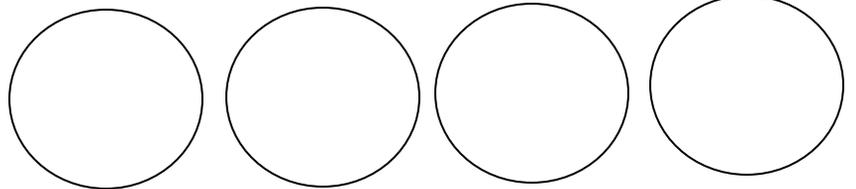
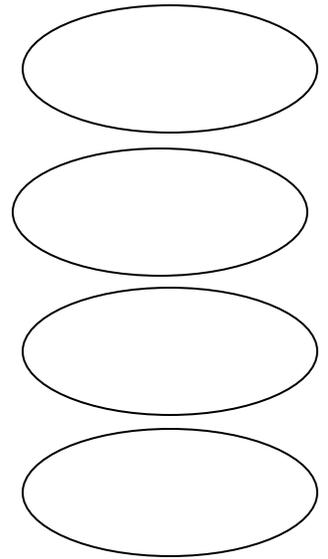
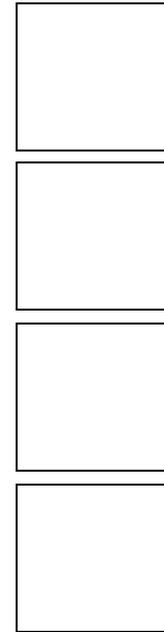
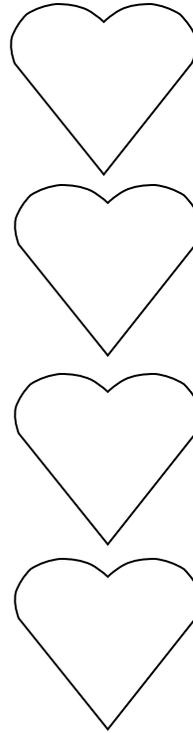
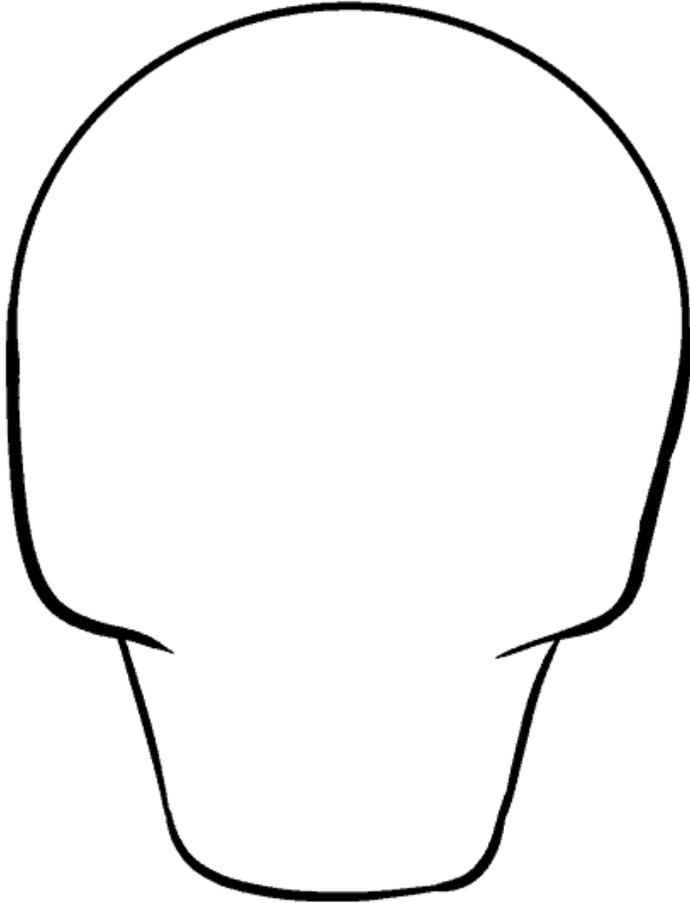
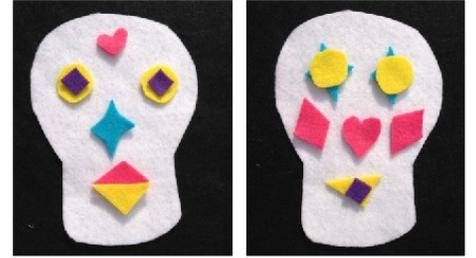
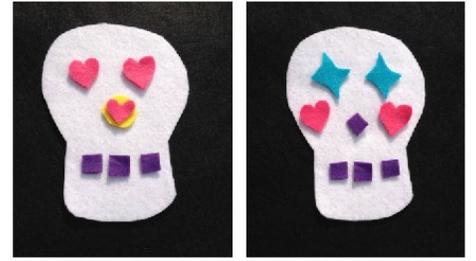
piece of cardboard

1. Cut out the skull template below and place it on top of the cardboard.
2. Using the pointed side of your paintbrush, trace the skull on to the tin foil. If you don't have a paintbrush you could also use a crayon, craft stick, or a dull pencil. You want to use a tool that won't cut through the foil when drawing on it.
3. Design your skull however you would like! There are a few examples of skulls above to get your imagination flowing.



Skull Shapes

Cut out the outline of the skull below. Then color and cut out the shapes. Arrange the shapes on the skull to make its face! How many different skull faces can you make?



Day of the Dead Word Search

CANDLES SOULS SWEETBREAD SKULLS SUGAR
FLOWERS DECORATIONS POSADA CELEBRATION
ANCESTOR OFRENDA MEXICO CALAVERAS



K G Y J D G S U G A R S H K E K D D K X
J P F O O M D P X Z L G Z A D N E R F O
Z G T J M R T Q Y L Y J Q J M T T J S D
J P R X B V M Z U Y F U X M N H Z F R A
P D L O M C X Z V R I Z A Y Q Y A L E L
A G J G B G D A E R B T E E W S S C W P
N R U N N H Y Z V L P O S A D A B A O S
K X K O T W K S S N J S Y U S T F L L D
Z H J I S W X K Q N L R P K K N A A F M
G L J T Q E F B W S O K P R U E I V X I
I E S A B A P L R A D I G L L Q H E X W
S G N R W L O T E Y J W T D L S T R L A
X D C B Y T O P T R W F H A S D C A E V
I R S E U F A N C E S T O R R M Z S E V
V I N L O U O M Y Q E K R F Z O L W V Q
E Z S E I V A A N V L G A U K W C P T J
E N Y C Q L P A C U D A O Q W E U E V W
D Q X D E S J E N U N A D O K H B I D Y
N Y Y Q S Z E I V I A D Q S O U L S F H
H C K L V U M E X I C O Q J P R M D C U

Day of the Dead Finger Puppets



Color and cut out the finger puppet templates below. Then have a grown-up help you put them together with tape or a stapler.

Can you make up a story using them? Here are some ideas to get you started on making up a story:

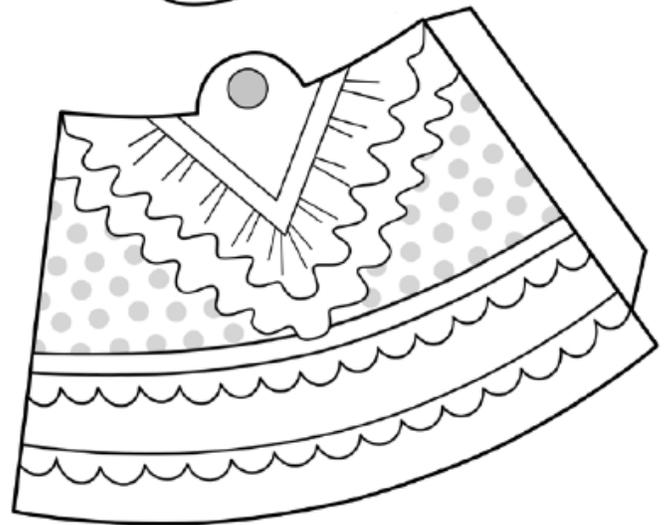
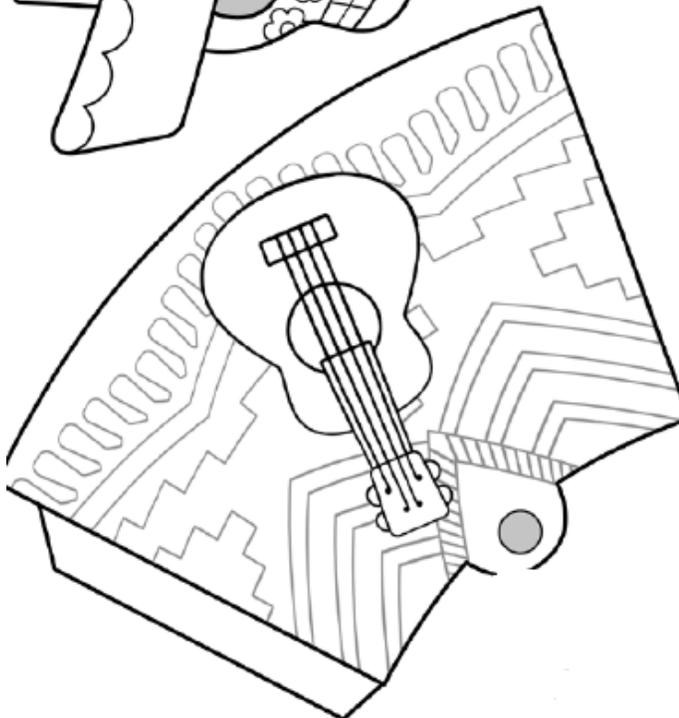
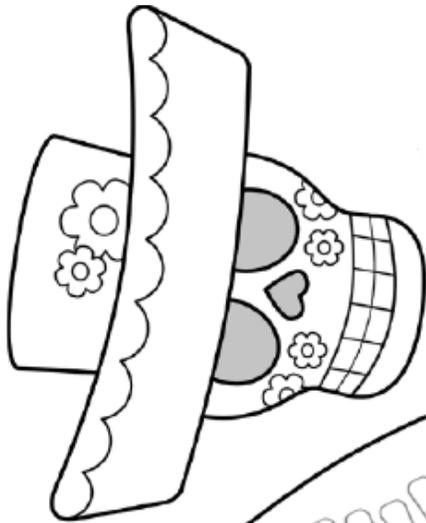
How are they celebrating the Day of the Dead?

Is the skeleton playing the guitar? Is it a happy song or a sad song?

Where did they get their hats?

Who are they honoring at the ofrenda (altar)?

Is it night time or daytime?



Literary Calaveras

For teens and adults

The word “Calaveras” means “skull” in Spanish. Literary Calaveras are poems that poke fun at famous people and include a funny story about how they die. They are similar to the American version of the epitaph- a funny poem on a person’s gravestone explaining how they died. When Calaveras first came to be, they were usually written about members of the government. Sometimes a picture or drawing is included with the Calaveras. There is a sheet attached where you can write your own Calaveras, and a space to include a drawing if you’d like. Below are a few examples and some vocabulary suggestions to help you write your skull poem. But before you can start, you need to choose a person (who isn’t actually dead), a friend, your pet or anything!

Words to Use

flowers	soul	laugh	skies	candle
death	music	dark	teeth	sore
skull	heaven	cloud	stars	hands
light	dance	sing	happy	wearry
spirit	smile	grave	skeleton	scared

Samples

TV Chef

Here lies the famous TV chef
who came up with the dish
called “Death by guacamole.”
He finally got his wish!

Mezcal Worm

No more will he burrow
No more will he squirm.
He’s not underground,
Which is bad for a worm.
But don’t be too sad,
Let no frown cloud your face.
Believe me, he’s gone to a happier place.

La Muerte

La Muerte was feeling some pressure,
Worry lines crisscrossed her bones,
An e-mail that came down from corporate,
Was laden with menacing tones.
“Your numbers were down in September,
October’s not looking much better.
Now the Day of the Dead is approaching,
And people should be a lot deader!”
La Muerte slunk off to the bathroom,
Had a panic attack in the stall.
That’s where she worried herself to death,
And so, reached her goal after all.

