

## Calavera Paper Plate Child Mask:

The Calavera is an important part of Day of the Dead. Students can make this mask to wear or to decorate outside the classroom walls, bulletins, or to add decoration to their altar. If they are to be used in the altar, they will represent *calaveritas*, which represent lost souls in the family.

Materials:

- \*paper plates or large round sheets of paper
- \*popsicle sticks, sticks or pencils
- \*markers
- \*black construction paper
- \*scissors
- \*tape
- \*glitter and other shiny bits (optional)

Grab a plate and a pencil. Estimate the center of the plate and mark it with your pencil. Students can do this part, it doesn't have to be EXACTLY center.



Using the center dot as your guide, draw two lines intersecting at the center. One line should be vertical, while the other is horizontal, like a cross.



Next, draw two more lines using all previous drawn lines as your guide. These two lines will mark an X on your plate and divide up the spaces between the first two lines.



This part sounds trickier than it is so stick with me. You are going to make your skellie cheeks. The first thing you will need to do is position the plate in front of you with the X lines looking like an X. Find the center points on other side of each diagonal line on the bottom half of the plate. Work with your pencil and then draw an arc from point to point, these are your skellie cheeks!





From the top point of each skellie cheek, follow the curve of the paper plate to draw the rest of your skull and cut out.



Next up are the eyes and nose of your calavera. You can use a black marker or paint or you can have your wee ones cut shapes from black paper. The nose of your mask should be upside down heart and the eyes should be large orbs. Use the paint or marker to mark the mouth of your calavera along the vertical ridges of the paper plate.





Now it is time to decorate. You can have your students decorate as they will but if you want to make your skull more of a calavera (as traditional as turning a paper plate into a calavera can be) and follow traditional ideas of decorating, talk to them about symmetry. You can use the attached calavera pictures as reference for them to get ideas on design.



Once your calavera is all decked out, you can add finishing touches with glitter and/or sequins (if you like). Set aside to dry and tape a popsicle stick or two to the back or use yarn or string and make garland or simply post on walls as decoration!

