



Lesson: Creating your own Mexican Serape

Artform: Visual Art and Culture

Skill Level: Medium

Teaching Artist: Myrna Meeroff

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Introduce the culture of Mexico through one traditional instrument.

- Students will explore Mexican culture through its traditional dress.
- Students will create their own Mexican Serape.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Mexico is located in North America, South of the United States Border. Mexico was originally populated by four ancient cultures: Olmec, Toltec, Aztec and Maya. Spain conquered the Aztec Empire in 1521 and renamed the country Mexico. Most Mexican are mestizos, which means that have Spanish and native Indian ancestors. Mexicans revere their ancestors and celebrate them on Day of the Dead, which is a holiday that happens around Halloween. It is celebrated with a parade where the participants wear skeleton masks and gloves and eat pan de muertos, a bread with sugar on top.

A serape is a Mexican poncho, a sleeveless jacket. It originates with the Aztec culture. It was designed for nomadic living, which means constantly moving around rather than having a home. It serves like a blanket or like a jacket depending on need.

They are usually colorful so make sure you add lots of color to yours!

MATERIALS

Version 1 Paper bag version

- Large grocery store brown paper bag
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons to decorate

MATERIALS

Version 2 pillowcase version

- Old pillowcase
- Scissors (fabric scissors if possible)
- Markers to decorate (optional)

ACTIVITIES

1. Open the bag as if you are going to fill it with groceries, making sure the bottom piece is flat.
2. Lie the bag down on a flat surface so that the open part of the bag is facing you and the wider side is down.
3. Cut off the sides of the bag by cutting up one seam to the bottom of the bag and cutting up the other seam. See example below.
4. Repeat on the other side.
5. Refold the bag so it falls evenly on both

ACTIVITIES

1. Lie the pillowcase flat on a hard surface.
2. Cut up the sides of the pillowcase all the way to the top.
3. Cut a small semi-circle at the top of the pillowcase for the head
4. Try it on and if the head doesn't fit, make the semi-circle a little larger.
5. Decorate with markers (optional)
6. Use lots of colors to make it festive!

sides.

6. Cut a small semi-circle in the folded over part of the bag for the head.
7. Test out the size of the hole and if it doesn't fit, try a larger semi-circle.
8. Decorate with crayons or markers.
9. Use lots of colors to make it festive!

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR INCLUDING ALL CHILDREN

- Have some larger crayons for those with motor issues
- Can use hand over hand for those with motor issues or provide handles such as a tennis ball with a slit in it where you can put a crayon for an easy grip on it
- Have an extra paper bag in case one is ripped or torn in the process.
- Use hand over hand for cutting if necessary.

Cutting the paper bag



1. Cut up side seam to bottom of bag as shown here.

2. Then cut other side seam to bottom of bag

3. Repeat on other side. Then remove bottom of bag



Example of a colorful Serape



Fold and cup the hole for the head

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