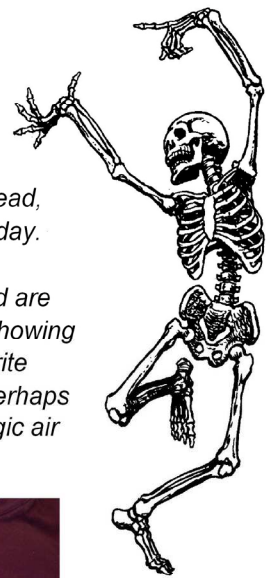
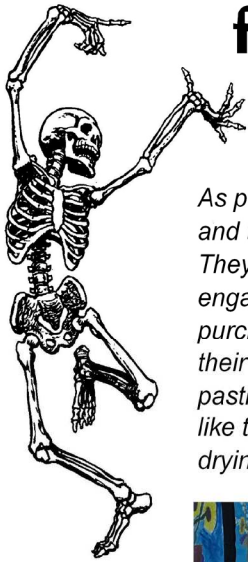


Calacas -- Skeleton Figurines for the Mexican Days of the Dead

8th grade multicultural integrated language arts/art class
Heritage Middle School, Westerville OH, November 2003



As part of their Hispanic Culture unit students learned about the Mexican Days of the Dead, and the misconceptions many Americans have about the meaning of this important holiday. They each were to create their own miniature calacas -- scenes using skeleton figures engaged in everyday activities. In Mexico these are often whimsical and humorous, and are purchased to place on family altars to remind people of loved ones who have died, by showing their occupations or hobbies. Students were to model their scene, if possible, on a favorite pastime of a relative who had died, or on a favorite hobby of their own (as they would perhaps like to be remembered). The skeleton figures were made from white Crayola Model Magic air drying foam clay, decorated with markers, paints and objects brought in from home.



It took students some getting used to working on such a small scale, (3 1/2" x 5" boxes) but the results were worth the effort!

Hyla Skudder -- Guest Artist





Calacas - Skeleton Figurines
 For the Mexican Days of the Dead

The hand crafted skeletons are funny and friendly rather than frightening or spooky. They represent the beloved dead ones, their occupations and hobbies. As they are placed on the family altar, the deceased skeletons figure bring back food memories and cause the living ones to smile. The figures, along with the sounds of Mexican music, and the glow of candles, help the spirits find the right house, as they come for a final and happy moment on November 1 and 2 during the Mexican festival of the Days of the Dead.

Calacas figurines were made by students in the 8th grade multicultural integrated language art/Art class
 Mrs. Chiswick, Mrs. Pettit, Mrs. Purley, Mrs. Sautter

Calacas were made by the following students:

William Castellano	William Beckley	Andrew Rogers	Alan Diaz
Adrian Lopez	Willy Diaz	Ben Rodriguez	Stephany Lopez
Christopher Lopez	Willy Rodriguez	Christopher Rodriguez	Angela Rodriguez
Antonio Olvera	Lucy Sanchez	Alan Rodriguez	Ben Diaz
		Ben Diaz	Ben Diaz