

El Pueblo Historical Monument

Calavera At-Home Workshop

# El Pueblo<sup>TM</sup> de Los Angeles



This workshop is fun for all ages and created with things you may already have at home. Create a homemade calavera out of a paper plate and a popsicle stick.

## Historic Facts about Calaveras

The term Calavera is often used to describe the highly decorated skulls that appear during Dia de los Muertos celebrations. Calaveras have become the most well-known aspect of Dia de los Muertos celebrations. Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) is a celebration of the lives of those who have passed on. Families set up ofrendas or alters to honor family members who are no longer with us. These ofrendas usually include pictures of the dead and food, including Pan de Muerto (bread of the dead). Alters include marigolds whose bright color and smell are said to help draw the spirits of those who have passed on to them. Calaveras are usually included in these displays as well, often in the form of sugar skulls, pressed sugar decorated with brightly colored icing. During Dia de los Muertos people enjoy painting their faces and wear masks that look like calaveras.

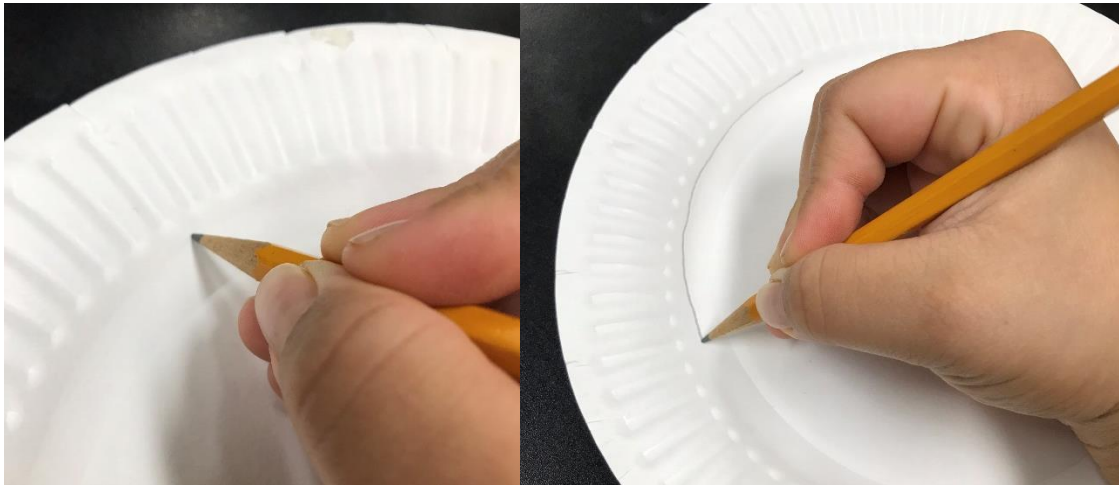
## Materials

- A paper plate
- A popsicle stick
- A pencil
- White glue
- Scissors
- Crayons, markers, or paint

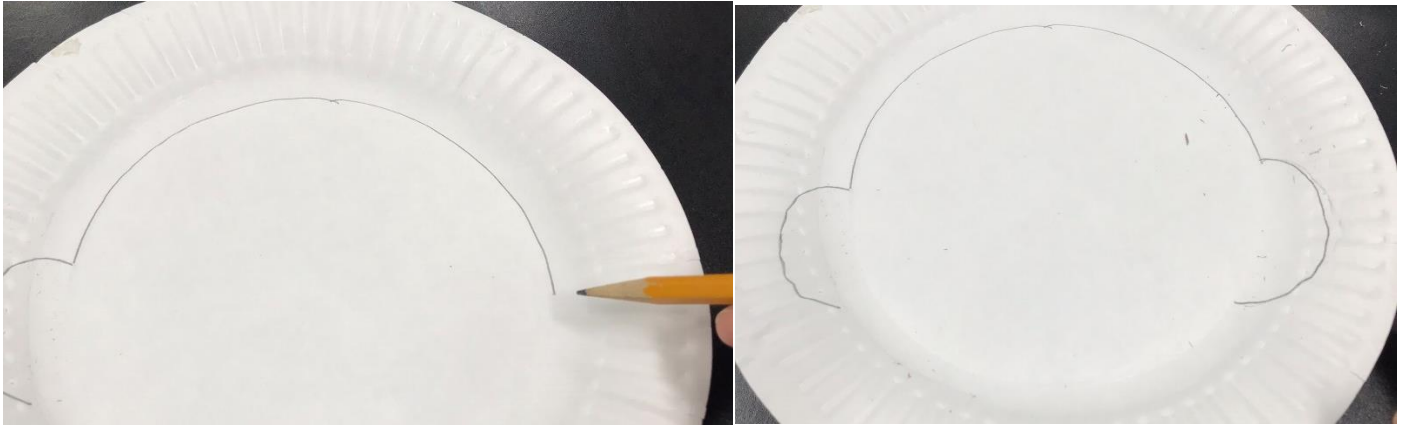
## Steps/Instructions

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

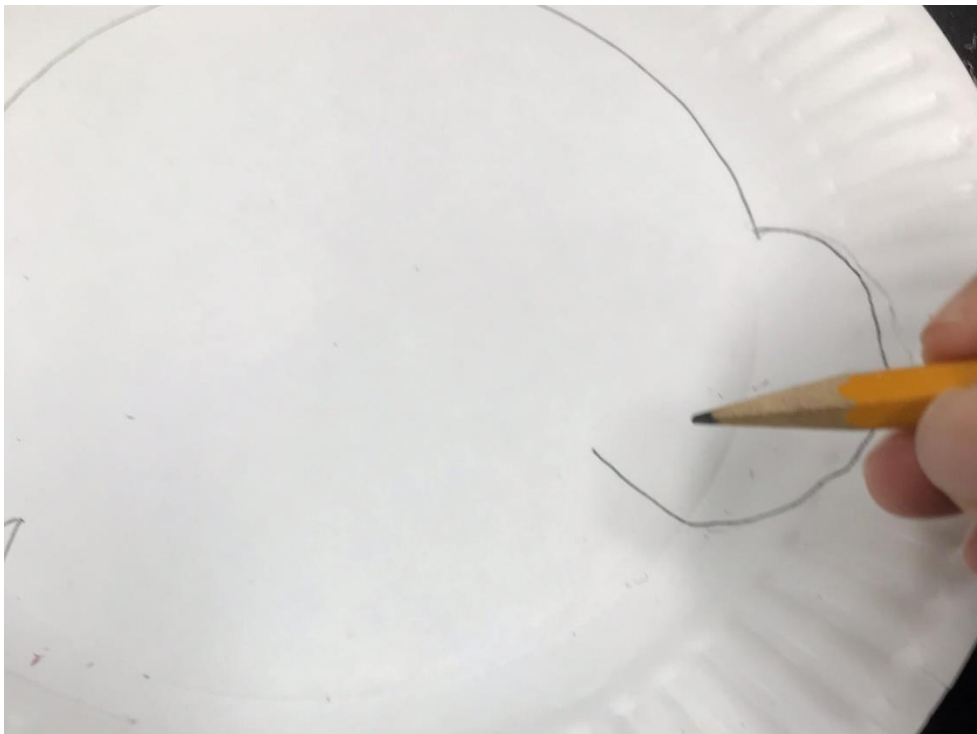
**Step Two:** Trace a half circle along the inner rim of the plate with your pencil.



**Step Three:** At each end of the half circle, draw two smaller half circles.

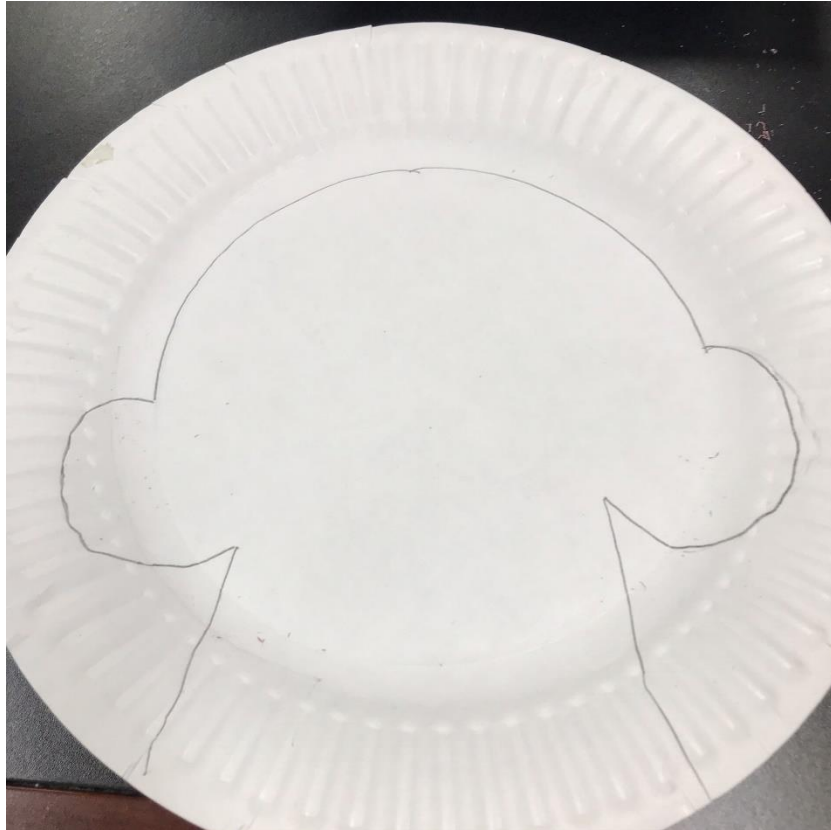


**Step Four:** With your pencil draw a line from the the lower end of the smaller half circles up toward the center of the plate by about an inch. Do this on both sides.



You have now created the Calavera's cheek bones!

**Step Five:** From the inner end of each cheek bone draw a line flaring out all the way to the bottom of the plate.

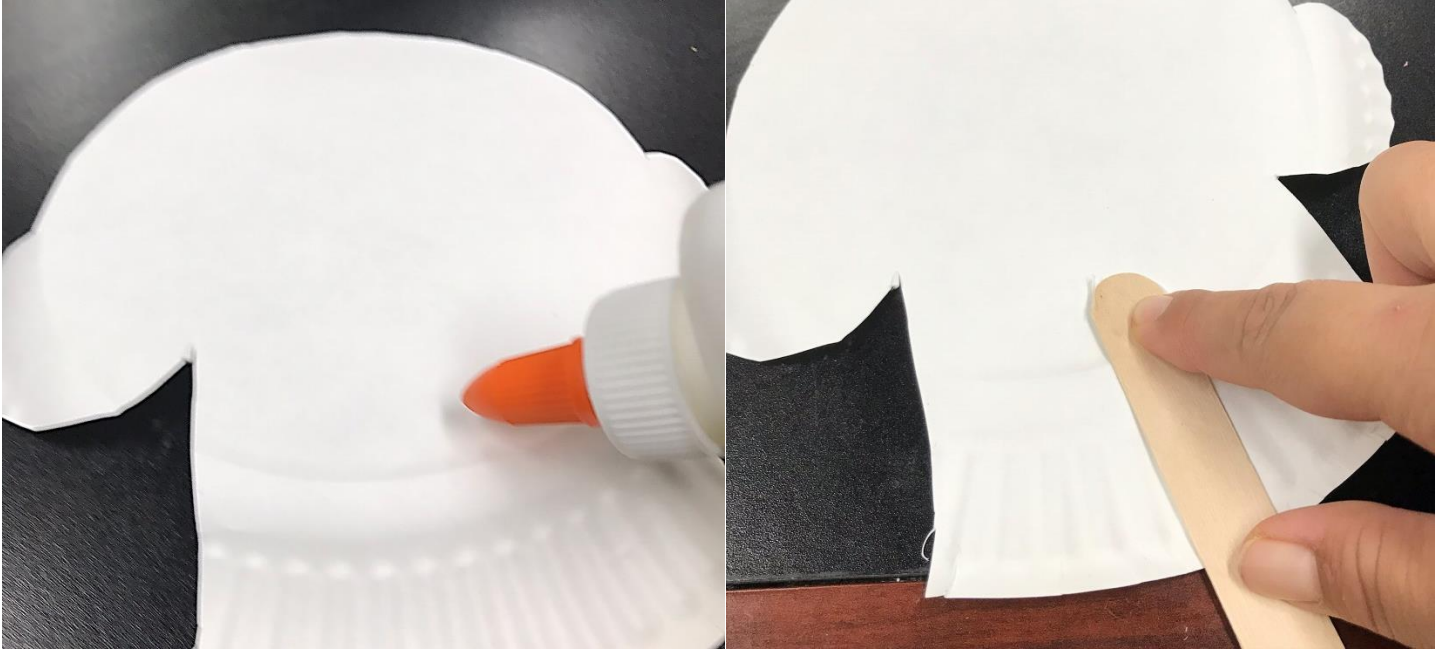


**Step Six:** With your scissors, carefully cut out the skull you have drawn.



*Hint: The ribbing on the plate creates the teeth of the Calavera!*

**Step Seven:** With your glue attach the popsicle stick to the back of the plate.



*Hint: Leave part of the stick below the end of the skull so you can hold it up like a mask!*

**Step Eight:** Turn the plate over and draw two large circles or ovals for the eyes.

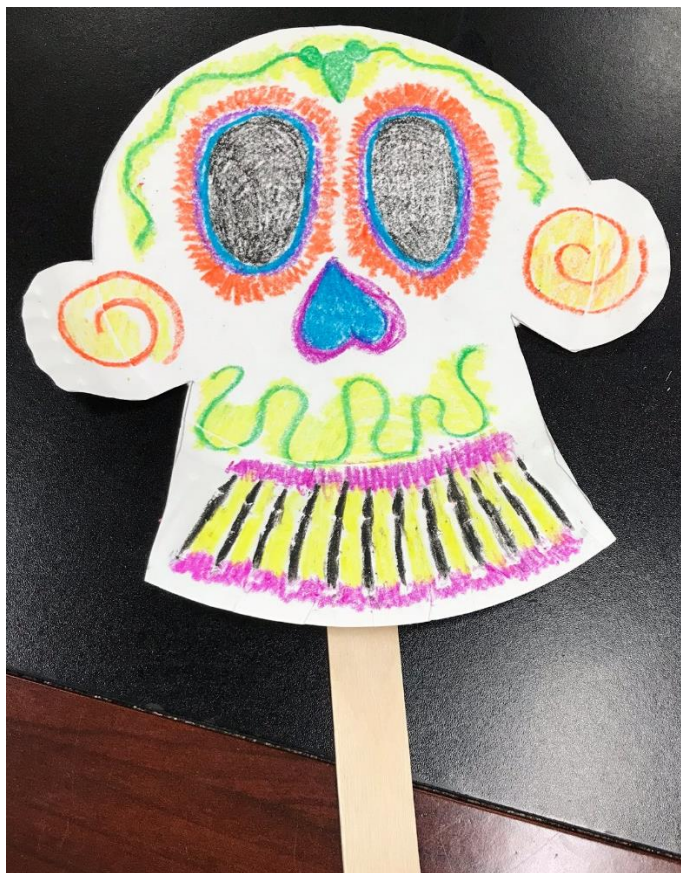


**Step Nine:** Draw an upside-down heart in the middle of the skull to make a nose. Trace some of the ribs on the plate to outline the teeth and color in the eyes.



*Hint: To make this step easier turn the skull upside down and draw the heart like you normally would.*

**Step Ten:** Decorate your skull with bright colors, shapes, swirls, and even flowers.



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