

Grade 5 – Sugar Skulls



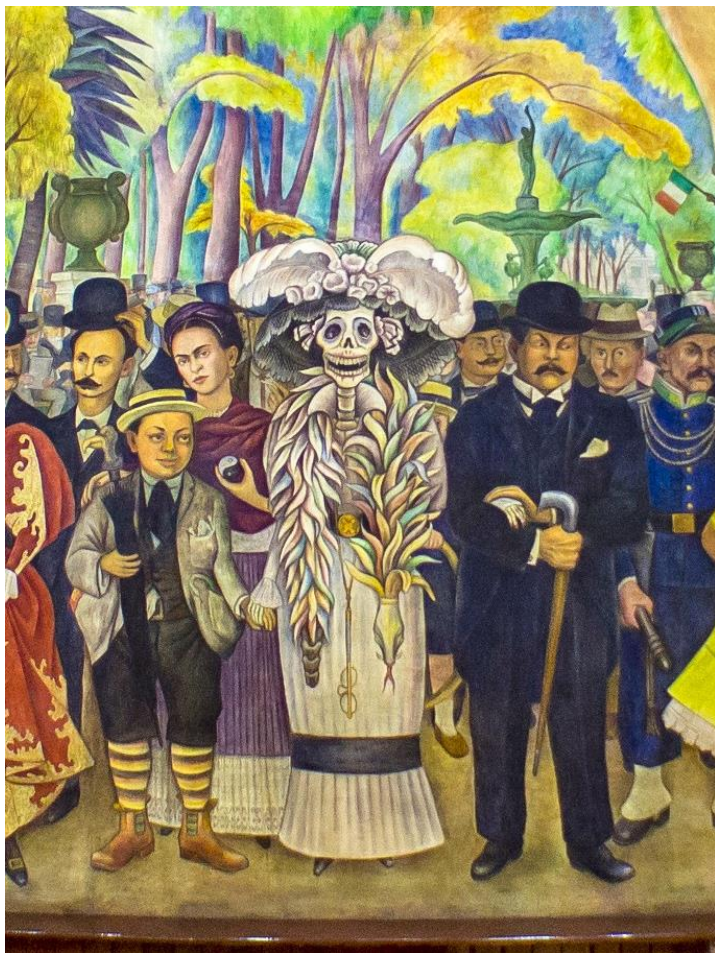
Color

What do you see?



Detail of Sueño de una tarde dominical en la Alameda Central, 1947, Diego Rivera

Artistic Focus: Color



Detail featuring La Catrina in
Sueño de una tarde dominical en la
Alameda Central, 1947, Diego Rivera

COLOR is the visible range of reflected light. Color has three properties: hue, value, and intensity (brightness or dullness).

Today's objective:

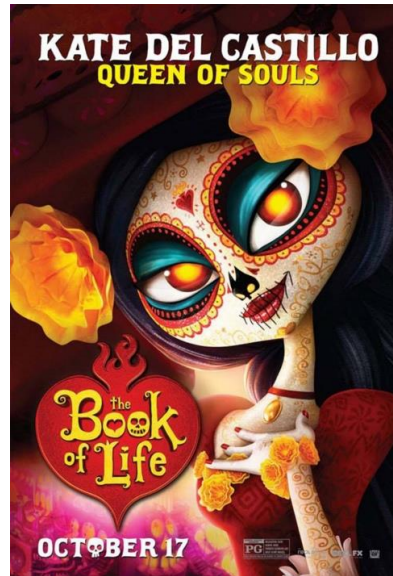
1. To explore the use of primary, secondary, and tertiary colors to create a vibrant piece of folk art.
2. To convey emotion in a painting by use of color.

WA State Visual Arts Standard

Identify and analyze cultural associations suggested by visual imagery. (VA: Re7.2.5)

Mexican Folklore: Día de Muertos

- Día de Muertos (Day of the Dead)
- Celebrated on November 2 in Mexico and other Latin American communities
- Families remember loved ones who have died by decorating and picnicking in the cemeteries where they are buried
- Popularized in the U.S. by movies like *The Book of Life* and *Coco*



Mexican Folklore: Día de Muertos Decorations

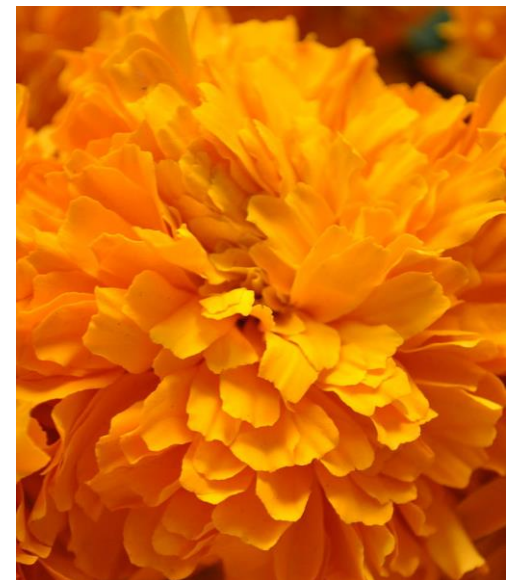
- Notice the bright colors everywhere!
- Decorated skeleton dolls or statues
- Colorful, cut paper
- Paper flowers
- Real flowers, especially marigold
- Painted ceramic skulls
- Decorated sugar skulls
- Face paint



Shop in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico



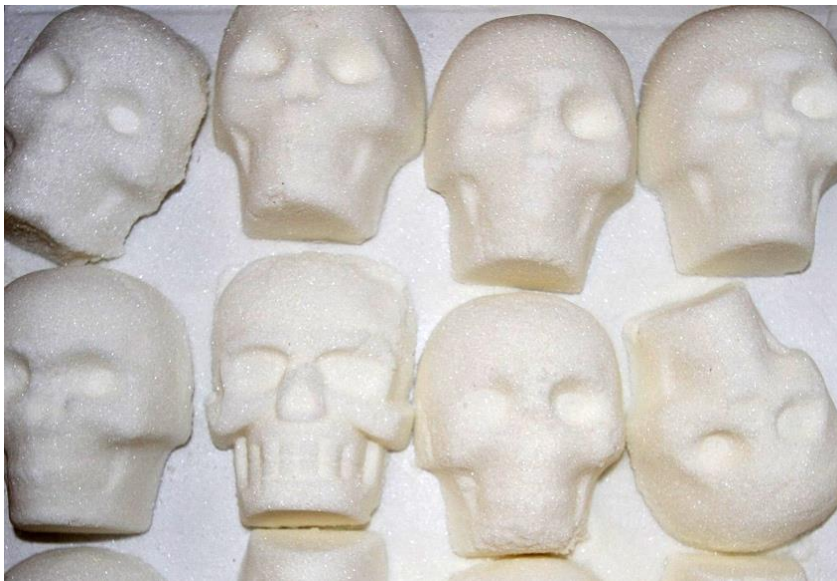
Decorated family altar



Cempasúchil (marigold)

Mexican Folklore: Calaveras de Alfeñique

- Calaveras de alfeñique (sugar skulls) are made of molded sugar paste
- A traditional gift for children on November 2
- Decorated with cheerful designs made of colorful icing



Sugar skulls before and after decoration

Artwork



Sugar skull folk art by Thaneeya McArdle
Notice the bright colors and lateral symmetry in the designs.

Materials

90# white sulphite paper and black construction paper for backing



Colored markers with black Sharpie to draw outlines



Optional: colorful tissue paper, scissors, and glue for cutting out flowers to frame the skull

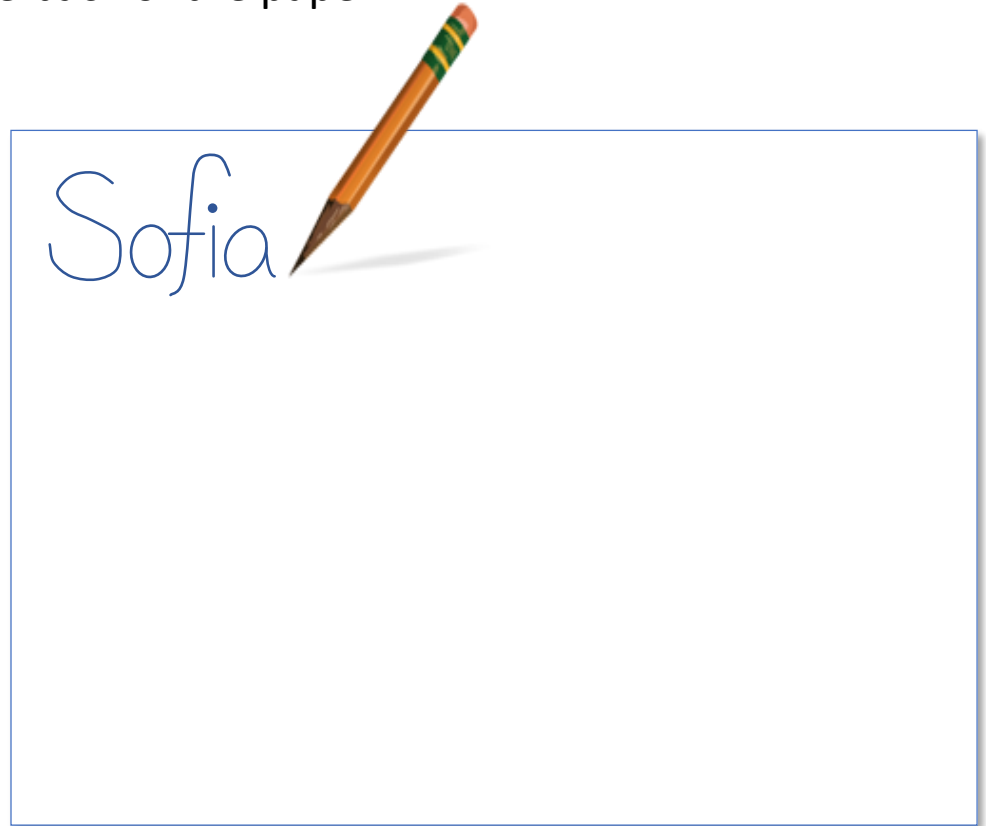


Examples of Today's Project



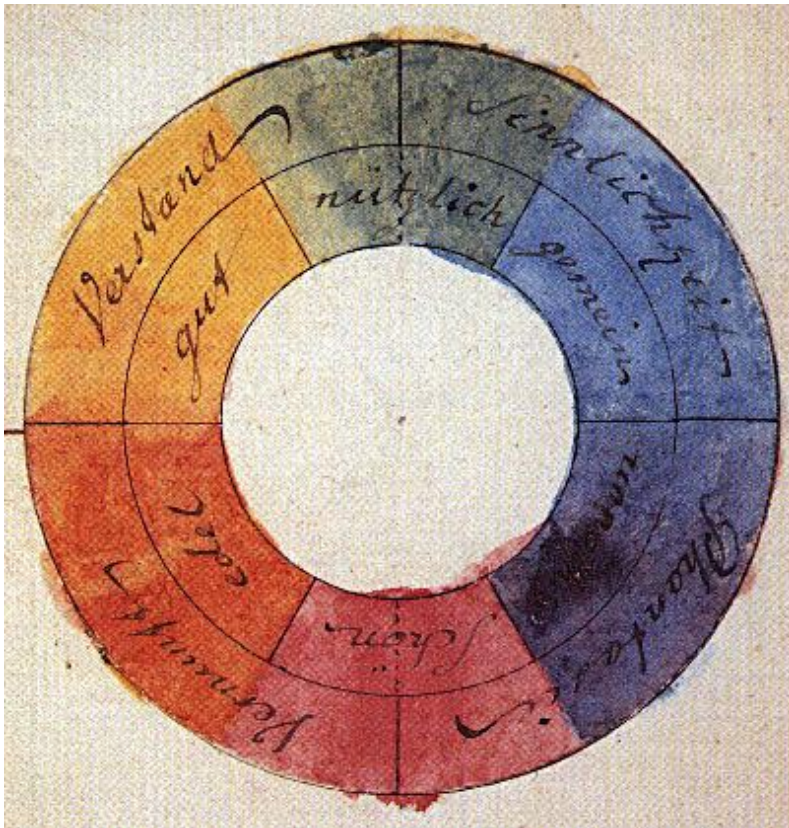
Before You Begin

1. Write your **name** in pencil on the **back** of the paper.
2. Flip over your paper.
3. **Roll up your sleeves!**



Color Theory

- Color theory principles first appeared in the writings of Leone Battista Alberti (c.1435) and the notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci (c.1490), and a tradition of "color theory" began in the 18th century.
- Colors are defined based on the color wheel: primary, secondary and tertiary colors.



Color wheel from German poet Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's 1810 *Theory of Colours*

Color Theory: Primary Colors

In the traditional RYB color model:

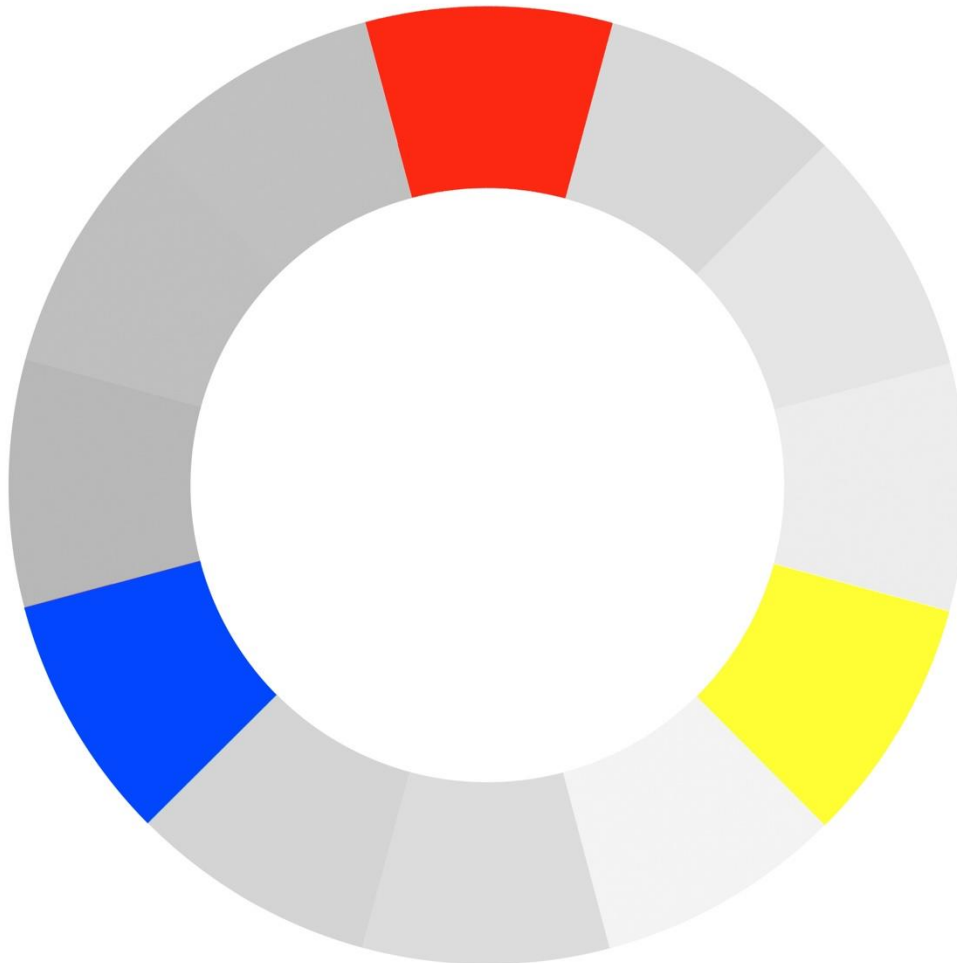
- What are the primary colors?



Color Theory: Primary Colors

In the traditional RYB color model:

- Red, yellow, and blue are considered primary colors.



Color Theory: Secondary Colors

In the traditional RYB color model:

- What are the secondary colors?



Color Theory: Secondary Colors

In the traditional RYB color model:

- Orange, green, and purple are made from mixing two primary colors.



Color Theory: Tertiary Colors

In the traditional RYB color model:

- What are the tertiary colors?



Color Theory: Tertiary Colors

In the traditional RYB color model:

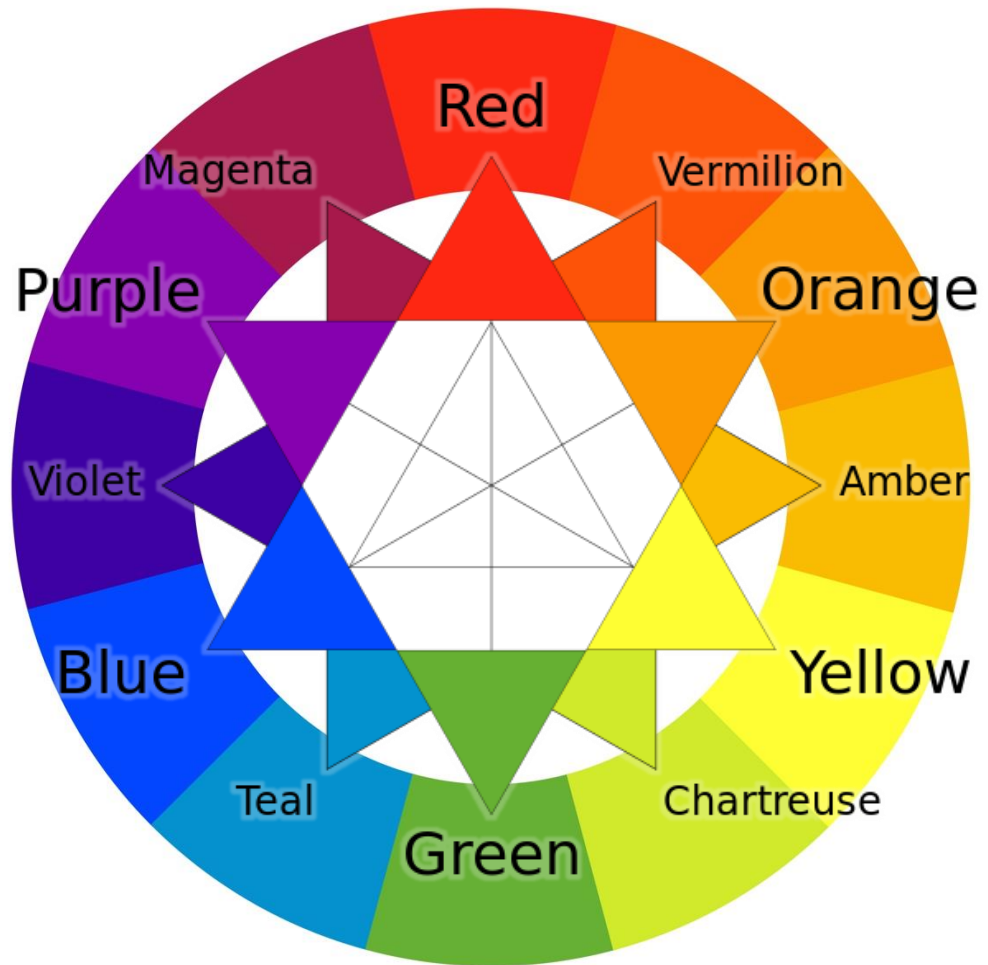
- Tertiary colors are made from mixing neighboring primary and secondary colors.



Choosing Colors

Today, your assignment is to use in your sugar skull design:

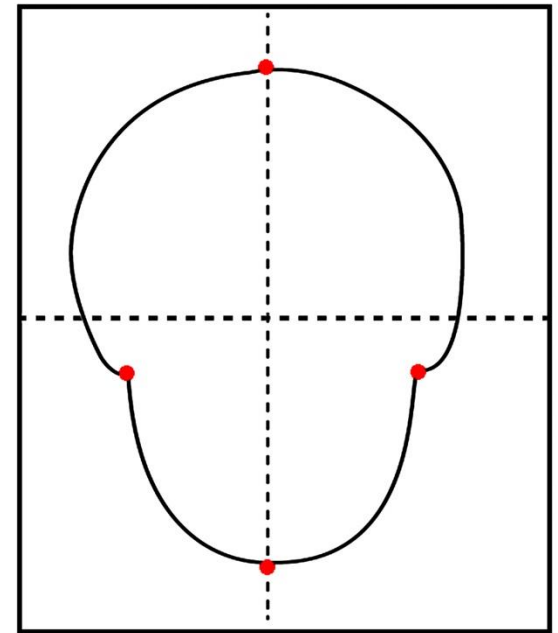
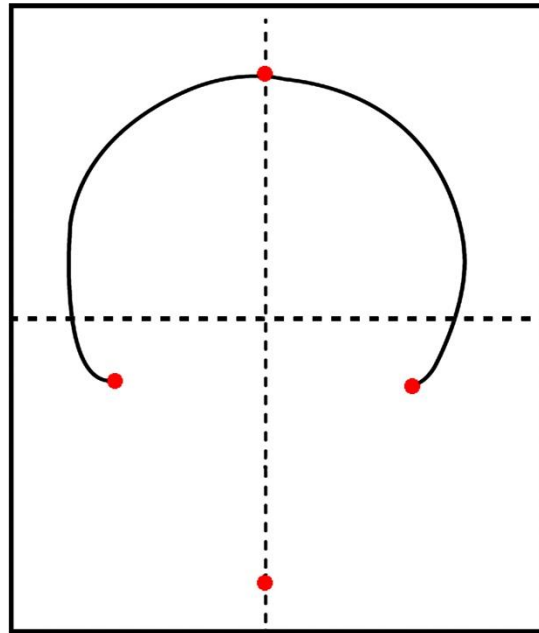
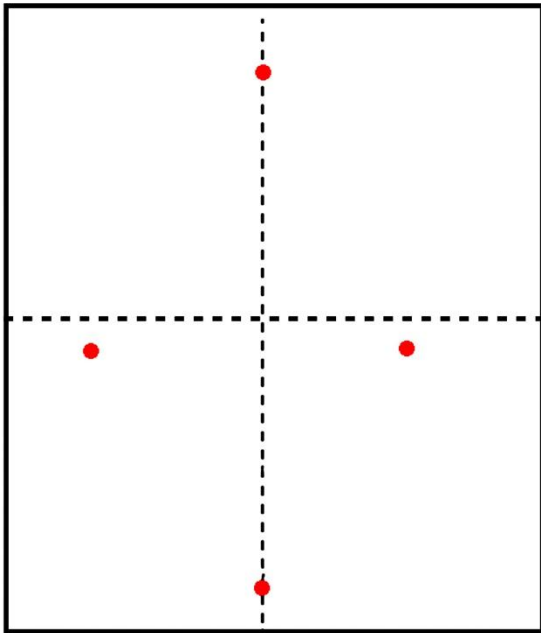
- At least 2 primary colors
- At least 2 secondary colors
- At least 1 tertiary color



Step 1

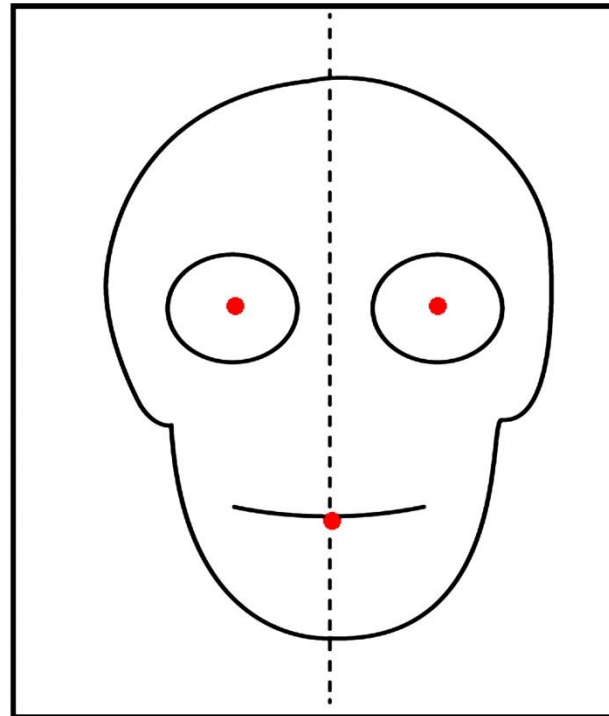
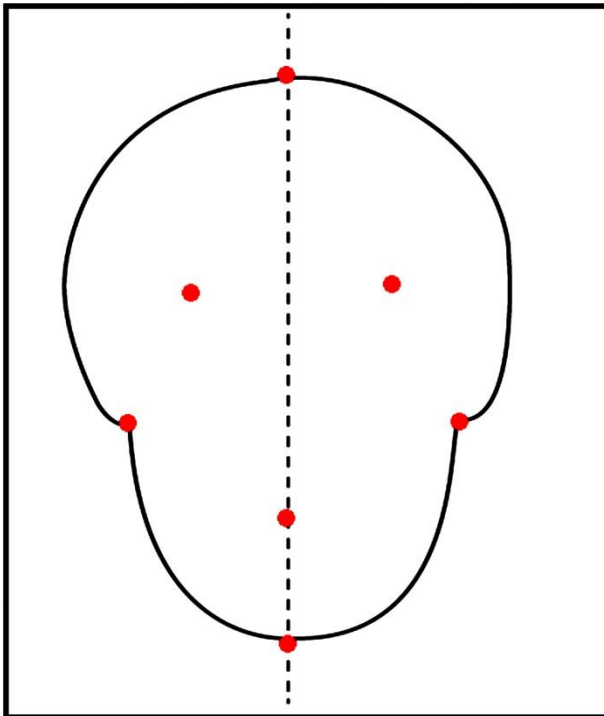
We will begin by drawing the outline of our sugar skulls.

- Fold your sheet of white paper in half the long way and the short way.
- Draw 4 small dots in a diamond shape just like the dots shown here in red.
- Lightly draw an arc (part of a circle) to connect the top dot to the 2 middle dots as shown.
- Lightly draw a narrower, oval arc to connect the bottom dot to the 2 middle dots.



Step 2

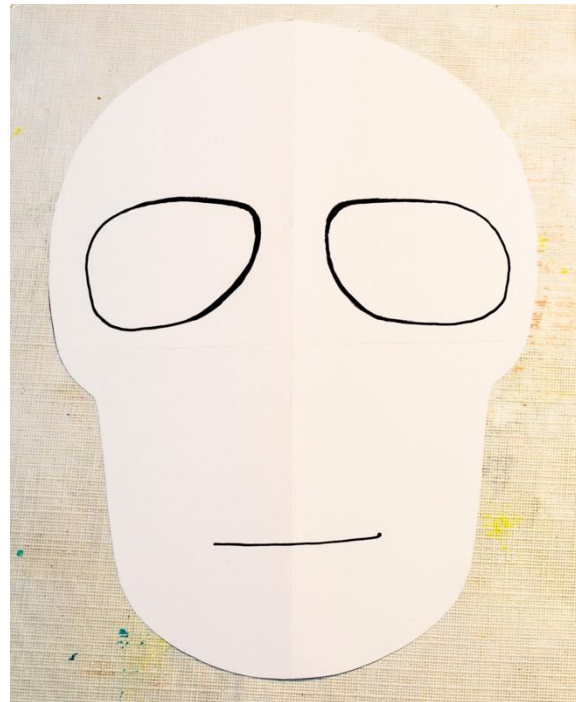
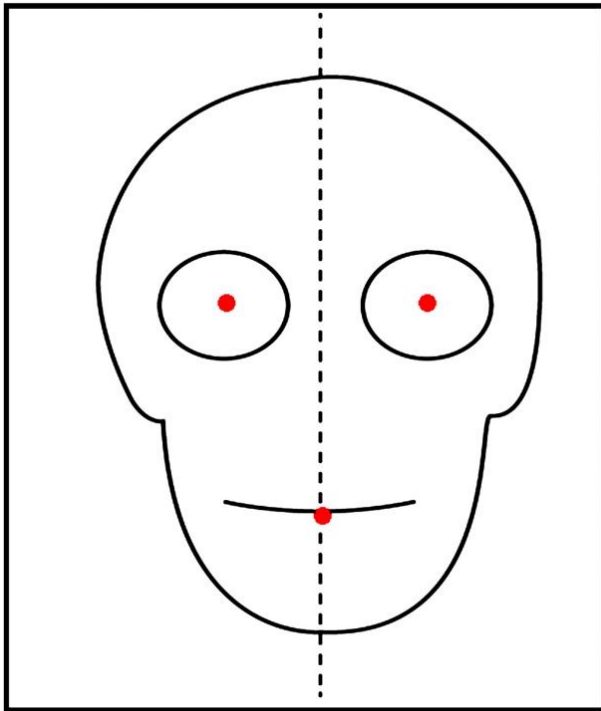
- Now make three small dots that form a triangle like the dots shown here in red.
- Draw two ovals around the top two dots to create the eye sockets.
- Draw a line through the bottom dot to show where the mouth will be.



Step 3

Now we will cut out our sugar skulls.

- Fold your paper the long way (along the dotted line shown below) and cut along half of the outline.
- Save your paper scraps.

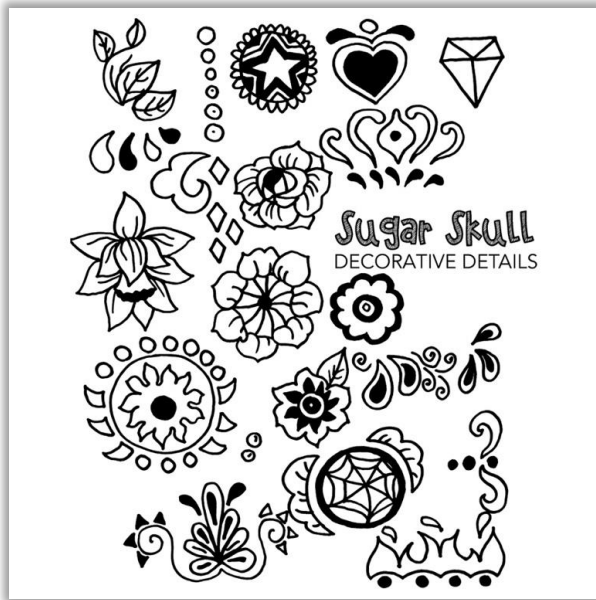


Step 4

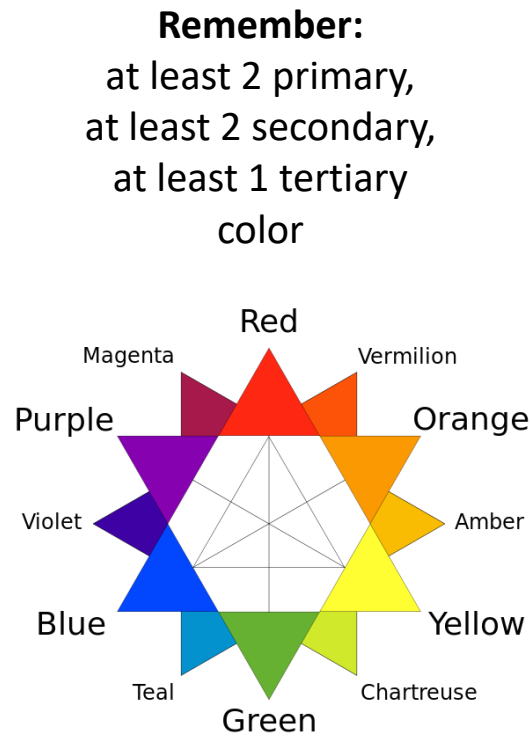
Now it is time to draw decorations on your sugar skull!

- Take a few minutes to look at the designs below.
- Use black and colored markers to draw some designs on your own sugar skull.

Hint: if you don't want black to bleed into your colors, outline with Sharpie marker.



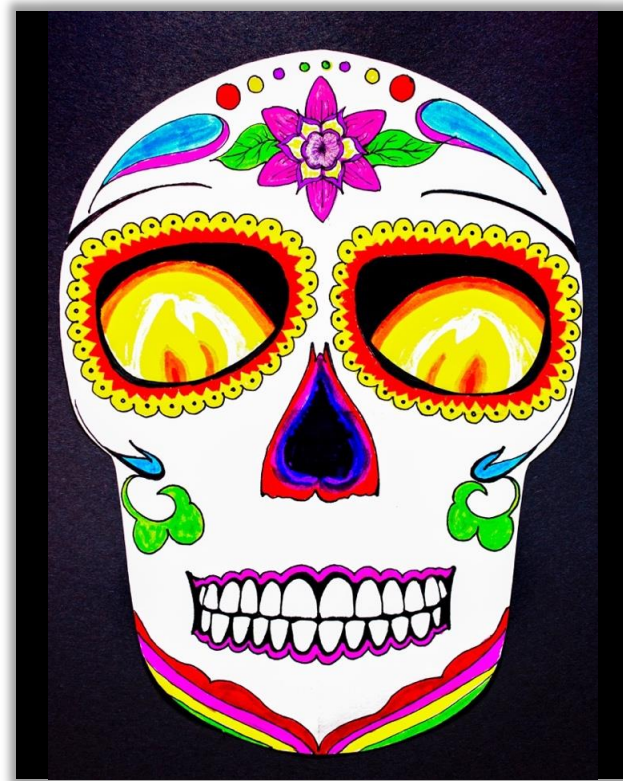
Sugar skull designs by Patty Palmer



Sugar skull by Thaneeya McArdle

Step 5

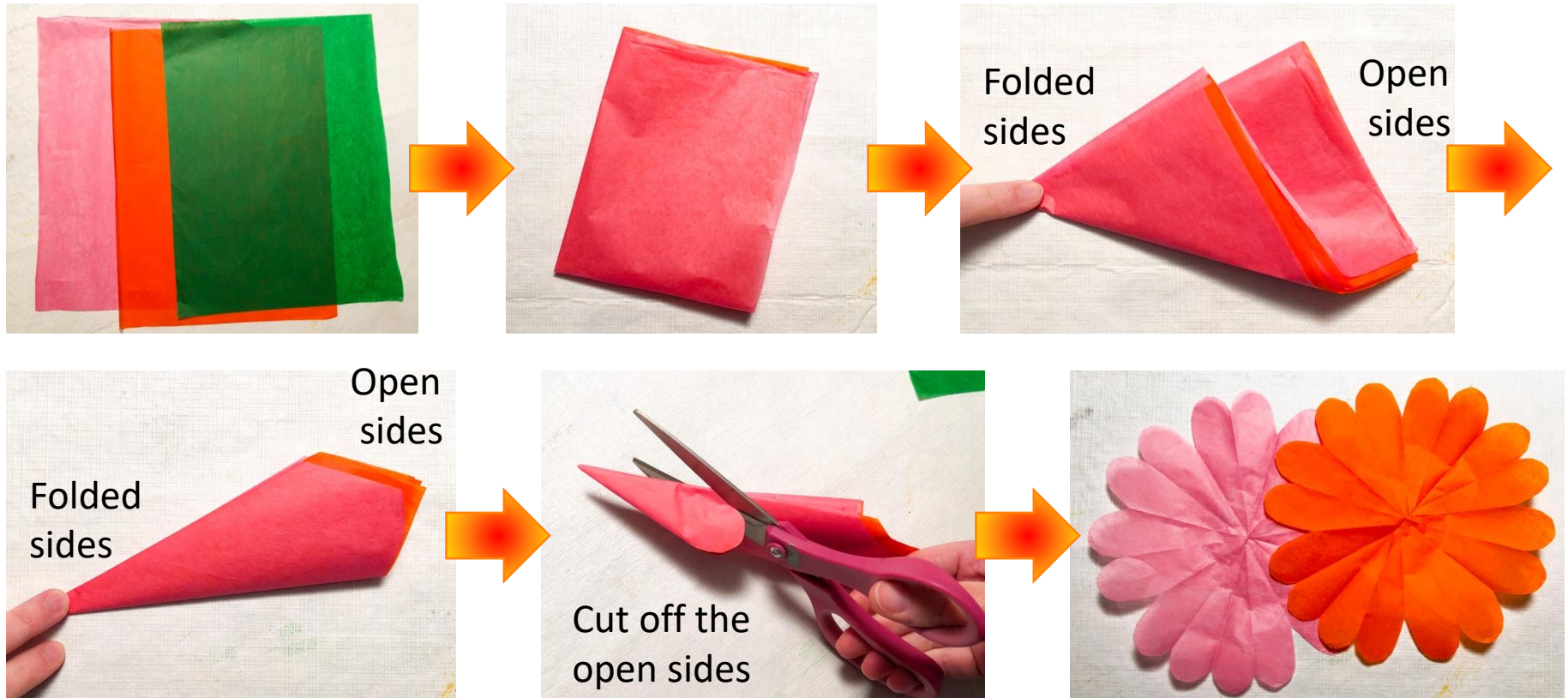
- Once you have finished decorating your sugar skull, glue it to a sheet of black construction paper.



Step 6

If time allows, you can create some tissue paper marigolds.

- Choose two or three colors of tissue paper.
- Fold them as shown below, in half, in half again, in half on the diagonal twice.
- Then make rounded cut at the open end.
- Now you have a couple of flowers.



Step 7

- Glue down your flowers.
- Cut some round circles out of the scraps you saved earlier.
- Color the circles yellow and glue them to the center of the flowers.



Reflection

- How did it feel to create a sugar skull?
- Did the use of bright colors affect the way you felt about drawing a skull? Why or why not?
- Would anyone like to share their art?



Credits

1. About sugar skulls: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calavera>
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alfeñique>
2. About the Day of the Dead: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Day of the Dead](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Day_of_the_Dead)
[https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/D%C3%ADa de Muertos](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/D%C3%ADa_de_Muertos)
3. About Diego Rivera's mural with La Catrina:
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sueño de una Tarde Dominical en la Alameda Central](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sueño_de_una_Tarde_Dominical_en_la_Alameda_Central)
4. Lesson inspiration and some sample art: <https://www.deepspacesparkle.com>
5. Sugar skull art by Thaneeya McArdle: <https://www.thaneeya.com/sugar-skull-art>
6. San Miguel de Allende photo by Audrey Guidi, used with permission.
7. About color theory: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Color theory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Color_theory) and
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RYB color model](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RYB_color_model)
8. Original LWSD art samples, used with permission.