

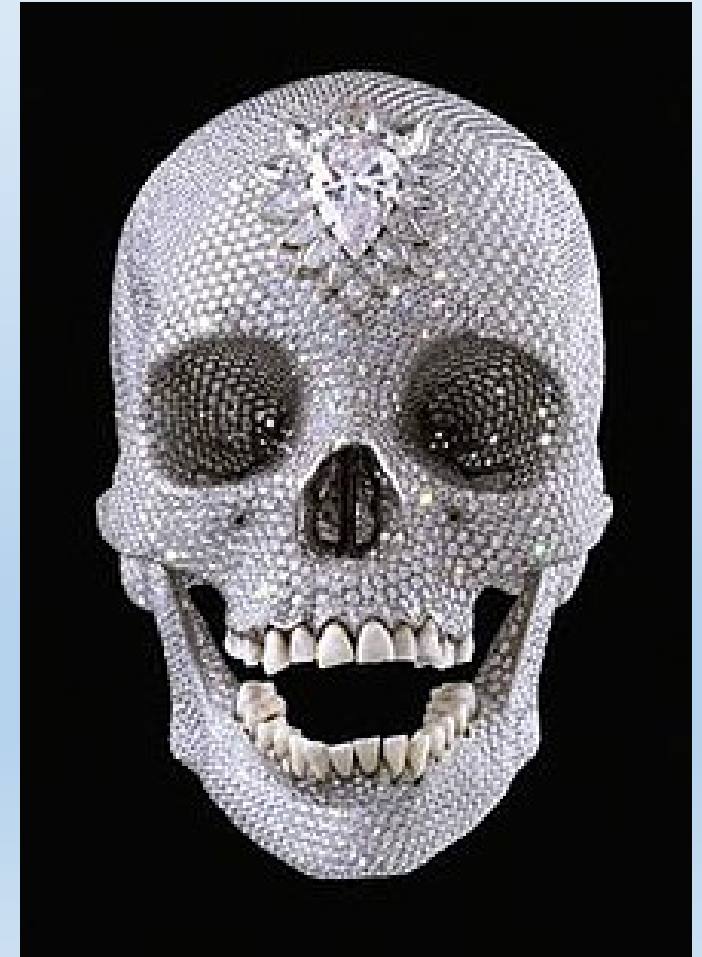
Year 8 Day of the Dead – Schemes Of Work Autumn Term

Unit 1 Day of the dead

Within this unit students are given the opportunity to explore and understand the Mexican celebration 'Day of the dead.' They will learn about the Mexican culture understanding their religious beliefs, celebrations and artefacts. Pupils will learn that the Mexican people believe that the souls of the departed return to visit their families. It is a celebration of the memories of the departed. Pupils will focus on line, pattern and colour, where they will produce a ceramic sugar skull for a final outcome. Pupils will produce a detailed skull drawing where they will learn about various artists inspired by this tradition. Annotation will be creatively applied to their work. Pupils work will be highly decorated and sketchbook work will provide reference for their final outcome of a ceramic piece.

During the project all pupils will

- Develop an understanding of artists/cultures inspired by the topic studied
- Gain experience of basic tools and techniques experimenting with various materials
- Be able to comment on their work by means of oral and written statements
- Use appropriate tools safely
- Take part in assessment for learning, including self-assessment, peer assessment and teacher assessment



Day of the Dead

Dia de los Meurtos

Day of the Dead

The Day of the Dead is a **Mexican** holiday celebrated throughout Mexico, in particular the Central and South regions. It is also celebrated by people of Mexican heritage elsewhere, including America. The multi-day holiday involves family and friends gathering to **pray** and **remembering** friends and family members who have died. It is about helping to support their **spiritual** journey.



Sugar skull



Altars are decorated with fresh flowers as it is believed that their scent will make the returning souls feel welcomed and happy. The flowers used to decorate the altars are known as Day of the Dead Flowers. Paths are decorated with marigolds to lead spirits to their family.



Monarch butterflies play a role in Día de los Muertos because they are believed to hold the spirits of the departed. Like clockwork during the Day of the Dead millions of monarch butterflies return to Mexico when the Christian holiday starts.

MEXICO



The **Aztecs** beliefs are this life is considered to be a **dream** and when you die, you awake to your real life.

Festival

The festival begins on October 31st where marigolds are harvested in preparation for decoration. Altars are created for family members and food is prepared. The festival starts on 'All Saints Day' in which the deceased children are honoured and remembered on November 1st. November 2nd is 'All Souls Day' for the remembrance of the adults. Families believe the spirits return to celebrate with their families on these two days.



The **papel** picado or chiselled paper are paper flags chiselled with saints' figures or skulls and skeletons that are placed like a table cloth in the altar. To some people they represent the element 'air' for the way they move.

Tradition

Day of the dead began as an Aztec celebration and started in Mexico about 3,000 years ago. It has been celebrated in Mexico since the time of the Aztecs people. Day of the Dead might sound like a sad time, but Mexico's famous holiday is actually a lively festival celebrating the memories of the departed.



During the festival people dress up as skeletons to represent the dead.

<https://youtube/7dyP1HC9dG4>

Day of the dead 'Ofrenda' is an altar that is meant to honour the memory of someone loved. The altar usually stays up until November 3. Ideally, an altar has seven tiers or steps (symbolizing the route to heaven) each decorated with different trinkets and symbols. Most families construct a three-tier altar. The top tier is set to identify who is being invited to the altar. It is decorated with photos of the deceased, along with statues and images of the Virgin Mary and Saints.

The second tier is used to encourage the dead to feel welcomed and comfortable. Families will find objects that were important to the deceased – in particular, their favourite foods. Offerings include *mole*, *tamales*, sweets and the traditional Day of the Dead bread *pan de muerto*. For altars calling on deceased adults, servings of tequila is present. For children, their favourite toy is included in the display. The third tier is set up so that the returning dead can refresh themselves upon arrival at the altar. A towel and a basin of water can often be found here. Candles and incense are lit, which is said to ward away evil spirits. Graveyards are also decorated to invite the spirits home.

<https://youtu.be/TKeZFTaoFG0>



Films to watch



Coco and the Book of life



Aztecs – Believed to have started ‘Day of the Dead’, the Aztecs were Native Americans who ruled the Aztec Empire from the 14th century to the 16th century.

Dia de los Muertos – Spanish for Day of the Dead

Mexico – Mexico is officially the United Mexican States. (Spanish speaking) It is bordered by the United States. There is currently a population of 127.27 million people living in Mexico.

Festival - Known as ‘Festival of the Dead’ lasting up to 3 days, held at the beginning of November.

Calacas and Calaveras - A Calacas is a figure of a skull or skeleton in Spanish. Calavera de azucar is a skull made out of sugar which is used to decorate Day of the Dead altars.

Marigolds – Also known as the ‘flower of the dead’. The flowers are to guide the spirits to their altars.

Papel Picado - A decorative craft made by cutting elaborate designs into sheets of tissue paper. Papel Picado is considered a Mexican folk art.

Ofrenda - An altar which has a collection of objects placed on a ritual display during the annual and traditionally Mexican Día de Muertos celebration.

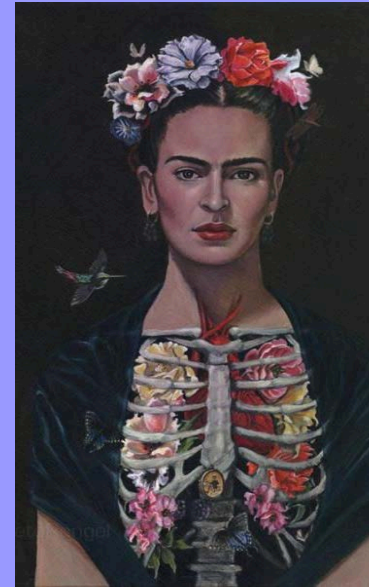
Sugar skulls - Skulls which are traditionally made of candy and displayed in stalls and ofrendas

Monarch butterflies – It is believed that millions of butterflies fly to Mexico during the time of the day of the dead. They represent the souls of the dead.

Artists



‘For the Love of God’ is a sculpture by the artist Damien Hirst produced in 2007. It consists of a platinum cast of an 18th-century human skull encrusted with 8,601 flawless diamonds, including a pear-shaped pink diamond located in the forehead that is known as the ‘Skull Star Diamond’. The skull's teeth are original and were purchased by Hirst in London. Damien Hirst was inspired by the Day of the dead and the Aztecs when creating this piece of Art. The skull was sold to an investment group for the asking price of \$100 million.
<https://youtu.be/K0vL0V1Vkl0>



Frida Kahlo was a Mexican painter known for her many portraits, self-portraits, and works inspired by the nature and artefacts of Mexico. Inspired by the country's popular culture, she employed a naïve folk art style .

Frida Kahlo death dolls are made for Day of the Dead.

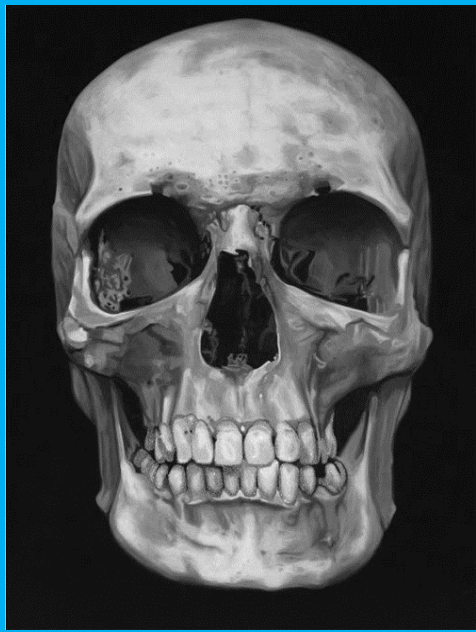


<https://youtu.be/wfbLR15Bh74>



Catrina was created by José Guadalupe Posada in an etching called “La Calavera Catrina,” created around 1910-1913. **La Calavera Catrina** is often referred to as Mexico’s Grand Dame of Death. The first appearance of the **Lady of Death** in Mexico dates back to the Aztec Goddess ‘Mictecacihuatl’—Queen of the Underworld. She protects the bones of the dead and presides over death festivals like the modern day Dia De los Muertos.

Skulls



Damian Hirst

How to draw a skull

Applying tone

Light → Dark



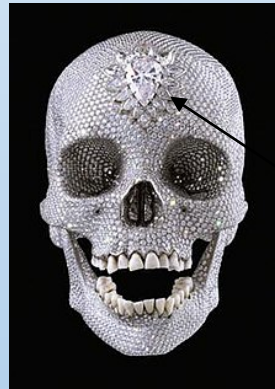
<https://youtu.be/JvHL69PBbRE>

How to create a clay skull



<https://youtu.be/eyelokk6NDI>

To create the diamond shape. Mould a diamond shape and add to skull. Once sugar skull has been fired break up a CD into pieces and apply to diamond shape with pva glue.



Clay – A stiff, sticky fine-grained earth that can be moulded when wet, and is dried and baked to make bricks, pottery, and ceramics.

Sculpture - The art of producing a carving, shaping clay, stone, wood, welding and other materials.

Sculptor – An artist that creates 3D sculptures.

Ceramics - Pots and other articles made from clay hardened by heat.

Ceramicist – A person who creates artwork out of clay.

Slip – Clay and water mixed together to join 2 pieces of clay together using the scoring method.

Score – Scratching the surface.

Leather-hard clay

Leather-hard clay is clay that has dried for a few hours. Clay can be easily handled at this stage. This is the best time to carve into clay or join slabs.

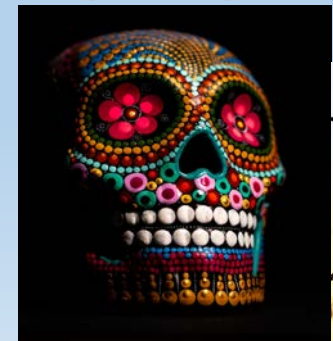
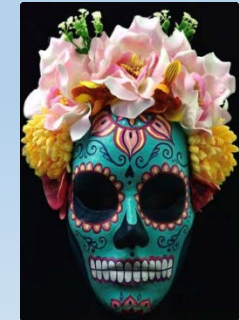
Kiln – Is a thermally insulated chamber, a type of oven, that produces temperatures sufficient to complete the process of hardening and drying clay.

Fired – Clay that has been hardened in the kiln and can no longer be turned back into workable clay.

Consider the colour wheel



Key words & definitions



ELEMENTS IN ART

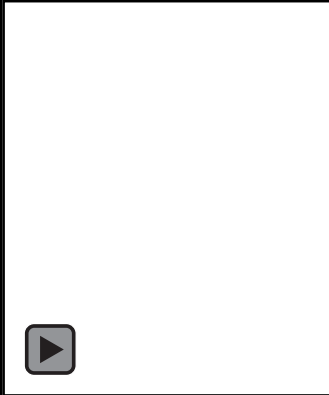
LINE

Line in drawing refers to a **type of mark that contains both a direction and a length.** Line is an art element. There are numerous varieties of possible lines, including curved, bent, thick, wide, broken, vertical, horizontal, burred, or freehand.



tone

Tone in Art is the various range of lightest to the darkest part of an **image.** Colour may be toned down and made less vivid or toned up to make it look more solid or brighter.



Play video

SHAPE



Shapes are flat two dimensional areas outlined by a line. There are two main categories of shape which are geometric and organic. Geometric shapes such as squares, cubes, circles are examples of shapes that can be seen in drawings. Organic shapes are free flowing natural shapes.

TEXTURE



Textures are details that visually describe how something physically feels. **Textures** can be smooth, rough, and anything else your hand feels when it touches a surface.

PATTERN

skulls are often decorated with various **Patterns** which are often seen on the Day of the Dead. The skulls are highly embellished and can have bright vivid colours.



COLOUR



Colour in Art could definitely be seen as the most important factor. It can create mood, emotion, warmth, coldness and much more.