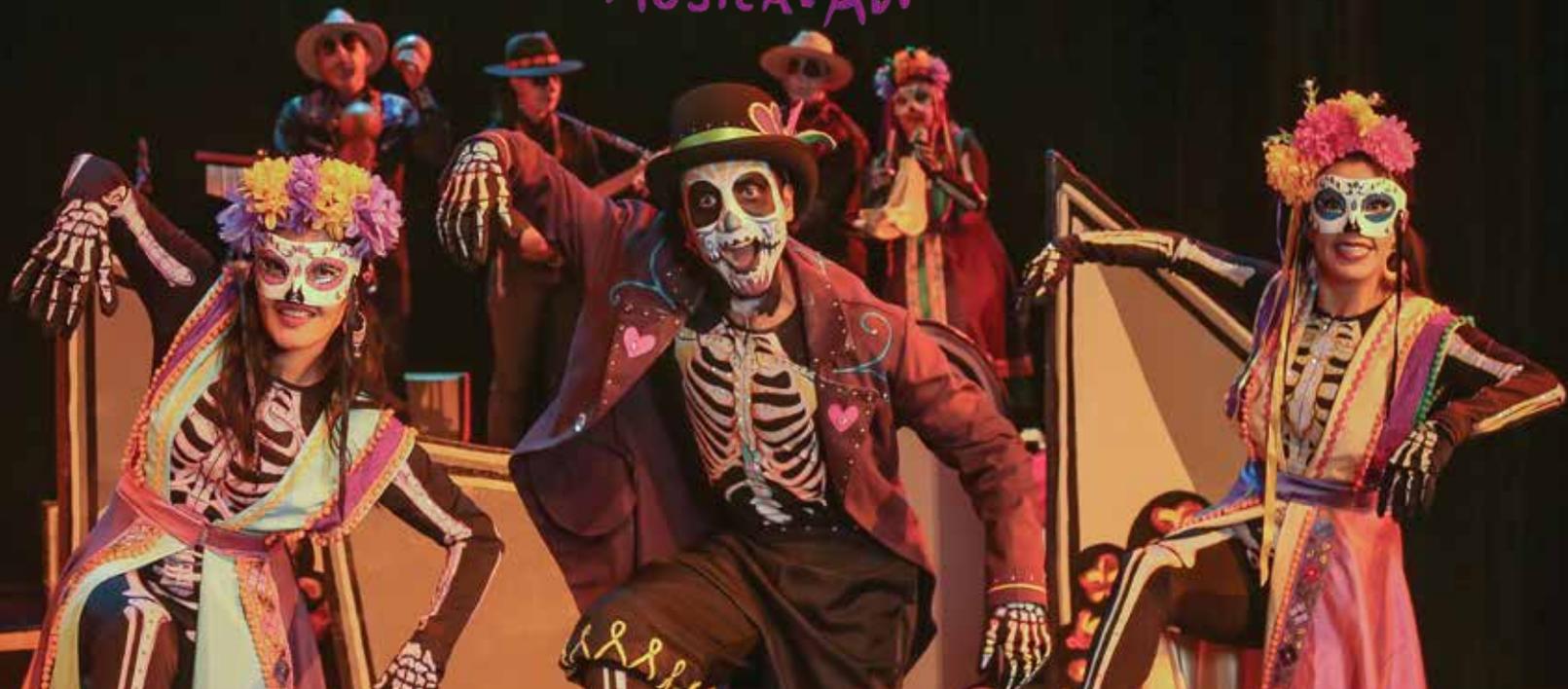


Discovery Series

2022 - 2023 Resource Guide

SUGAR SKULL!

A DÍA DE MUERTOS
MUSICAL ADVENTURE!



DAYTON LIVE

Your Home for Arts,
Culture & Entertainment

Tuesday, November 1, 2022

9:30 & 11:30 a.m.

Victoria Theatre

Discovery Series

Welcome to Dayton Live's 2022-2023 Discovery Series. We are very excited to be your education partner in providing professional arts experiences to you and your students!

SUGAR SKULL! A Dia de Muertos Musical Adventure is a touring bilingual/bicultural musical for young audiences and families that uses traditional regional music and dance from Mexico to tell the story of twelve-year-old Vita Flores. Developed by Rhythm of the Arts, Gregory Van Acker, Sinuhé Padilla, and Elena Aráoz, with Mexico Beyond Mariachi, **SUGAR SKULL!** is a joyous, heartfelt adventure that delves into the rich, tuneful traditions of Día de Muertos. Featuring a company of gifted musicians and dancers, this colorful stage production is the perfect fall entertainment for youth and family audiences alike.

The information and activities in this resource guide have been carefully crafted to help you and your students explore the many ways a live theatre experience can open up learning opportunities. Grade level icons will help you determine which activities are good for students, too. And don't forget to take advantage of the local resources listed inside to extend the play-going experience and make even more curricular connections for you and your students. Thank you again and welcome!



The Education & Engagement Team

Curriculum Connections



You will find these icons listed in the resource guide next to the activities that indicate curricular connections. Teachers and parents are encouraged to adapt all of the activities included in an appropriate way for your students' age and abilities. **SUGAR SKULL! A Dia de Muertos Musical Adventure** fulfills the following Ohio and National Education Standards and Benchmarks for fifth through twelfth grade.



Ohio's New Learning Standards Related to Sugar Skull!

English Language Arts: RL.K.3, RL.K.9, RL.1.3, RL.1.9, RL.2.1, RL.2.3, RL.2.9, RL.3.1, RL.3.3, RL.3.5, RL.4.3, RL.4.6, RL.4.7, RL.5.3, RL.5.6, RL.6.3, RL.6.5, RL.6.7, RL.7.3, RL.7.5, RL.7.9, RL.8.3, RL.8.6, RL.8.7

Social Studies: Historical Thinking and Skills; Heritage; Places and Regions; People Working

Communities: Past and Present, Near and Far

Arts: TH:Re7.1.K, TH:Re8.1.K, TH:Re7.1, TH:Re7.1.2, TH:Re8.1.2, TH:Re8.1.3, TH:Cn10.1.3, TH:Cn11.1.3, TH:Re8.1.4, TH:Cn10.1.4, TH:Cn11.1.4, TH:Re7.1.5, TH:Re8.1.5, TH:Cn10.1.5, TH:Cn11.1.5

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About the Play

LANGUAGE
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Twelve-year-old Vita Flores thinks her family has gone loco planning a celebration for deceased loved ones. Why throw a party for the dead? But when a spirited candy skeleton suddenly springs to life, Vita finds herself on a magical, musical journey to unravel the true meaning of Día de los Muertos. Meet Sugar Skull, a charismatic skeleton with a secret or two. With her skeletal new friend, Vita dances with ancient ancestors, sings with a sorrowful sorceress, escapes the trickster Chaneques, and even meets the famous Catrina Calavera. But can this clever youth gather the missing pieces needed for her family ofrenda before it's too late? **SUGAR SKULL!** is a joyous, heartfelt adventure that delves into the rich, tuneful traditions of Día de los Muertos.



Spotlight On

SOCIAL
STUDIES



Mexico Beyond Mariachi is a multi-cultural ensemble of professional musicians, actors, dancers and teaching artists whose love of Mexican traditions and way of life shines bright in every performance. Their philosophy is rooted in the belief that art and culture are an integral part of the development of every individual's outlook on life. Personal engagement, community experiences and

the celebration of commonality are themes Mexico Beyond Mariachi bring to their shows as well as to their extensive arts-in-education offerings (residencies, workshops, and lecture demonstrations).

Mexico Beyond Mariachi was founded in 2005 in New York City and was quickly established as one of the leading providers of Mexican performance and education programs for young people and families in the New York Tri-State area. Every year, Mexico Beyond Mariachi performs in dozens of schools, theatres, and museums, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Museo del Barrio, Queens Theater, New Jersey State Museum, Newark Museum and more.

Ohio Spotlight

LANGUAGE
ARTS

SOCIAL
STUDIES

Dia da los Muertos Dayton – Day of the Dead Parade and Celebration

is a community-building event, celebrating the lives of loved ones who have died. Dia de Muertos is a unique and colorful holiday observed across Mexico, the southwestern United States, Latin America and right here in Dayton, Ohio. During Dia De Muertos people reminisce on the lives of loved ones who have died by creating and sharing ofrendas (Day of the Dead altars), food, sugar skulls, papel picado banners, processions, calaveras (skulls) music, traditional dance while wearing sugar skull painted faces and bright costumes. This year's celebration is on Saturday, October 22. At noon (12:00pm) across from the Dublin Pub, guests will gather for face painting, food trucks, and live music by local artists. The parade will kick off at 2:00pm and travel through the Oregon District to the Main Library at 215 E. Third Street. At the library, there will be altars for loved ones, as well as activities for kids, and a concert by Raye Zaragoza.



Pre-Show Conversation Starters

LANGUAGE
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Have your students reflect on these questions before the show:

- 1 What do you know about Dia de Muertos?
- 2 Do you have any family traditions to connect with lost loved ones?
- 3 What family traditions are meaningful to you?
- 4 What does tradition mean to you?



Important Vocabulary

LANGUAGE
ARTS

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STUDIES



Here is some important vocabulary to study before seeing **Sugar Skull!**

Altar ► For Day of the Dead, many people place altars (also called ofrendas, "offerings") in their homes to honor their loved ones who have died. There may also be altars set up in schools, businesses, and public spaces. The form of the altar may vary, but it often has several tiers and is filled with candles, flowers, fruit and other food items. The spirits are believed to consume the essence of the foods left out for them.



Angelitos ► *Angelitos* are "little angels." This word is used to talk about children who have died and who are believed to return on the night of the 31st and stay through the day of November 1st, visiting with their families. The spirits of adults who died visit on the following day. The altars are often prepared in a special way to receive the Angelitos.

Calavera ► A *calavera* is a skull, a *calaverita* is a little skull, and a *calavera de azucar* is a sugar skull. These are placed on the altar and often have the name of the deceased person inscribed on the forehead -- or as a playful gesture, the name of a person who is still alive.



Comparsa ► A *comparsa* is a carnival-like celebration in which people dress up in costumes and dance.

Ofrenda ► *Ofrenda* means "offering" in Spanish, and when talking about Day of the Dead celebrations, it is used to refer to the things that are placed on the altar for the spirits. Sometimes the altar itself is referred to as an ofrenda.

Papel Picado ► *Papel picado* is decoratively cut paper that is used in Mexico for decorations for all holidays and fiestas. For Day of the Dead, papel picado is placed around the edges of the altar and adds color to the altar. Some say that the four elements are present in the altar and the movement of the papel picado represents air.

Día de los Muertos

LANGUAGE
ARTS

SOCIAL
STUDIES

All
Grades



The Day of the Dead (*el Día de los Muertos*), is a Mexican holiday where families welcome back the souls of their deceased relatives for a brief reunion that includes food, drink and celebration. A blend of Mesoamerican ritual, European religion and Spanish culture, the holiday is celebrated each year from October 31-November 2. While October 31 is Halloween, November 2 is All Souls Day or the Day of the Dead. According to tradition, the gates of heaven are opened at midnight on October 31 and the spirits of children can rejoin their families for 24 hours. The spirits of adults can do the same on November 2.

The roots of the Day of the Dead, celebrated in contemporary Mexico and among those of Mexican heritage in the United States and around the world, go back some 3,000 years, to the rituals honoring the dead in Pre-Columbian Mesoamerica. The Aztecs and other Nahua people living in what is now central Mexico held a cyclical view of the universe and saw death as an integral, ever-present part of life.

Upon dying, a person was believed to travel to Chicunamictlán, the Land of the Dead. Only after getting through nine challenging levels, a journey of several years, could the person's soul finally



reach Mictlán, the final resting place. In Nahua rituals honoring the dead, traditionally held in August, family members provided food, water and tools to aid the deceased in this difficult journey. This inspired the contemporary Day of the Dead practice in which people leave food or other offerings on their loved ones' graves or set them out on makeshift altars called *ofrendas* in their homes.

How is the Day of the Dead Celebrated



El Día de los Muertos is not, as is commonly thought, a Mexican version of Halloween, though the two holidays do share some traditions, including costumes and parades. On the Day of the Dead, it's believed that the border between the spirit world and the real-world dissolve. During this brief period, the souls of the dead awaken and return to the living world to feast, drink, dance

and play music with their loved ones. In turn, the living family members treat the deceased as honored guests in their celebrations and leave the deceased's favorite foods and other offerings at gravesites or on the *ofrendas* built in their homes. *Ofrendas* can be decorated with candles, bright marigolds called *cempasuchil*, alongside food like stacks of tortillas and fruit.

During contemporary Day of the Dead festivities, people commonly wear skull masks and eat sugar candy molded into the shape of skulls. The *pan de ánimas* of All Souls Day

rituals in Spain is reflected in *pan de muerto*, the traditional sweet baked good of Day of the Dead celebrations today. Other food and drink associated with the holiday, but consumed year-round as well, include spicy dark chocolate and the corn-based drink called *atole*. You can wish someone a happy Day of the Dead by saying, "*Feliz día de los Muertos.*"

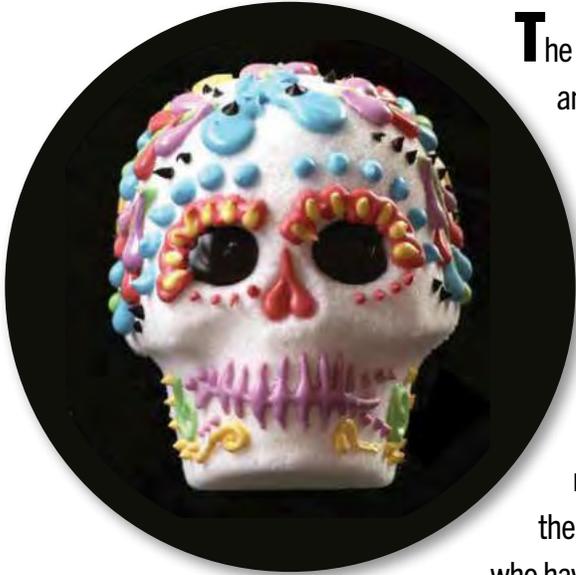
The Sweet History of Sugar Skulls



LANGUAGE
ARTS

SOCIAL
STUDIES

All
Grades



The most prominent symbols related to the Day of the Dead are *calacas* (skeletons) and *calaveras* (skulls). The sugar skull tradition can be traced back over 3,000 years ago. It is a tradition for families to head to the grave site at the stroke of midnight on October 31. There, they would decorate their loved ones' *ofrendas* with both large and small handmade sugar skulls. Most of the sugar skulls are made from a granulated white sugar mixture and pressed into a skull shaped mold. After the skulls take shape, they are then decorated with colorful icing, foil, ribbon, feathers, gems, and more. It's important to take note that on November 1 (All Saints Day), smaller sugar skulls are placed on the ofrendas or graves to remember the children that have passed on. Then, on November 2 (All Soul's Day), the smaller skulls are replaced with bigger more decorative skulls for the adults who have passed on.

These skulls are decorated beautifully, as they have the name of the deceased scrawled across the skull's forehead. Hand painted flower-like swirls and other fanciful designs are inked around the skull's eyes, cheek bones, and head. The Spanish term for skulls, *calaveras*, are not the only decorations present on the ofrendas during the festivities. Even the colors have symbolic meaning: yellow represents death, purple represents grief, and white represents purity and hope. Along with the sugar skulls and paper flowers, it is common for photographs of the dearly departed to be placed at the altar along with real flowers, candles, religious symbols and personal items belonging to the deceased. Families will prepare the dearly departed's favorite meals, foods and drinks as well as set the table with a seat open for their past loved ones. After the meal and celebration, families include hygiene necessities (wash bowl, razor, towels, and so on) so that the spirits can clean up and return to their afterlife (until next year).





What is a holiday or tradition that you celebrate with your family and friends?

Why does your family choose to honor this tradition?

Do you make any special foods?

Do you decorate your home and/or dress in a special way?

If so, draw it out! Draw a picture of you and your loved ones celebrating or something that represents your traditions.

Dia de los Muertos Ofrenda Cards



During the Day of the Dead we honor the dead and the living. To create your **ofrenda** (offering) there are several steps' you need to do follow.



Step 1 Who would you like to remember:

This can be someone alive or dead but a person that is important to you.

Persons Name: _____ Relation: _____

Why you want to honor them: _____

Step 2 Create a picture or an image that will help you honor that person.

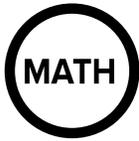
Materials needed: Paper, pens, pencils, markers, stickers, glitter, etc. Anything can be used to create this card.

How does your image honor your chosen person? _____

Step 3 Now that you have made something to honor your individual, how will you honor that person today?

What will you do today to make them proud?

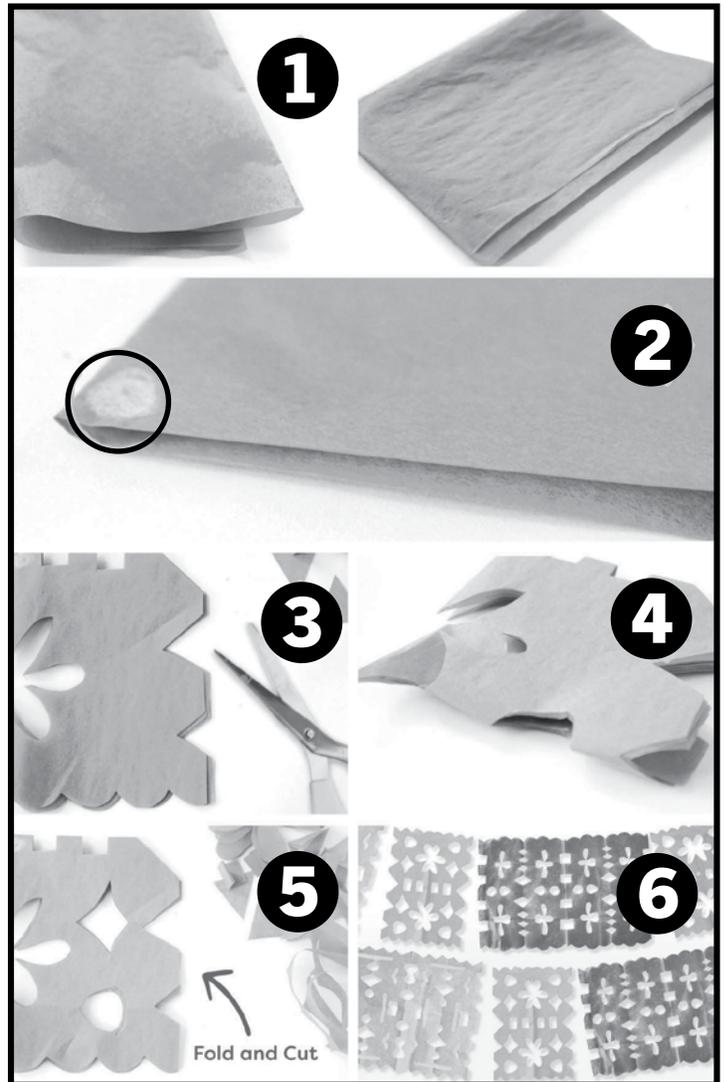
Make Your Own Papel Picado



Papel picado is a traditional Mexican craft that features colorful paper sheets with intricate cut-out details. It was made by stacking many sheets of paper and using chisels to cut the designs. You can easily make your own papel picado by layering sheets of tissues paper and using scissors.

What You'll Need:

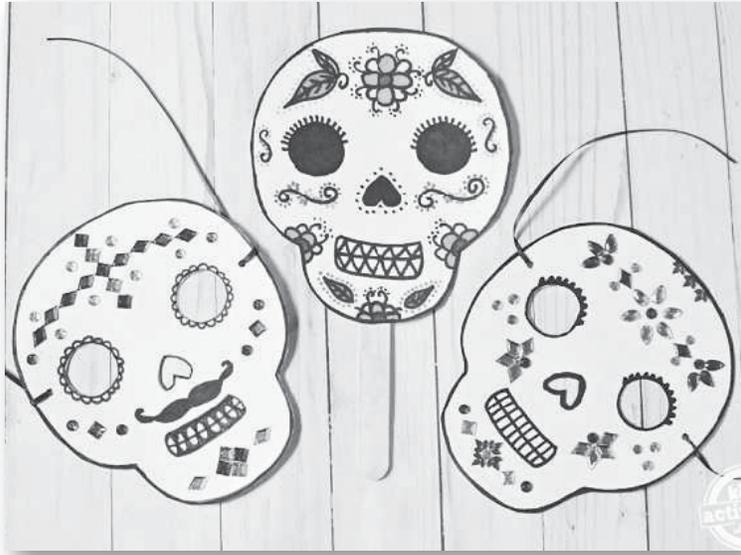
- ▶ Colored tissue paper (12" x 9" approximately)
- ▶ Scissors
- ▶ Marker
- ▶ Yarn and tape to display papel picados



INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1** Fold a piece of tissue paper (lengthwise) in half and then in half again. Make sure one side consists only of folds.
- 2** Fold the **long folded** sheet in half. Mark a dot in the corner that is made up of folds. This helps the children recognize where not to cut.
- 3** Just like cutting a snowflake, cut shapes along all four sides avoiding the area with the dot.
- 4** To cut a shape from the middle of the rectangle, fold the paper in half again, and cut a shape into the fold.
- 5** Unfold carefully and tape tissue paper to a long string of yarn.
- 6** To make multiple panels from one cut, layer 2-3 sheets of tissue paper together add tape (carefully) while cutting.





Make a mask for The Day of the Dead or Halloween that looks good enough to eat!

Supplies:

- ▶ 8 1/2" x 11" sheet of white card stock
- ▶ Black permanent marker
- ▶ Glitter glue pens
- ▶ Hole-punch
- ▶ Pencil
- ▶ String or ribbon
- ▶ Scissors
- ▶ Rhinestones

Directions:

1. Use a pencil to sketch an outline of a skull.
2. Use scissors to cut out the printed or drawn skull and then trace around it with pencil onto the sheet of white card stock.
3. Next, draw over the pencil lines with permanent marker and then use scissors to cut the mask out. (A parent may need to help cut out the eyes and nose.)
4. Then, use the glitter glue pens to create patterns and designs on the mask.
5. Adhere rhinestones into thick dots of the glitter glue if desired.
6. Allow the mask to dry completely; this may take overnight.
7. Use a hole-punch to make one hole on each side of the mask and then tie a 14" length of string or ribbon to each hole.
8. Now, tie the mask on and begin the celebration!

More Fun Ideas for Your Masks

- Instead of glitter glue, use paint, markers, stickers, rubber stamps or cut paper to decorate the mask.
- Decorate the mask with dots by pressing the tips of cotton swabs into wet craft paint and then stamping them onto the skull.
- If rhinestones aren't available, use buttons, beads and/or sequins instead.
- Glue string or pom-poms onto the mask for additional accents.
- Add funny hair or a hat to the mask.
- Use black card stock instead of white; fluorescent or glow-in-the dark paints would show up great on it.
- In place of white cardstock, use colored card stock, a sheet of craft foam or even just a piece of thin cardboard.

Mask Template

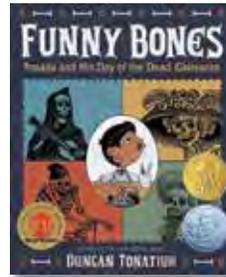




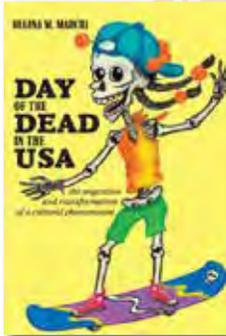
Resources for Students and Adults



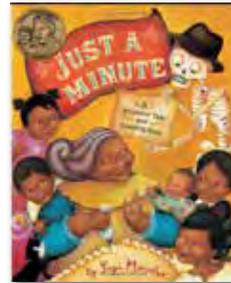
El Festival de las Calaveras/The Festival of Bones
by Luis San Vicente



Funny Bones: Posada and His Day of the Dead Calavera
by Dungan Tonatiuh



The Day of the Dead in the USA
by Regina M. Marchi



Just a Minute: a Trickster Tale and Counting Book
by Yuyi Morales

Websites for Teachers and Students

National Geographic Kids
<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/celebrations/article/day-of-the-dead>

Day of the Dead (Dia de los Muertos)
<https://dayofthedead.holiday/>

History.com <https://www.history.com/topics/halloween/day-of-the-dead>

Make Your Own Sugar Skull

Ingredients

Skull Mold
2 Cups Granulated Sugar
4 Teaspoons Water
Royal Icing
Decorating Supplies
(icing, sharpies, ribbon,
glitter glue pens, feathers,
beads, etc)

Directions

- 1** Wet sugar. Heat oven to 200°F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Combine 2 cups of granulated sugar with a couple teaspoons of water in a large bowl.
- 2** Pack the mold. Rub the water into the sugar really good with your hands then pack it super tight into the molds.
- 3** Bake. Flip the molds over onto a baking sheet and place in the oven to dry and harden for 10 minutes. If the skull breaks when you flip it. Invert it onto a small piece of cardboard first, then set that on the baking sheet. Don't worry, the cardboard won't burn the in oven.
- 4** Decorate. Use icing or whatever you are using to decorate the molds in any fun pattern you choose.



The Victoria Theatre is a historic 1154-seat performing arts venue located in downtown Dayton, where there has been a theatre on the corner of First and Main Streets since 1866. Owned and operated by Dayton Live, the Victoria Theatre is on the National Register of Historic Places and has hosted such historic figures as Mark Twain, Sarah Bernhardt, Harry Houdini, and Frederick Douglass. It's been burned down twice and flooded out once (the historic Dayton flood of 1913), but Daytonians have rebuilt the theatre time and again. Currently, it hosts performances and events from Dayton Live, Dayton Ballet, and Muse Machine, as well as graduations and other special events. For information on upcoming performances, please visit [DaytonLive.org](https://www.daytonlive.org).

The Education and Engagement programs of Dayton Live are made possible through the support and commitment of the following sponsors and donors whose generosity have opened the door of live theatre to the students of the Miami Valley:

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Sugar Skull! is also a virtual adventure! Specifically created for the virtual platform, with a new script, and additional creative partners to facilitate the leap into this new territory, **SUGAR SKULL! A Virtual Día de Muertos Adventure** is a captivating theatrical experience for the time that celebrates the Day of the Dead, a traditional holiday that transcends borders. Visit <https://www.sugarskullshow.com/> for more information.

DON'T FORGET

All Schools that receive scholarships for a show and/or transportation are asked and encouraged to create thank-you letters or cards for our sponsors. Please address your students' thank-you notes to:

DISCOVERY Sponsors
c/o Dayton Live
138 North Main Street
Dayton, OH 45402

Ohio Arts COUNCIL

MONTGOMERY COUNTY