

CALAVERAS

STANDARDS AND BENCHMARKS:

National Standards for Arts Education, Visual Arts Content Standards 1-5
NM Standards: Art, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

MATERIALS

Computer with internet access

Projector

Patterns for large or small calaveras: some patterns are available at http://www.azcentral.com/ent/dead/teachers/teacherpacket_edited.pdf

Crayons

Markers

Construction paper

Yarn

Fabric

Glue

Paper fasteners or brads

GOAL

Students will discuss the symbolism of the *calavera* in *Día de los Muertos* and create their own *calavera*.

STUDENT LEARNING

Students will understand how the images of *calaveras* demonstrate the understanding of death represented in *Día de los Muertos*.

PROCEDURE

1. Introduce the lesson by asking students what they think of when they see skulls or skeletons.
2. Introduce students to the images of *calaveras* used in *Día de los Muertos* through the work of José Guadalupe Posada. Explain that Guadalupe Posada was a famous artist, illustrator and cartoonist famous for his representations of *calaveras* among other things. Below is a link to an online collection of José Guadalupe Posada's work. While there are hundreds of images in the collection, the following show his depictions of *calaveras* and or death: #79, 179, 180, 181, 211, 213, 242, 243, 311 and 312. Discuss how Guadalupe Posada chooses to represent death and dying. For older students, discuss Guadalupe Posada's use of satire and how his art conveys his idea that death was the great equalizer among the rich and the poor.

<http://econtent.unm.edu/cdm4/results.php?CISOOP1=all&CISOBOX1=Jos%C3%A9+Guadalupe+Posada+&CISOFIELD1=CISOSEARCHALL&CISOOP2=all&CISOBOX2=José+guadalupe+posada&CISOFIELD2=create&CISOROOT=all&t=s>

VOCABULARY

Calavera

Muerte

Death

José Guadalupe Posada

3. Hand out the *calavera* patterns to each student. Each student will then cut out and glue or attach the parts of their *calavera* together. Have materials like construction paper, crayons, colored pencils, markers, fabric, sequins etc. available for students to decorate their *calavera*. Reminds students of the various *calavera* images they've seen to help them get started.
4. Display the completed *calaveras* around the classroom.

SUGGESTED FORMS OF ASSESSMENT

Have students write a paragraph explaining the role of the *calavera* in Día de los Muertos and what it symbolizes about death.