

Viva la Calaca!

A project inspired by the work of José Guadalupe Posada

Duration: 5 -1 hour class sessions.

Objectives:

Students will:

- learn about the life and work of José Guadalupe Posada.
- discuss a variety of Days of the Dead images.
- draw a human skeleton in accurate proportion.
- select a contemporary theme and express it visually through drawing.
- make several preliminary sketches of their idea.

Materials:

Black drawing paper, newspaper, glue, images of Posada's work, skeleton handouts, pencils, colored pencils, oil pastels.

Introduction and Discussion:

Introduce the life and work of José Guadalupe Posada. Place emphasis on his work being associated with both the Days of the Dead and the Mexican artistic tradition. Show examples of his work and discuss with students.

Look at image of the human skeleton. Have students practice drawing the human skeleton. Have students do sketches of each other and implement the skeleton on top of their work.

Discuss some contemporary themes that would be good subject matter for a drawing.

Students will begin making preliminary sketches. All figures must be represented using the skeleton.

Students will name their drawing and incorporate title into drawing in it's Spanish translation.

Cut newspaper 2 inches smaller than black paper on all sides. Paste newspaper in the center of black paper.

Allow time for glue to dry. Draw the final sketch onto the newspaper. Begin to fill in color and value using oil pastels. Don't forget to incorporate the title and design the border.

Assessment:

Did students:

- demonstrate understanding of the role of José Guadalupe Posada's work in relation to the Days of the Dead celebration and the history of Mexico?
- recognize and identify Posada's calavera images?
- draw the human skeleton following the handout?
- identify and discuss subject matter based on contemporary social, political, and economic issues?
- use all materials correctly?



