



DÍA DE LOS

Muertos

TEACHER PACKET

Welcome

Teachers and Parents

azcentral.com is proud to offer this education packet as part of our Dia de los Muertos site.

Wherever you go in the Latin world on Nov. 1-2, All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, you'll find Dia de los Muertos festivals full of music, color and food – celebrations that are meant to honor the dead with the things they enjoyed in life.

In the U.S., we often first learn about Dia de los Muertos through the art, the skulls and skeletons, and its association with Halloween.

Our goal is to help you learn more about this tradition through articles, original art and projects like the ones that you will find in this packet. We hope this information, and the website, will help enrich young minds, as well as your own.

INSIDE THIS PACKET



Word
search
game
pg. 04



Mix and
match
puzzle
pg. 05



Coloring
pages
pg. 06



Papel
picado
lesson plan
pg. 12



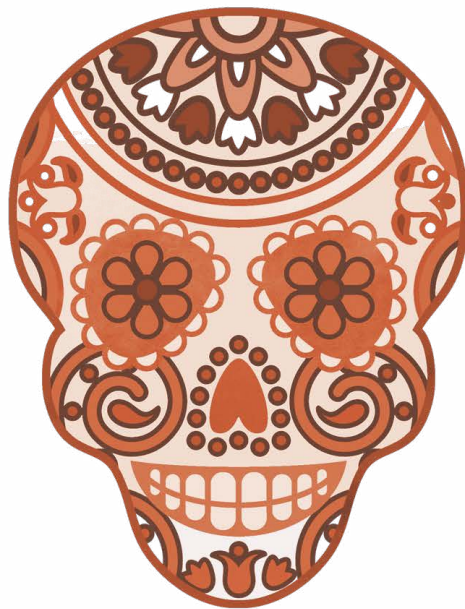
Calavera
mask
project
pg. 18



Skeleton
puppet
project
pg. 20

CAN'T GET ENOUGH

DÍA DE LOS
Muertos?



Find recipes, crafts and more at

dayofthedead.azcentral.com



Word Search

Find these words in the grid above. Keep in mind that the words may be hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally or backwards.

P A P E L P I C A D O C W
A L T R E P I Ñ A T A D M
N T Z A R A P E Í N X R A
D A Y O F T H E D E A D R
E R I F U L A L K U C L I
M E M R A R E V A L A C A
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R T W D E D K Q R H E C I
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O L Z B Q N C E R A S R Y
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G G E E Á O B S J W Q N K
R N P M K C O P A L U E L
M A R I G O L D M R E S N

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 1. ofrenda | 8. copal | 15. Oaxaca |
| 2. papel picado | 9. ceras | 16. angelitos |
| 3. piñata | 10. calavera | 17. mole |
| 4. altar | 11. cascarones | 18. máscara |
| 5. day of the dead | 12. candles | 19. dulces |
| 6. calaca | 13. marigold | 20. mariachis |
| 7. zarape | 14. pan de muerto | |



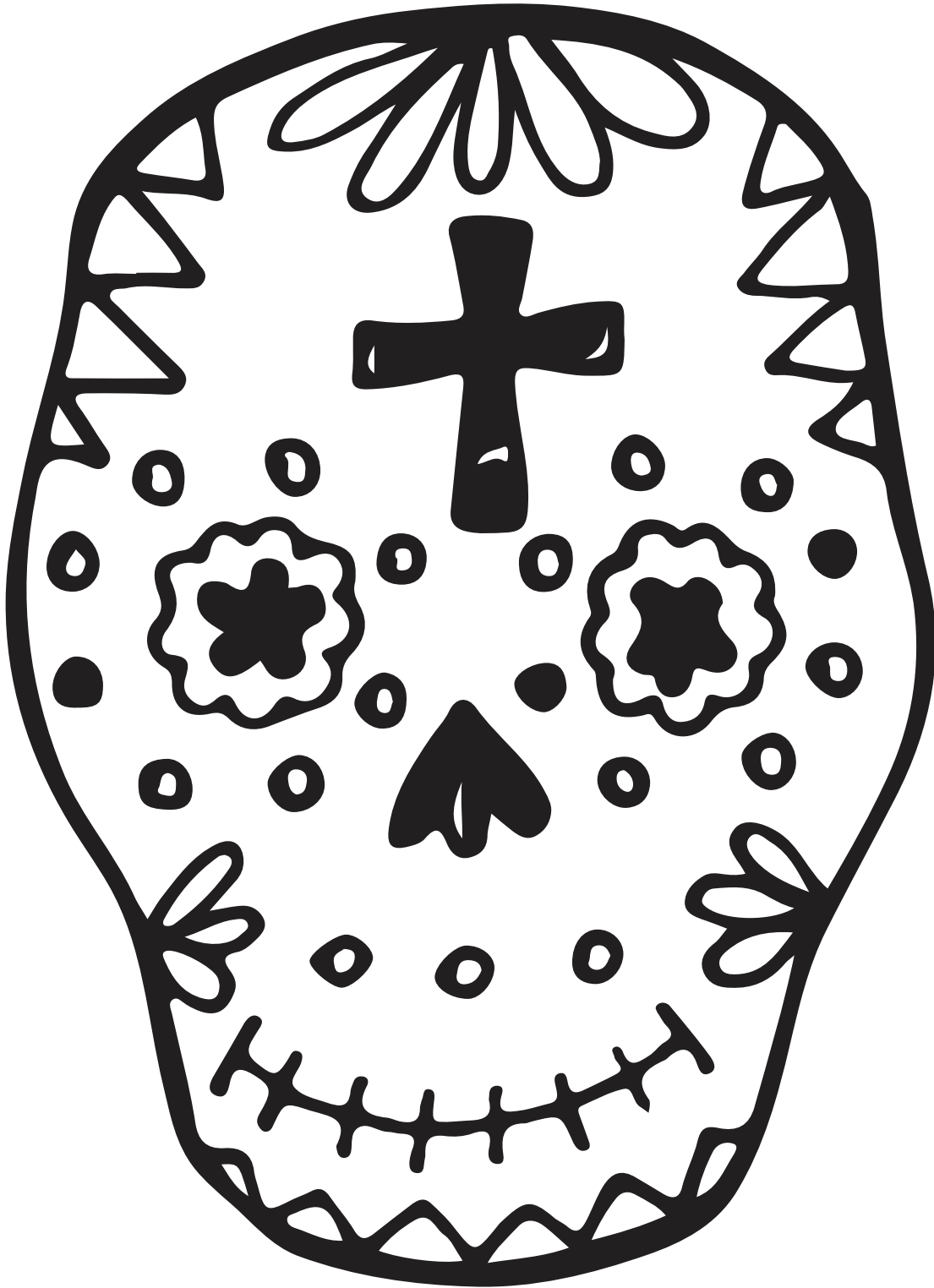
Mix and Match

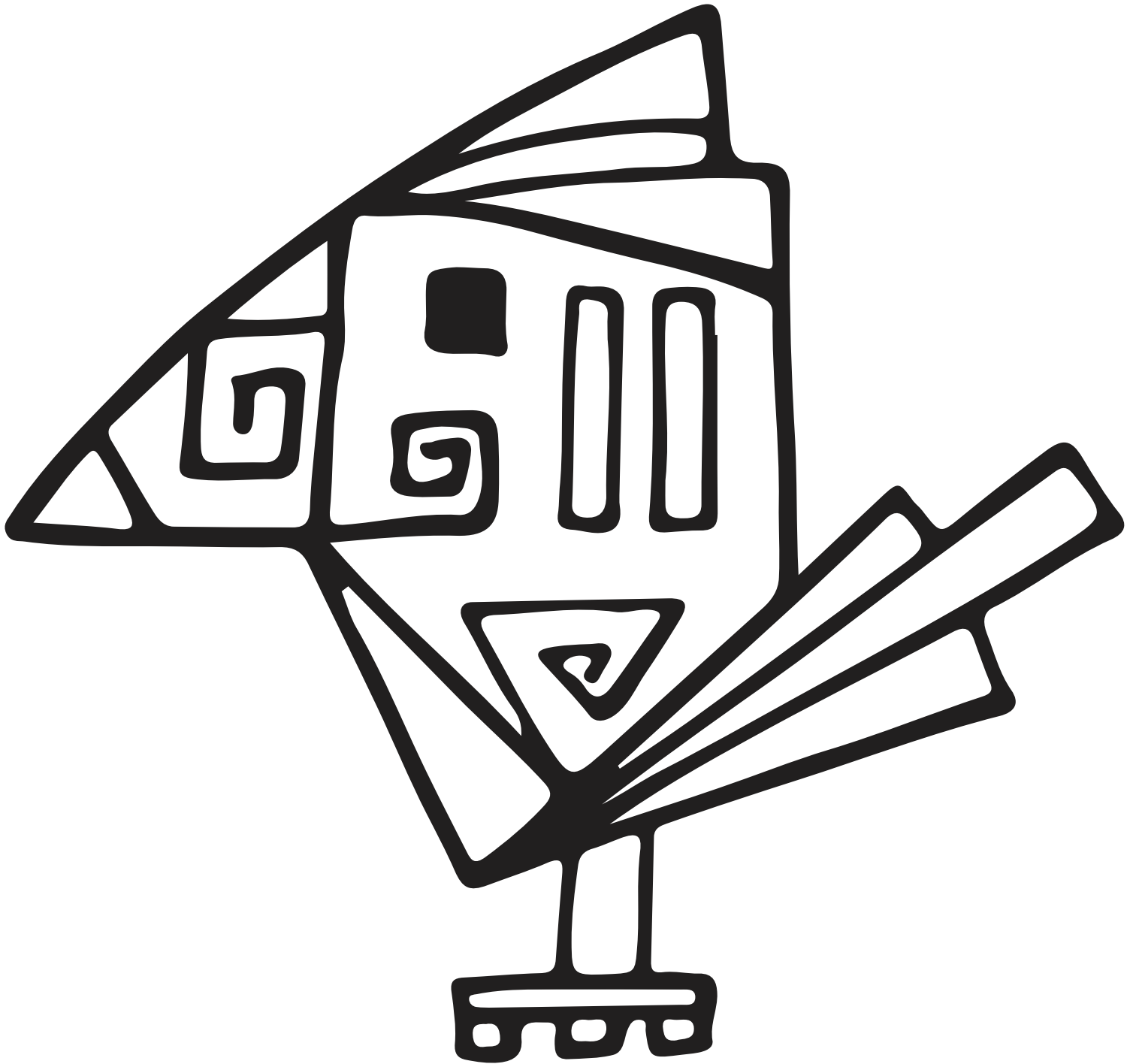
Match the following vocabulary words to their definitions.

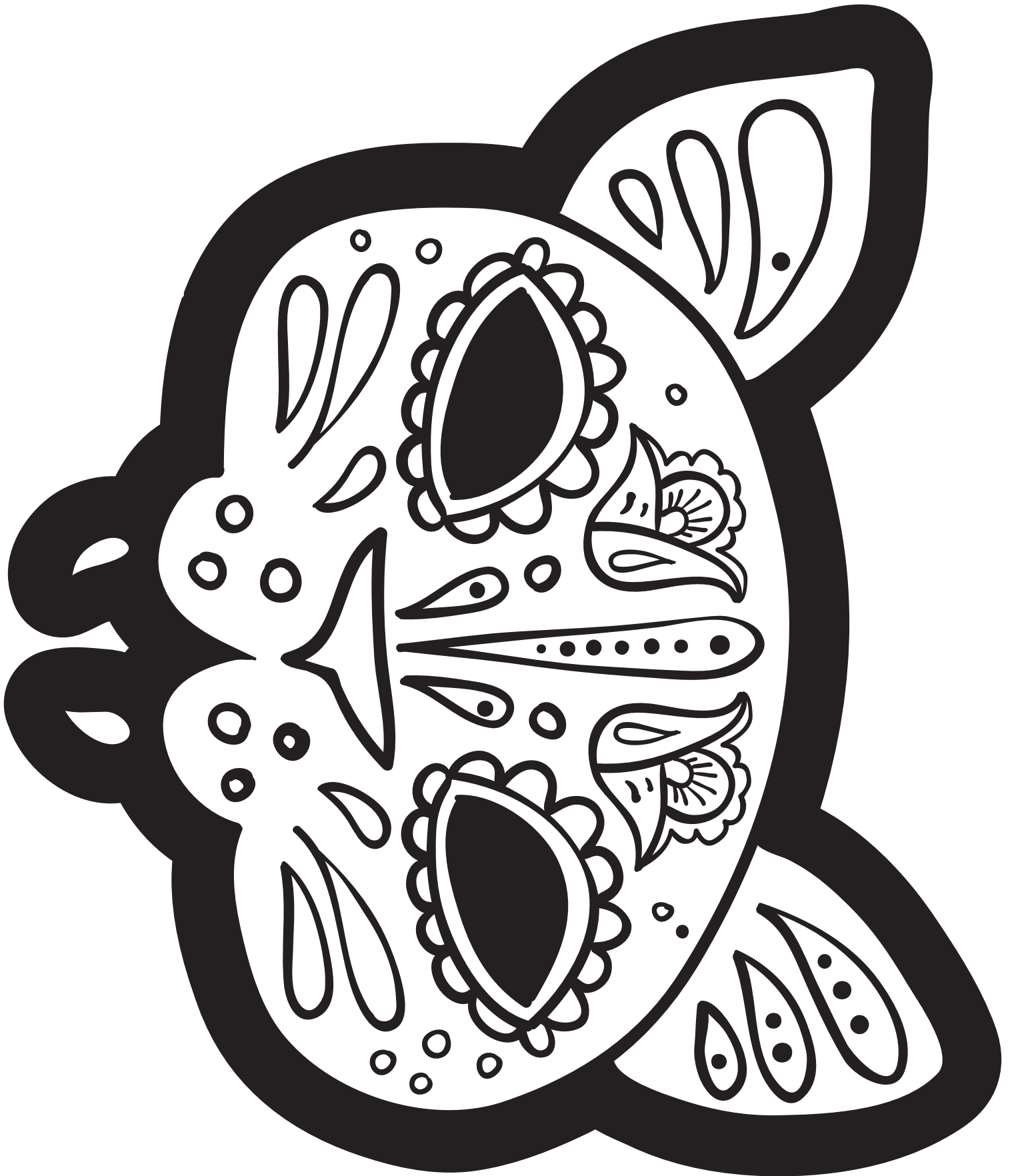
- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Ofrenda | A. Yellow marigolds that are symbols of death |
| 2. Pan de Muerto | B. The art of Mexican paper cutting |
| 3. Cempazuchitl | C. Burning incense left at altars |
| 4. Calaca | D. Offerings to honor the dead |
| 5. Alfeniques | E. Day of the Dead |
| 6. Cascarones | F. Illustrator whose satirical drawing 'La Catrina' is one of the most recognizable figures of Day of the Dead |
| 7. Papel Picado | G. Bread of the dead |
| 8. Copal | H. Festive egg shells that are filled with confetti and trimmed in glitter |
| 9. Dia de los Muertos | I. Poems and songs written about the festival |
| 10. Angelitos | J. Whimsical skeleton figure that represents death |
| 11. Calaveras | K. Colorful iced sugar skulls |
| 12. Jose Guadalupe Posada | L. Souls of children who have died |

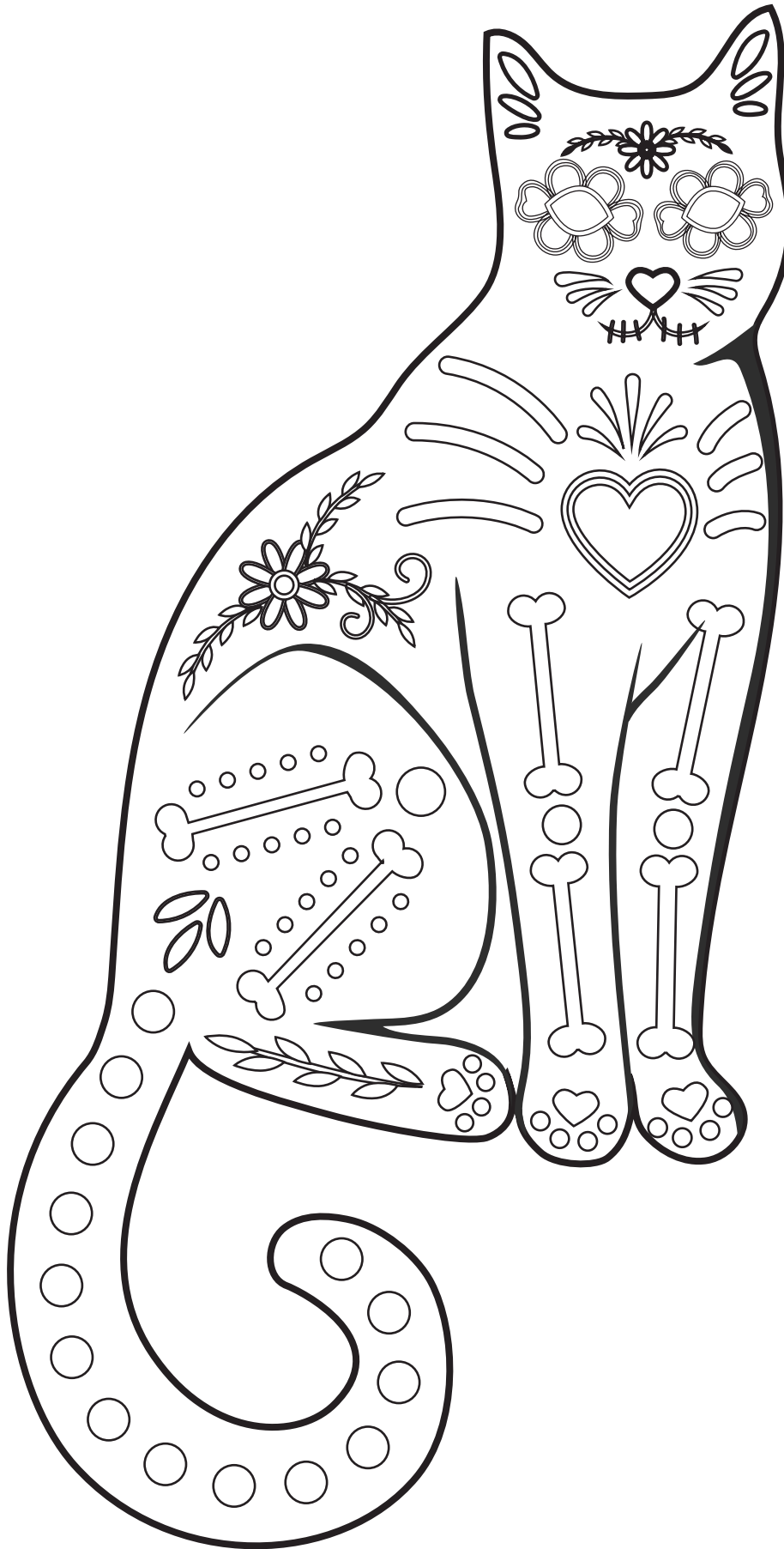


Coloring Pages















Papel Picado lesson

This lesson was developed for students in grades 3-12. The complexity of the lesson can be increased to accommodate different age levels.

NATIONAL VISUAL ARTS STANDARDS ADDRESSED

- Understanding visual arts in relation to history and culture
- Understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes
- Use knowledge of structures and functions
- Reflecting upon and assessing the characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others

STUDENT OBJECTIVES

- Understand the role of papel picados in Day of the Dead celebrations
- Recognize and identify papel picados
- Describe and analyze the visual qualities of papel picados
- Use positive and negative space to create a cut-paper composition
- Use symmetry, repetition, and pattern in a cut-paper composition

MATERIALS

- Colored sheets of tissue paper 11" x 14" size (one per student)
- Scissors
- String or yarn
- Glue

VOCABULARY

- Amate paper
- Fierritos
- Geometric shape
- Negative space
- Otomi
- Papel picado
- Patron
- Pattern
- Positive space
- Puebla, Mexico
- Repetition
- Symmetry



INTRODUCTION AND DISCUSSION

Display sample papel picados. Introduce the following information to your students. Compare and contrast paper-cutting techniques found in other cultures if time and resources permit.

THE HISTORY

Colorful paper banners, called papel picado (Spanish for “perforated paper”), can be found hanging about the streets during any Mexican fiesta or celebration. Usually made of tissue paper but sometimes of more durable plastic, the banners are hung together like a string of flags.

For Dia de los Muertos, the designs feature skeletons, skulls, crosses and tombstones. Some artists create intricate designs that take many hours to make. Because of their fragility and the time spent creating them, cut-paper banners are themselves symbols of the transitory quality of life.

The tradition of papel picado can be traced to pre-Columbian times when papermaking thrived throughout Mesoamerica. Amate, paper made from

bark, was used to make a rich brown or beige paper. Cut-paper figures used in ceremonies were created to represent any number of human and animal spirits. Today, members of the Otomi, a group of indigenous people, who live in the village of San Pablito continue to make cut-paper figures from their handmade amate paper.

However, most of the banners created throughout Mexico today are made with tissue paper or plastic. The designs are cut with a hammer and sharp chisels called fierritos. As many as 50 layers of colored tissue paper can be cut at one time. To guide the cutting, a patron or pattern is placed on top of a stack of tissue paper. Some of the best papel picado is made in the small village of San Salvador Huixcolotla in Puebla, Mexico, where artists work to create paper and plastic decorations for Dia de los Muertos, Mexican Independence Day and Christmas.

The tradition of making such designs is practiced in many cultures throughout the world. Some of the more famous techniques include the German scherenschnitte, Polish wycinanki, Chinese hua yang, Japanese kirigami, and French silhouettes.



INSTRUCTIONS

Introduce or review the concepts of positive and negative space, repetition and pattern if needed. Check for your students' understanding of the concepts.

Demonstrate, if needed, how to cut paper with repetitive designs by taking a piece of colored tissue paper and folding it accordion style from the bottom up, making about 3-4 folds. Leave one inch at the top of the tissue paper to attach a string. Using scissors, cut a series of repeating shapes from the folded edges of the tissue. Unfold. Flatten the tissue paper on the table. If possible, iron to remove the folds.

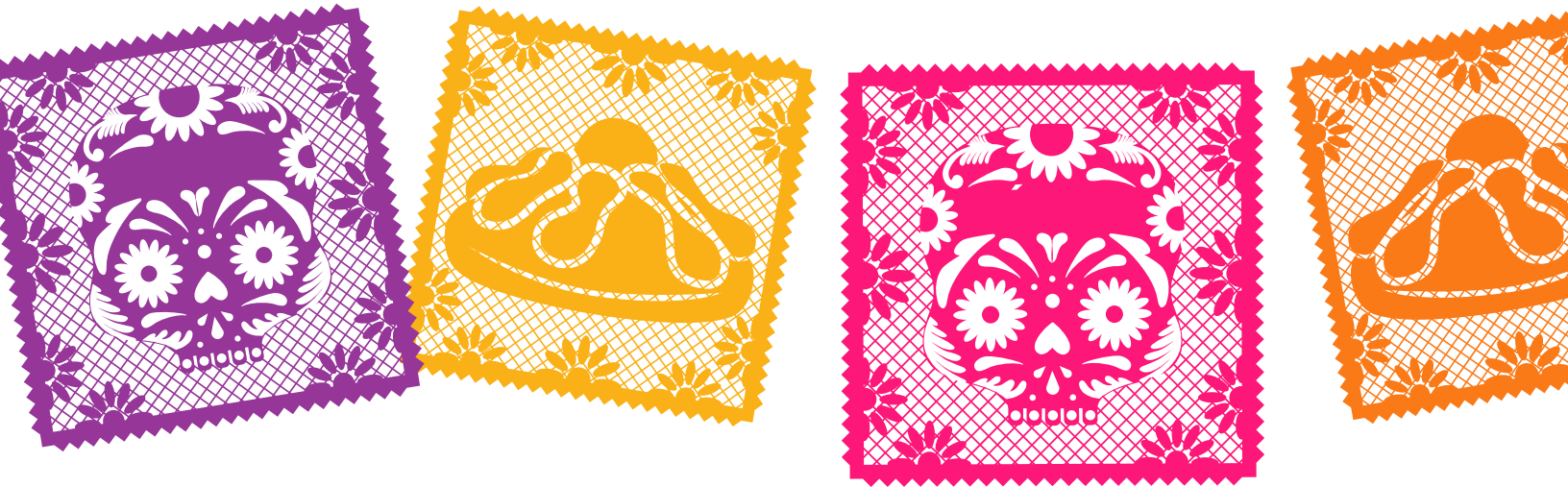
Have the students make their own:

Fold a rectangular piece of paper in half. In pencil, sketch one half of a design on one of the folded halves. Rulers may be used

to divide the paper into grids or sections. Objects or designs must touch and connect to other areas of the paper as they form the positive shapes on the paper. Negative areas to be cut away may be shaded in pencil to aid in cutting. To create more complex designs, fold the paper more than once.

Use scissors or a craft knife to carefully cut away the shaded, negative areas of the design (cut over cardboard if using craft knives). Open, flatten and iron if possible.

To prepare for hanging, lay the end of a long piece of yarn or string horizontally across the top of the paper where you had previously reserved one inch of paper. Fold the edge of the paper over the string to create a 1/2 inch flap. Glue the edge of the flap down with the string under the fold. Very little glue is needed to achieve a strong hold. Glue sticks



can be used to avoid using too much glue.

Important: If you want each student to contribute a design to create a banner, cut your string long enough to hold all of their tissue cutouts. Plan to allow one inch between sheets of paper as you add them to the string. Leave several inches at both ends to hang the completed banner in the hallway or across the ceiling of your classroom. Hang the banner high enough to keep curious hands from damaging the finished work.

ASSESSMENT

Introduce or review the concepts of positive and negative space, repetition and pattern if needed. Check for your students' understanding of the concepts.

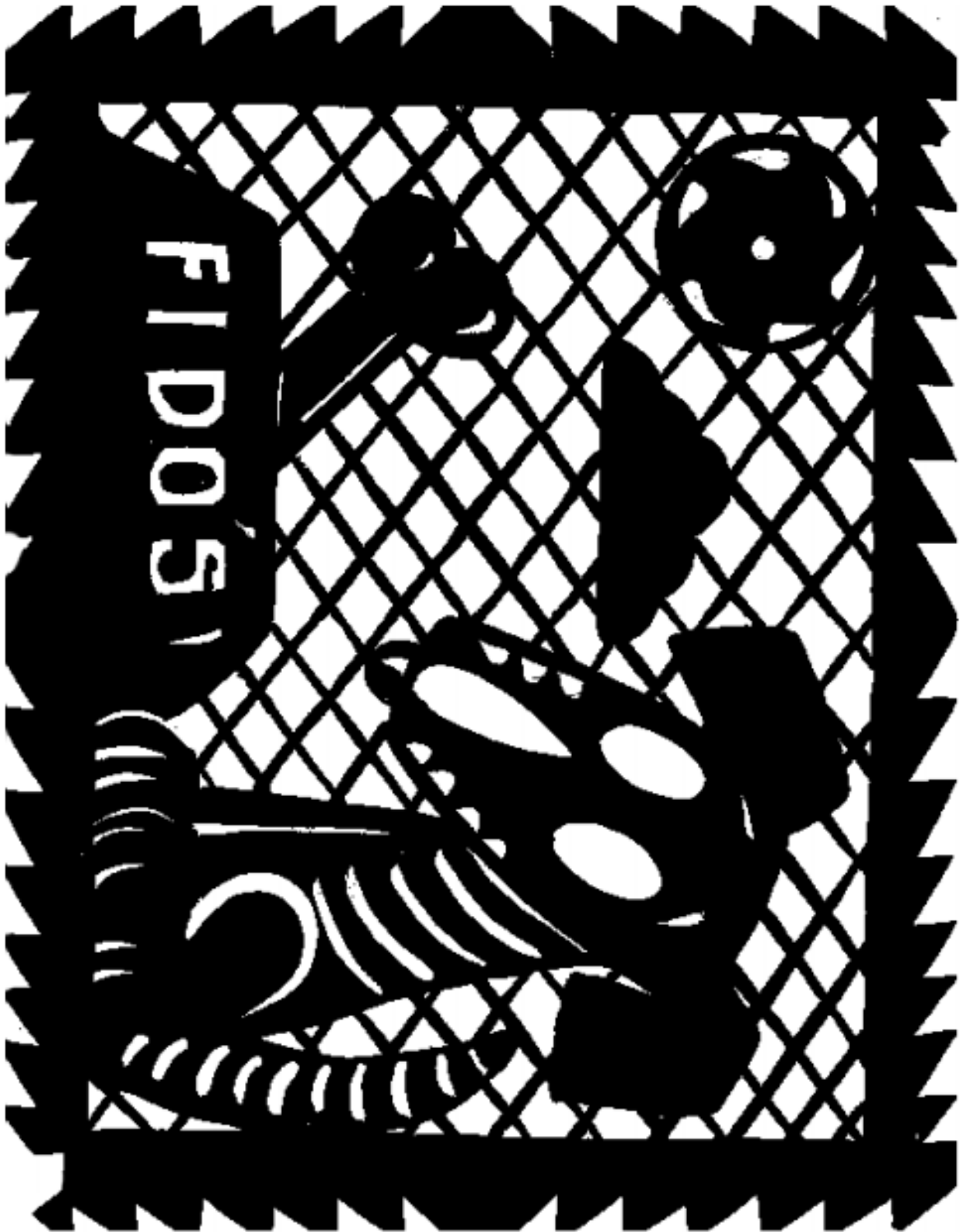
Demonstrate, if needed, how to cut paper with repetitive designs by taking a piece of

colored egies can be used to involve your students in assessment, including group discussions, verbal or written presentations, and games.

Based on the objectives of the cut-paper design lesson, the following content areas could be addressed:

- Demonstration of understanding of the role of the papel picados in the Day of the Dead celebration
- Recognition and identification of papel picados
- Description and analysis of the visual qualities of papel picados
- Description of the tools, materials and techniques used to make the papel picados
- Identification of positive and negative space
- Use of symmetry

Source: CRIZMAC Art and Cultural Education Materials (free resources)



DIRECTIONS: Cut out white areas very carefully.





Make your own calavera mask

INSTRUCTIONS

Print out the calavera mask. Cut out the eyes. Color and decorate with glitter, paints, feathers etc. Let dry and punch two holes (one on either side of the skull above the cheek bone).

Tie an 8-12 inch piece of string or yarn through each hole.

Now you have a mask you can tie around your face, just above your ears.

MATERIALS

- crayons
- paint
- markers
- scissors
- string or yarn
- paper punch
- glue
- glitter,
- buttons,
- tissue paper,
- feathers etc.





Make a Skeleton Puppet

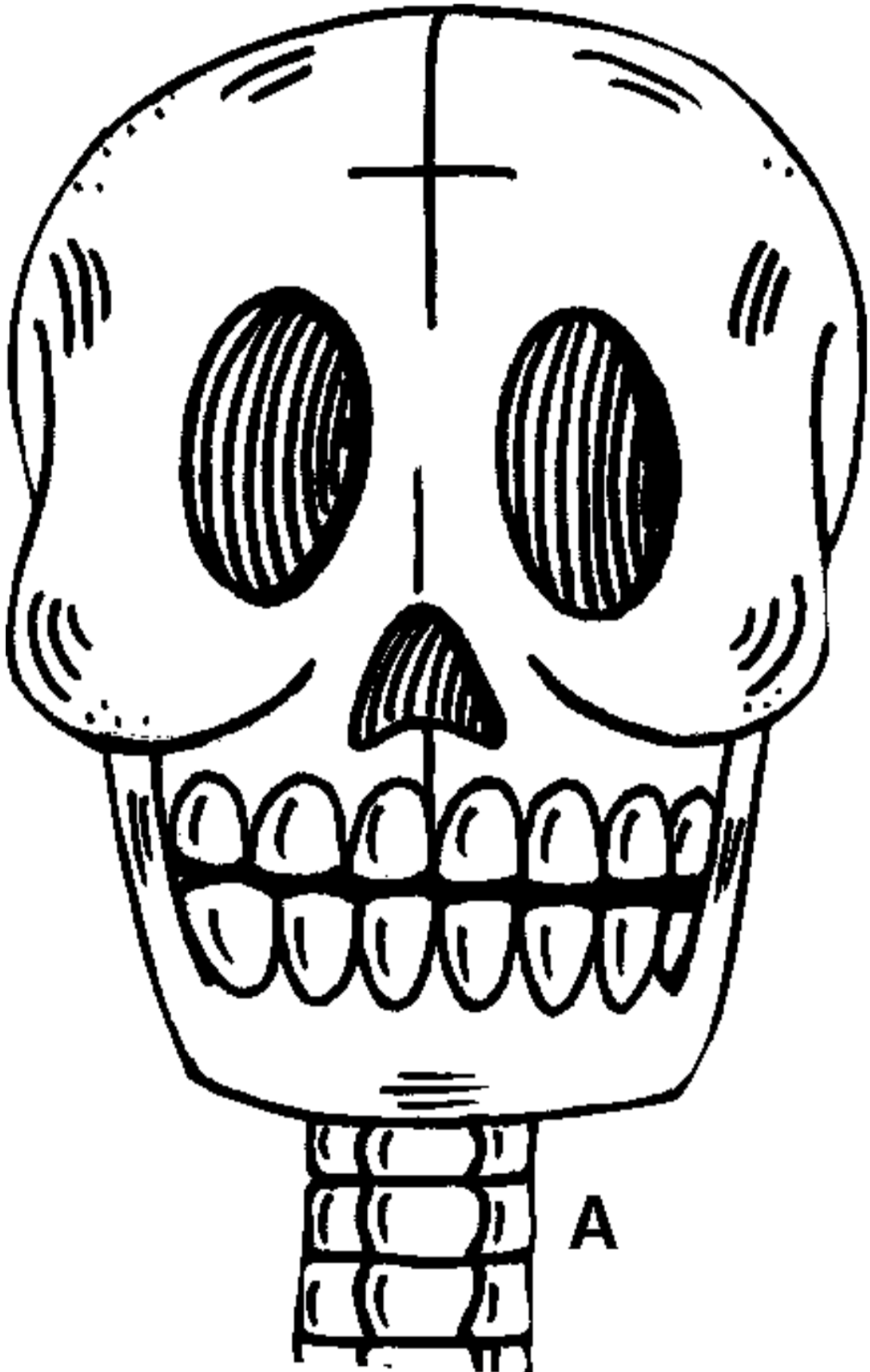
INSTRUCTIONS

Print out the skeleton parts. Punch holes in the bones next to the letters (each leg and arm bone will have a hole at either end etc.). Cut out all of the parts. Color and decorate with glitter, paints, feathers, etc. as you like. Let dry and tie bones together so that the letters match (string will go through both B holes and both C holes for example.)

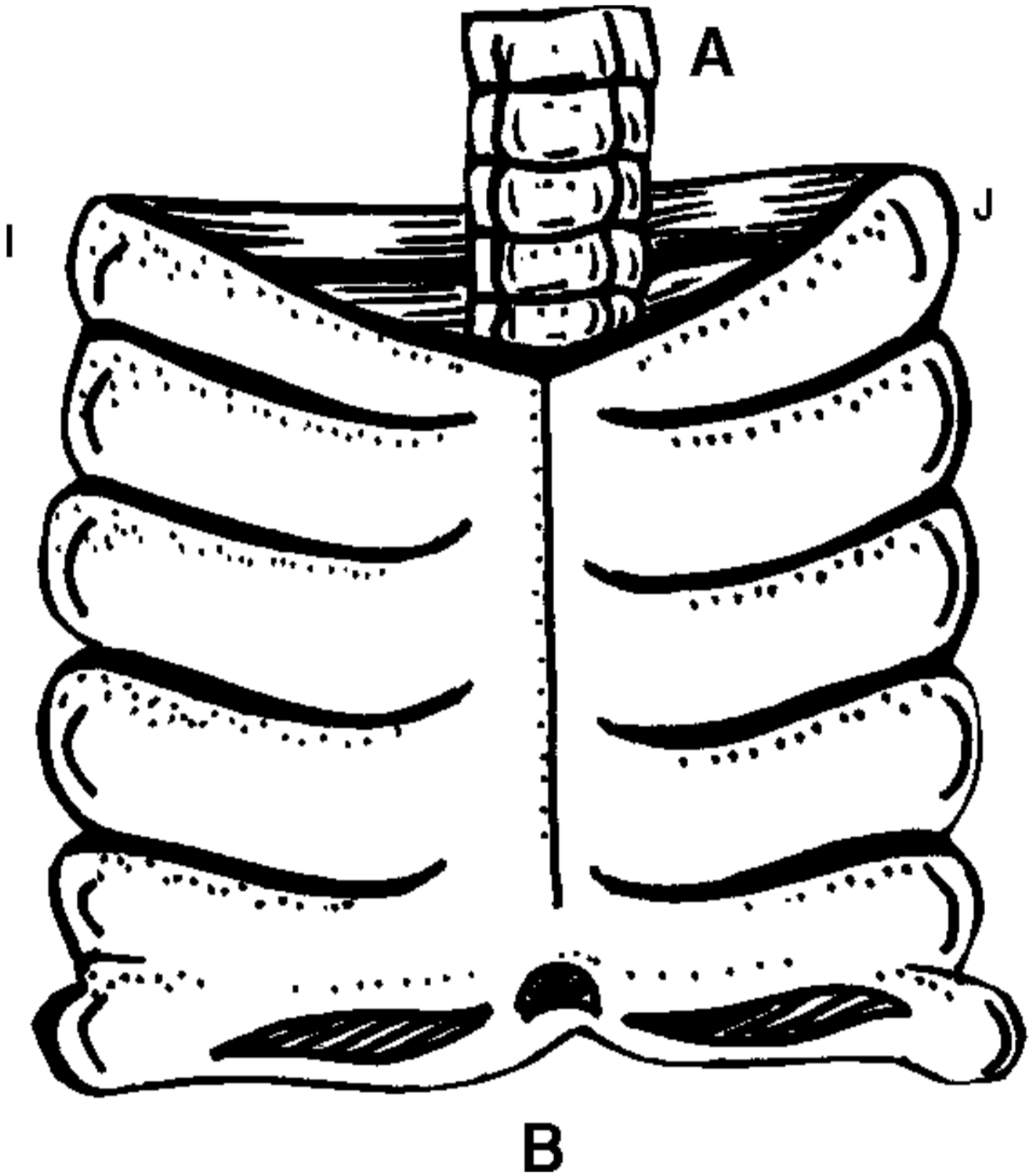
Once the skeleton is assembled, you can move him about as you like.

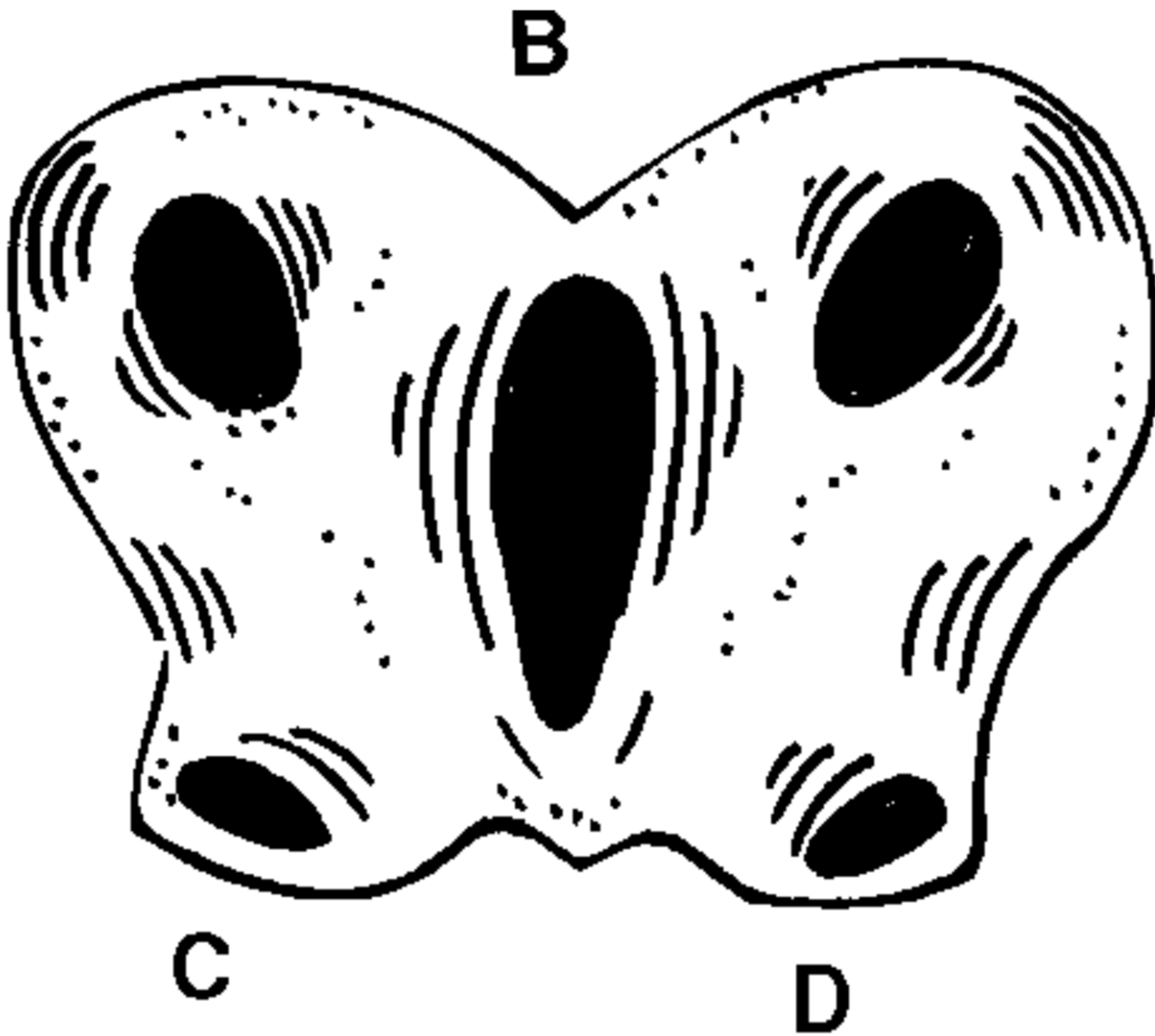
MATERIALS

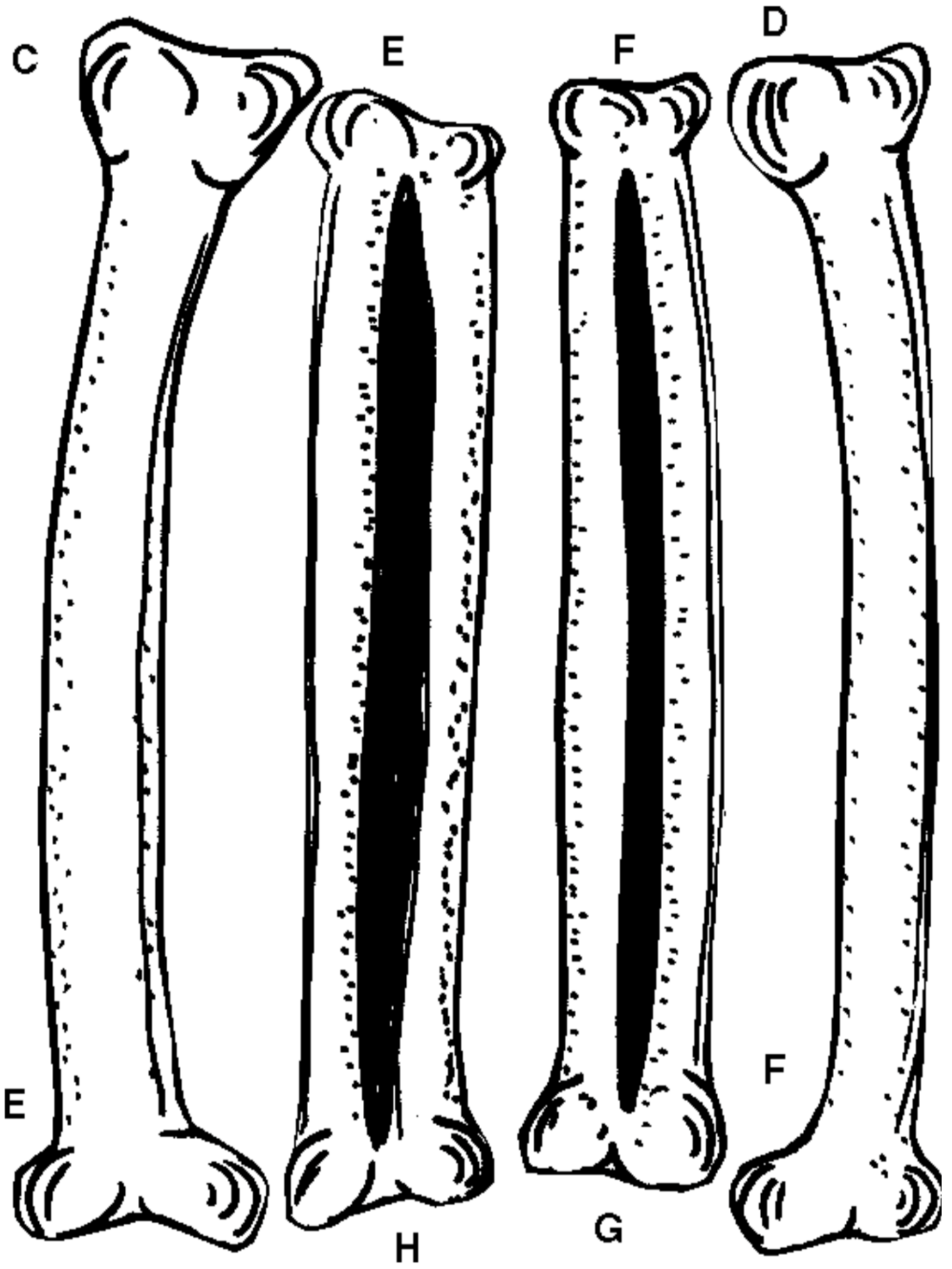
- crayons
- paint
- markers
- scissors
- string or yarn
- paper punch
- glue
- glitter,
- buttons,
- tissue paper,
- feathers etc.

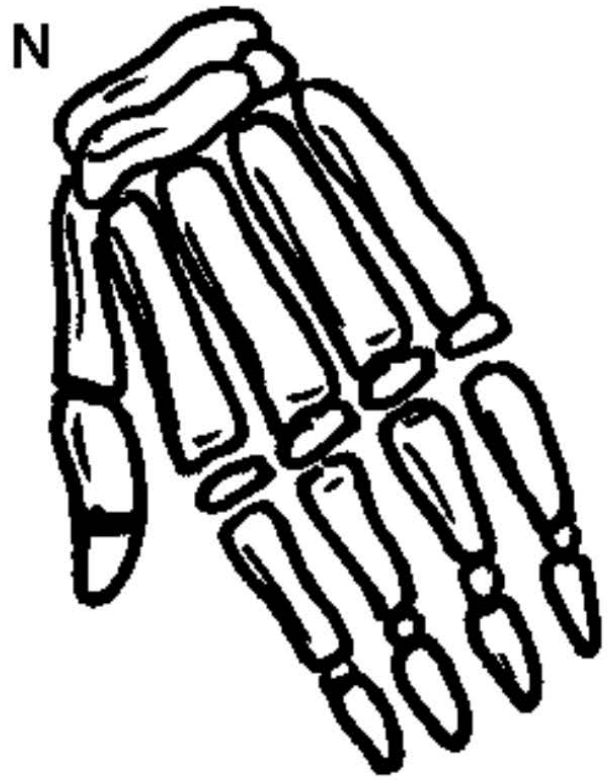
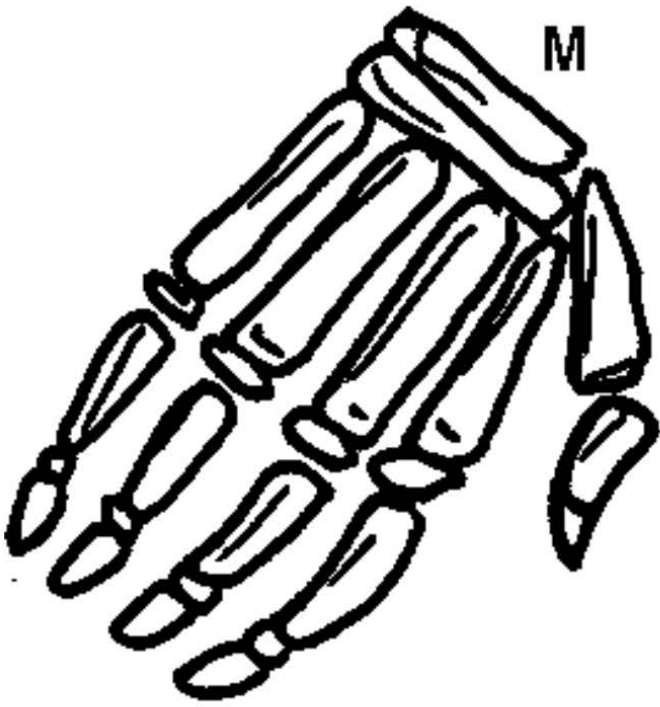


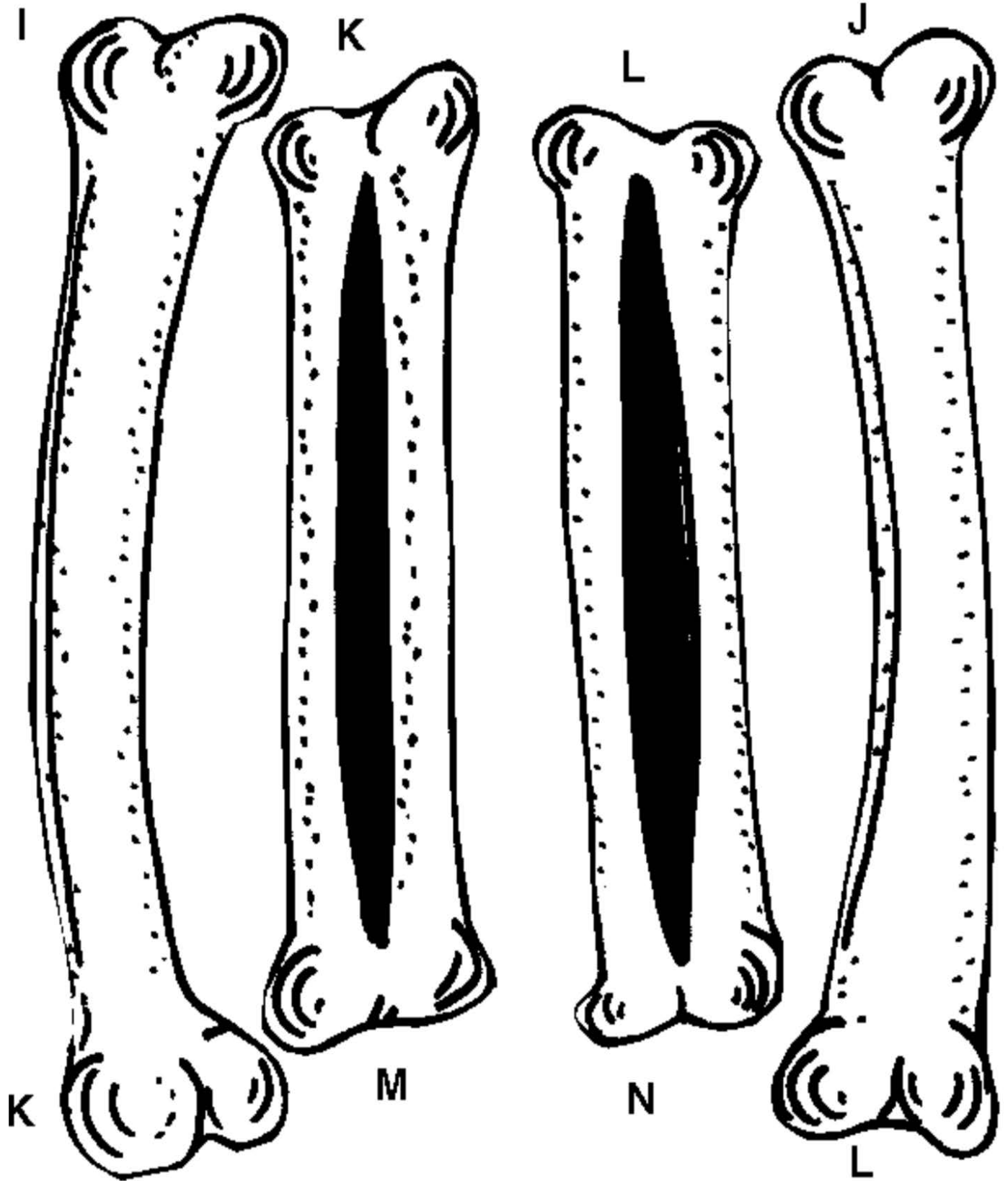
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