

Public  
**ART KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER:  
 DAY OF THE DEAD - ALTARS**

Key Words When drawing From Observation	
<b>line</b>	Defines shape, the outer edges of something
<b>tone</b>	How dark or light a shape is
<b>shape</b>	The outline of an object
<b>pattern</b>	A repeated shape or line
<b>shadow</b>	Gives an object a 3D appearance
<b>texture</b>	The feel or appearance of a surface, how rough or smooth it is
<b>proportion</b>	The size and shape of one object in comparison to another
<b>cross-hatching</b>	Lines are placed over each other at different angles to build up areas of tone
<b>media/medium</b>	The materials and tools used by an artist to create a piece of art
<b>tint</b>	Adding black or white to a colour

Day of the Dead celebrations are based in the belief that the souls of the ones gone can come back to this world on these days. The Day of the Dead altars are the most prominent feature in the celebration because they show the souls the way to their home. Altars make the souls feel welcomed and show them they have not been forgotten.



**PENCIL GRADING CHART**

9B	F
8B	H
7B	2H
6B	3H
5B	4H
4B	5H
3B	6H
2B	7H
B	8H
HB	9H



The souls that visit their altars do not actually eat or drink what is on the altar. They can't they have no bodies! Instead, they absorb the aroma and energy of the food, which nourishes their spirits. After the holiday is over, the foods and drinks on the altars are distributed amongst family and friends, but the foods and drinks are now tasteless and devoid of nutritional value, because their essence is gone.

Day of the Dead Symbols and Meanings Objects usually placed on an altar in people's homes	
<b>altar</b>	tiered table, decorated with objects and symbols.
<b>candles</b>	Candles are lit to welcome the spirits back to their altars.
<b>marigolds</b>	These yellow-orange flowers, also called cempasúchitl, symbolize death. Their strong fragrance also help lead the dead back to their altars. Marigold petals may also be sprinkled on the floor in front of the altar, or even sprinkled along a path from the altar to the front door, so that the spirit may find her way inside.
<b>incense</b>	Most commonly, copal incense, which is the dried aromatic resin from a tree native to Mexico. The scent is also said to guide the spirits back to their altars
<b>salt</b>	represents the continuance of life
<b>photograph of the deceased</b>	A framed photo of the dead person to whom the altar is dedicated, usually positioned in a prime spot on the altar
<b>pan de muerto</b>	Also known as 'bread of the dead', pan de muerto is a symbol of the departed. It's a sweet bread, usually in the shape of a skull.
<b>sugar skulls</b>	Small, decorated skull candies. They are symbols of death and the afterlife. Placed on altars and also given as gifts.
<b>food and drink</b>	Various items of food and drink are placed on the altar. Families often place the dead person's favourite food and drink on the altar. This can be both traditional Mexican food (tamales, tortillas etc) or modern food. Drinks can be alcoholic (Tequila etc).
<b>toiletries</b>	various items, such as a hairbrush, towel and soap will be left on the altar so that the spirits of the deceased can freshen up after their long journey.
<b>papel picado</b>	decorative pieces of paper (often like bunting) that are draped around the altars edge or hung from above.





Public  
**ART KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER:  
 DAY OF THE DEAD - LA CATRINA**

The most famous figure in the Day of the Dead is **La Calavera Catrina** ('Dapper Skeleton', 'Elegant Skull') She first appeared as a zinc etching by famous Mexican printmaker, cartoon illustrator and lithographer José Guadalupe Posada in 1913.

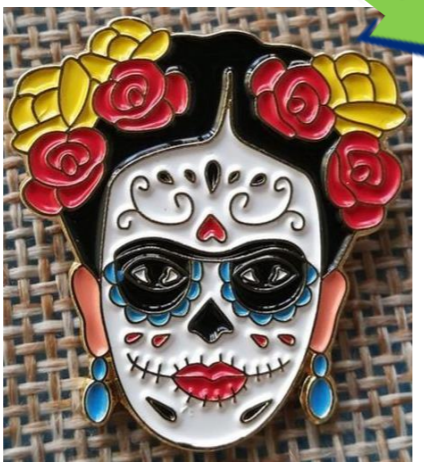


**Sueño de una tarde dominical en la Alameda Central** or **Dream of a Sunday Afternoon in the Alameda Central** is a mural created by Diego Rivera. It was painted between the years 1946 and 1947. La Catrina is one of the figures included in the mural.



**La Catrina** is still seen as a symbol of Day of the Dead today and is used in parades, costumes and dolls.

**Significant Colours:**  
**Purple** - Signifies pain, suffering, grief, and mourning.  
**Pink** - Celebration.  
**White** - Purity and hope.  
**Orange** - Sun.  
**Red** - The blood of life.  
**Yellow** - Marigolds that symbolize death. Petals are used to make a trail so that the spirits can see the path to their altars.



**Diego Rivera's** famous artist wife **Frida Kahlo** also makes an appearance in his mural. Kahlo's paintings and traditional Mexican style have also been used in Day of the Dead objects, such as badges.

