

## GALE LESSON:

LEARN ABOUT DAY OF THE DEAD AND SUGAR SKULLS WITH GALE IN  
CONTEXT: ELEMENTARY

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**Goal:** Support learning about the history, traditions, and cultural significance surrounding Day of the Dead.

**Subject:** World History, Cultures

**Topic:** Day of the Dead

**Grade Levels:** Grades 3-5

**Gale Resource:** *Gale In Context: Elementary*

**Activity Summary:** Students will utilize *Gale In Context: Elementary* to learn about Day of the Dead and answer questions. Students will then decorate a Sugar Skull based on their research and provided information.

**Outcomes:** Students will understand the background of Day of the Dead, and why it's important to those who celebrate it. Students will utilize their knowledge to create a Sugar Skull art piece that displays what is important to them.

### Materials:

- Computers with access to *Gale In Context: Elementary*
- Crayons/Colored Pencils

### Procedure:

- Introduce *Gale In Context: Elementary* to your learners. Ensure they know how to access through your library/classroom, and show them how to search and browse for information. (For tips on how to find Day of the Dead content, take a look at our tip sheet: <https://support.gale.com/doc/dayofthedead-kib-tips>.)
- Distribute question and blank Sugar Skull worksheet.
- Prompt each student to present their Sugar Skull to the class and explain why they colored it how they did.

# ALL ABOUT DAY OF THE DEAD AND SUGAR SKULLS

Day of the Dead is a holiday celebrated in Mexico to honor loved ones who have passed away. This holiday is a happy one and people decorate and leave offerings for the dead.

Sugar Skulls (Caleveras as they say in Mexico) are skulls made from sugar to celebrate Day of the Dead. These Sugar Skulls are used to decorate for the holiday, and they are edible too.

Answer the questions below using *Gale In Context: Elementary* to learn more about Day of the Dead and Sugar Skulls, then create a Sugar Skull of your own!

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1. Why do people celebrate Day of the Dead?

2. What kind of flowers are used to decorate for Day of the Dead?

3. How do people make Sugar Skulls?

4. What other traditions are a part of Day of the Dead?

5. Do you think it's important to remember and celebrate people who have passed away? Why or why not?

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On the next page you will color your own Sugar Skull. It is important to know that different colors have different meanings during Day of the Dead. Use the information below to choose the best colors for your Sugar Skull.

Red: The color of blood, life, and family bonds

Orange: The color of the dead and of marigold flowers which symbolize death

Yellow: The color of the sun and unity, we are all the same under the sun!

Pink: The color of happiness

Purple: A color that shows grief, mourning and suffering

White: Represents hope and stands for purity

