



<b>Subject Area:</b> Visual Art	<b>Course:</b> Grade 4	
<b>Unit 3 Title:</b> Oversized Sugar Skulls	<b>Start:</b> November	<b>End:</b> November
<p><b>Unit Summary:</b> Students will explore the cultural significance of Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) and create symmetrical sugar skull art. They will practice symmetry while using black paint, markers, or Kwik Stix to create colorful, vibrant designs inspired by the holiday.</p>		

**Stage 1: Desired Results**

**Massachusetts Learning Standards**

**Creating**

- Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work. Develop ideas that explore different art elements (e.g., line, shape, color) using a wide variety of materials. (3-4.V.Cr.01)
- Organize and develop artistic ideas and work. Use a teacher selected strategy (e.g., sketches, prototypes, rough drafts) to organize artistic ideas. (3-4.V.Cr.02)
- Refine and complete artistic work. Respond to an artistic challenge and draft possible resolutions. (3-4.V.Cr.03)

**Presenting**

- Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation. Refine a specific technique to produce a desired effect (e.g., creating realistic shading). (3-4.V.P.05)

**Responding**

- Perceive and analyze artistic work. Analyze how aesthetic elements (e.g., color, form, line, shape, texture) are used to demonstrate intent. (3-4.V.R.07)
- Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work. Describe contrasting interpretations of an artwork to identify multiple perspectives and diverse community ideas. (3-4.V.R.08)

**Connecting**

- Relate artistic ideas and works to societal, cultural and historical contexts to deepen understanding. Describe ways art is different from other objects in

everyday life and why that matters. (e.g., what the role of artistic intent is in visual arts). (3-4.V.Co.11)	
<b>Transfer (Authentic, relevant application of learning to new situations)</b>	
<b>Students will be able to independently use their learning to...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create an individual piece of artwork that applies the principles of symmetry, ensuring both sides of their designs are balanced and visually pleasing. This artwork will express both the student’s cultural understanding through art and the use of symbolism</li> </ul>	
<b>Meaning</b>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Enduring Understandings</b></p> <p><b>Students will understand that...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Symmetry is an important design principle in art: that helps to create balance and harmony in artwork, making it more visually appealing and organized.</li> <li>• Color and pattern are powerful tools for expressing meaning, sharing emotions, telling stories, and reflecting on cultural traditions</li> <li>• Art can represent and communicate cultural identity, and express cultural stories, values, and traditions.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Essential Questions</b></p> <p><b>Students will consider...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can symmetry create balance and harmony in personal designs?</li> <li>• How can color and pattern help convey meaning or emotion in artwork?</li> <li>• How can artwork communicate a community’s celebration, remembrance, and cultural significance?</li> </ul>
<b>Acquisition</b>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Knowledge</b></p> <p><b>Students will know...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Symmetry: the balanced arrangement of elements on either</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Skills</b></p> <p><b>Students will be skilled at...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applying symmetry in artwork</li> <li>• Balancing design elements</li> </ul>

<p>side of a central axis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Dia de los Muertos: a Mexican holiday that celebrates and honors deceased loved ones through the use of symbols</li><li>● Central vertical line</li><li>● Symbolism in art: bright colors representing joy and celebration, and floral patterns often symbolizing the continuity of life.</li><li>● Mood</li><li>● Cultural significance.</li><li>● Basic techniques for:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Paint</li><li>○ Markers</li><li>○ Kwik Stix</li></ul></li><li>● Patterns</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Creating vibrant, culturally inspired art</li><li>● Using colors with intention, to evoke emotions such as joy, remembrance, and celebration.</li><li>● Drawing and painting with precision</li><li>● Designing symbolic representations</li><li>● Using a variety of art materials effectively</li><li>● Planning and executing a well-composed design</li><li>● Balancing creativity with structure in their artistic process.</li><li>● Reflecting on the role of symmetry in creating visually appealing and balanced artworks</li></ul>
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