

Knowledge Organiser 2 Textiles

Mexican Day of the Dead



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Block colour



Gradient



Colour blend

PAPEL PICADO



Key Words and Definitions

Day of the Dead – a Mexican festival held on 1st & 2nd November every year to celebrate the lives of loved ones who have died. Activities and traditions vary depending on the local community. It is believed that the spirits of the dead visit the living during the celebration: angelitos (children) on 1st November; adults on 2nd November.

Calacas and calaveras – skeletons and skulls.

Altar – people create altars by gathering together photographs and mementos of loved ones, flowers, candles, and food. This is a place to remember the dead.

Papel Picado – paper cut into decorative designs is laid on tables and hung up like bunting.

Ofrenda – offerings are left for the dead at altars and graves. Ofrendas include things that would be missed in the afterlife, such as Bread of the Dead, fruit, sweets, cigarettes, coffee, and alcohol.

Sugar skulls – are moulded from a mixture of water and sugar. They are decorated with patterns, and sometimes people's names, in bright colours.

Marigold flowers – the vibrant colours and scents of the flowers guide spirits to their altars. Marigolds, or flowers in general, also represent the fragility of life.

Symbol – a sign understood as representing an idea, object, or relationship.

Tone/value – highlight, mid-tones, and shadow. Tone is applied to create the illusion of 3D form and depth.

Block colour – colour in a single tone, with no variation.

Gradient – a smooth transition from one tone to another.

Colour blend – a smooth transition from one colour to another.

Colour mix – combining at least two colours to achieve a new colour.

QUILTING

Patchwork and quilting are often mentioned in the same breath, as they are often combined in the same project, but they are two very different techniques.

Quilting is the sewing together of the three layers that make up a quilt – the top, the central wadding, and the backing. Stitches can be utilitarian – basic stab stitch – or worked in delicate patterns.



Appliqué

While it features elements of embroidery, this craft combines smaller pieces of fabric that are then sewn or glued onto a larger piece of fabric. Together, they form a pattern or picture. In this way, it's similar to collage; you are mixing patterns and fusing shapes to create compositions.

Appliqué can be completed on a sewing machine or by hand. Common embroidery stitches are used to adhere the multiple materials together, and they can add even more decorative accents to the work.



Hand Embroidery

Embroidery is the craft of decorating fabric or other materials using a needle to apply thread or yarn.

Embroidery may also incorporate other materials such as pearls, beads, quills, and sequins. In modern days, embroidery is usually seen on caps, hats, coats, blankets, dress shirts, denim, dresses, stockings, and golf shirts.

Some of the basic techniques or stitches of the earliest embroidery are chain stitch, buttonhole or blanket stitch, running stitch, satin stitch, cross stitch. Those stitches remain the fundamental techniques of hand embroidery today.



Block Printing

There are many different techniques, but it is essentially using a carved material covered in ink to transfer an image on to paper or fabric. Block printing can be done with wood, linoleum, rubber, or many other materials, but I use linoleum for my work.

Images that are printed with this technique are typically much bolder than other types of printmaking: since the blocks are carved by hand, there is often less detail and more texture to the prints.

Block printing is also known as "relief printing" because the ink leaves a raised texture on the paper; typically block printing is done by hand, so the ink sits on the surface adding a raised texture to the paper.

