

El Pueblo Historical Monument

Concha Ornament At-Home Workshop

El PuebloTM de Los Angeles



This workshop is fun for all ages and created with things you may already have at home. Create a homemade concha ornament out of construction paper and string.

Historic Facts about Conchas

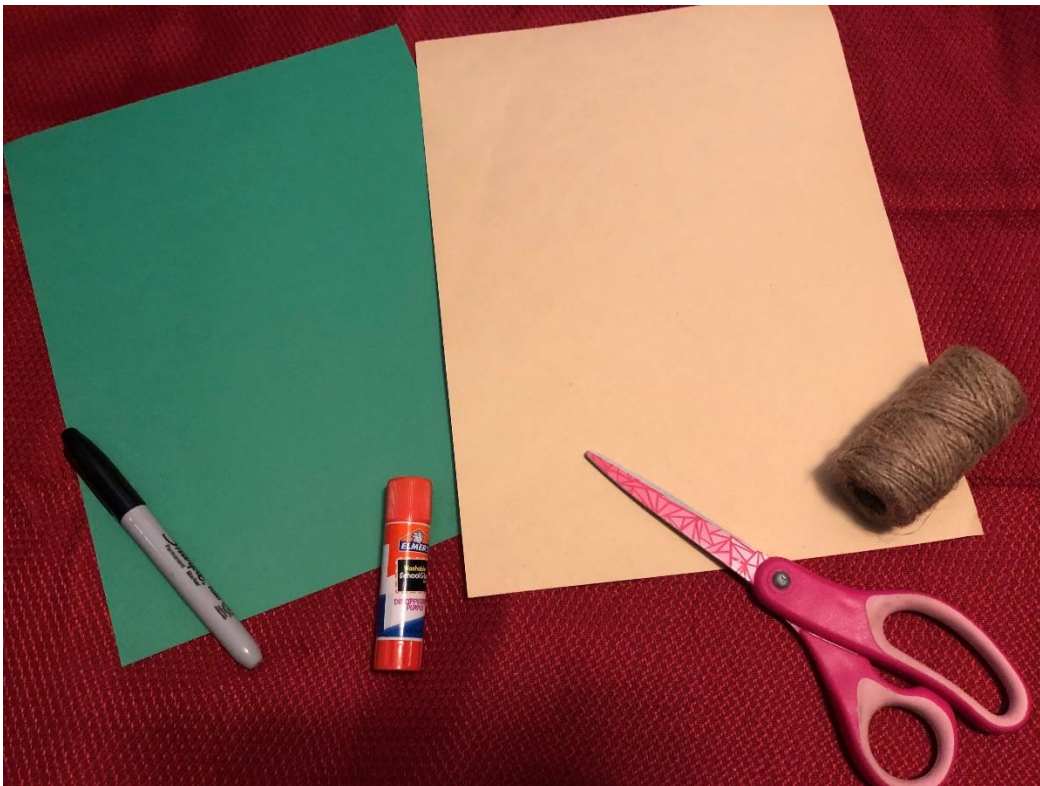
Conchas are one of the most iconic forms of pan dulce. “Pan Dulce” literally means “sweet bread” and refers to a variety of baked goods from cookies to conchas. Conchas get their name from the distinctive sugary topping on top of the bread. Concha means “shell” in Spanish and these sweets are topped with a crunchy coating designed to look like a seashell. These delicious treats date back to the Spanish era of Mexican history, when Spanish colonists introduced wheat crops to the Americas. French bakers who immigrated to Mexico introduced brioche bread recipes that contributed to the creation of the concha we know today. The traditional champurrado, a hot chocolate thickened with corn flour, is often paired with conchas. At El Pueblo, conchas and champurrado are served each night during the celebration of Las Posadas. Las Posadas is a colorful celebration full of music recreating the journey of Mary and Joseph in search of “posada” or *shelter* to have the baby Jesus. It is celebrated on the nine nights leading to Christmas Day.

Materials

- Construction Paper, (1) sheet of brown paper and (1) any color you would like
- A marker, pen, or pencil
- Glue
- Scissors
- Twine, string, or yarn
- Hole punch (optional)

Steps/Instructions

Step One: Collect all your materials on a flat surface.

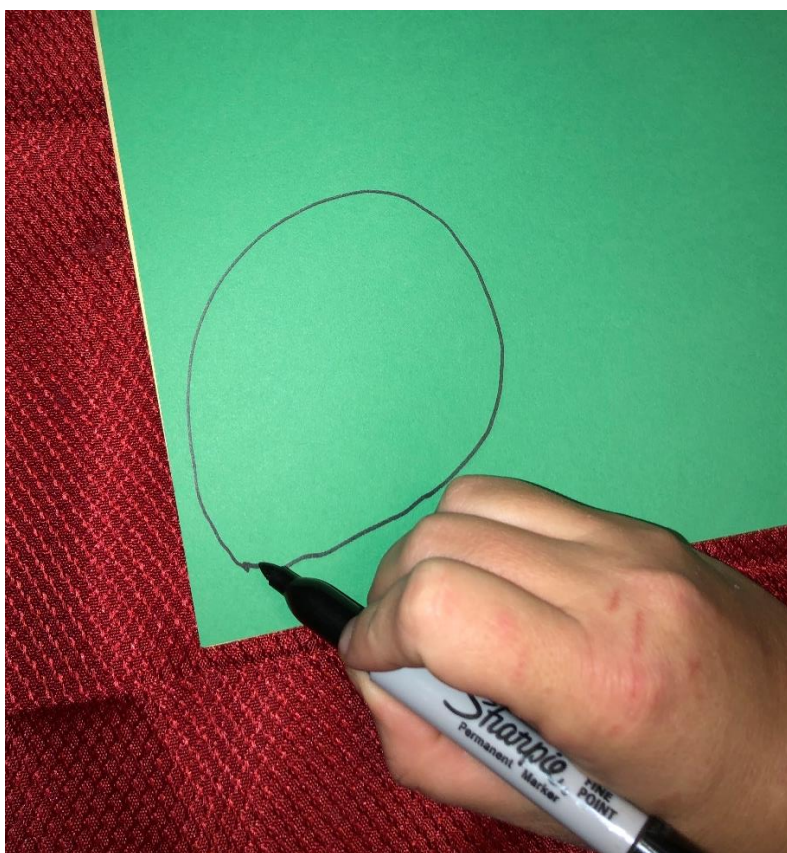


Hint: You could use a brown paper bag to create the base of your concha too!

Step Two: Place your (2) sheets of construction paper together.

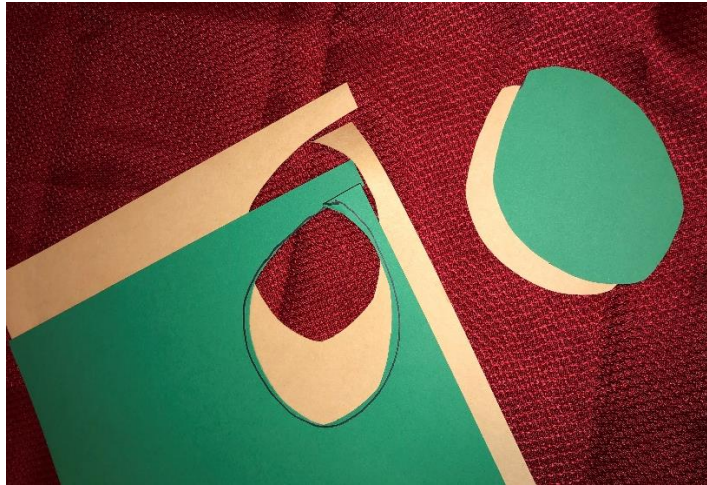


Step Three: Trace a circle or oval on the top sheet of paper.



Hint: This shape does not have to be a perfect shape. Conchas come in all shapes and sizes!

Step Four: Carefully cut both sheets of paper together. This will create (2) of the same shape, one in each color.



Hint: You will be able to make at least (4) conchas from two pieces of construction paper!

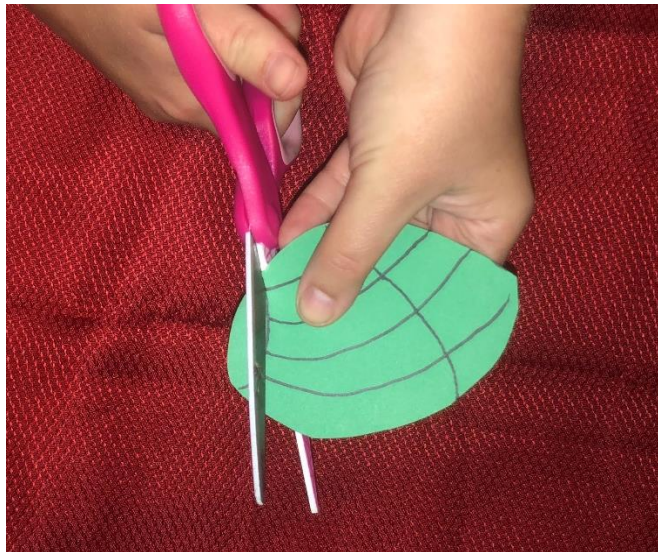
Step Five: On the colorful circle of construction paper draw the shell shape. Begin with one half circle on the side and draw curves like rays of the sun coming from it!



Step Six: Draw curved lines part way through the rays you created.



Step Seven: Carefully begin to cut out parts of your concha/shell shape.



Hint: Cut and glue each section one at a time so you do not have to put it all together like a puzzle at the end!

Step Eight: Glue the colorful pieces to the brown piece of paper. Continue these steps until you have completely filled in your concha!



Hint: Do not cut your topping perfectly! Leave some gaps so that it looks like the bread has expanded during baking. Your concha does not have to be perfect and even. It is unique and wonderful just as it is!

Step Nine: With a hole punch or scissors carefully put a hole in the top of your concha.



Hint: Ask your parents for help with this step!

Step Ten: Take a small piece of string or yarn, thread it through the hole you made, and tie a loop.



Hint: If you would like you could decorate your concha with glitter or markers! You could string many together to create your own concha garland!

Congratulations! You have created your very own beautiful and unique Concha Ornament! Stay safe and we hope to see you on your next visit to El Pueblo Historical Monument soon!