



Feliz Día de los Muertos!

*Thank you for participating in the Hudson Museum's
Virtual Day of the Dead
celebration!*

Enclosed in this informational packet are instructions for traditional Day of the Dead crafts that would typically be available at our annual celebration.:

Clay Skulls

Ojo de Dios (God's Eyes)

Paper Flowers

Paper Coffins

All of these items could be used to create your own classroom ofrenda!

*The altar presentation by Eunice Loreda can be found on our YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/HudsonMuseum>*

*Many Day of the Dead resources are available on our Education page:
<https://umaine.edu/hudsonmuseum/day-of-the-dead-resources/>*

*We also have a Mesoamerican tour on our YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZScIqR6cK-o&t=1s>*

Clay Skulls¹

Materials Needed:

- 1 ball of modeling clay

Instructions:

Step 1

Shape your ball of clay into something resembling an egg, then slightly pinch one end to create the jaw portion of the skull, leaving the upper portion rounder for the top of the head.



Step 2

Pinch and slightly pull out on the areas just above the narrowed jaw to create cheekbones.



Step 3

Create two eye sockets using your pinky or a pencil eraser. Use a fingernail or tip of a pencil to create two oval nostril holes. These can be parallel or shaped like an upside-down heart.



Step 4

Using something pointed to etch teeth into the jaw portion of the skull.



¹ Instructions and images from: <https://www.instructables.com/How-to-Make-a-Sugar-Skull/>

Ojo de Dios (God's Eyes)^{2,3}

Materials Needed:

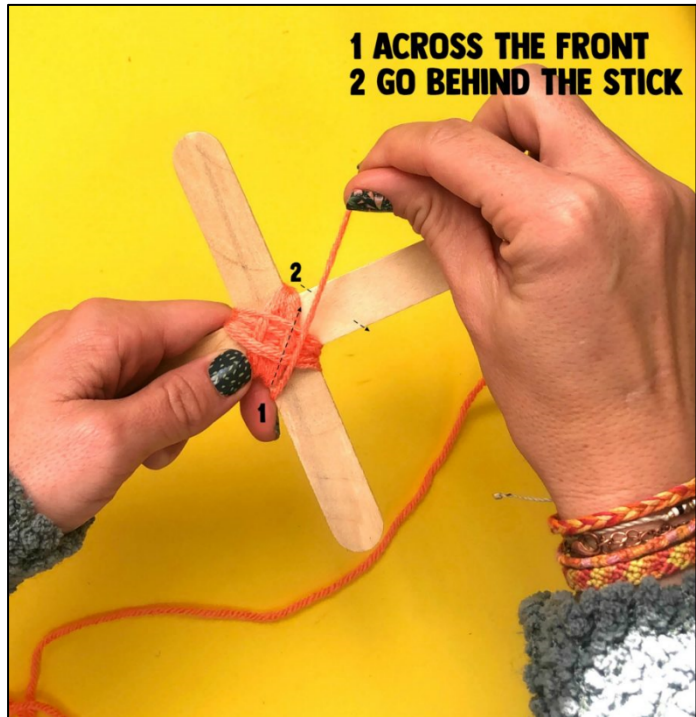
- 1 stick cross
- 4-6 pieces of yarn (25-30 inches in length)

Instructions:

Beginning in the center, wrap a piece of yarn around all the way around one stick before taking it over to the next stick.

Repeat this process for each stick, rotating your crossed sticks in a circle as you work. Whether you wrap the yarn over the sticks or under doesn't matter, as long as you are consistent.

When you want to switch to a new color, simply cut your yarn, and tie it to a new piece of yarn. Trim the ends and continue weaving. Be sure to keep your knot and the tails of yarn to the back of the project as you begin weaving with your new color.



Back view

Many helpful videos can be found on the internet to demonstrate this craft. This one by Kristen Polson does a good job of showing how to begin, change colors, and even complete the craft with no knots!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7PGPsnRj3C8>

² Instructions adapted from: <https://happyhooligans.ca/gods-eye-craft-weaving-for-kids/>

³ Images from: <https://www.agirlandaglugun.com/2020/04/how-to-make-a-gods-eye-yarn-craft.html>

Paper Flowers^{4,5}

Materials Needed:

- 1 pipe cleaner
- 4-6 squares of tissue paper

Instructions:

Start with 4-6 tissue paper squares in a stack.

Accordion fold the stack of paper to about a 1-inch width, first one direction, then the other, until you have a single, 1-inch wide paper strip.



Attach pipe cleaner at center of paper strip, either by folding the pipe cleaner in half and sliding over the paper strip, or by wrapping one end of the pipe cleaner around the center of the paper strip.

(Optional) Fold paper strip in half so both ends are together. Use a pair of scissors to shape the edge of the paper strip to make a scalloped border for your flower petals.

Open paper accordion (now secured in middle by pipe cleaner) and tease apart layers of paper to make the flower full. Adjust shape as desired.



⁴ Instructions were adapted from: "How to Make Mexican Paper Flowers"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yUp4-M496SQ>

⁵ Images from: <https://www.thecraftpatchblog.com/tissue-paper-flowers/>

Paper Coffins

Materials Needed

- Coffin Template (attached at end of document)
- Scissors
- Glue Sticks

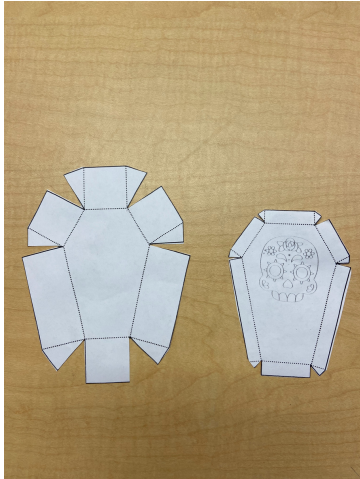
Instructions:

See next page

Paper Coffin

Instructions:

Step 1: Cut out the coffin and lid along the solid lines.



Step 2: Fold the coffin along the dashed lines to form its shape. Attach the triangular flaps to the sides using a glue stick and let dry.



Step 3: Fold the coffin lid along the dashed lines and attach the triangular flaps to the sides using a glue stick.



Step 4: Once glue has dried, fit the lid to the coffin.



