

Birds have no borders.
George Ancona



Barrio: Jose's Neighborhood
George Ancona
Harcourt Brace & Company 1998

Grade Levels

K-4

Curriculum Areas

Spanish and English Language • Art • Social Studies

National Art Education Standards
NA-VA.4 UNDERSTAND THE VISUAL ARTS IN RELATION TO HISTORY AND CULTURES
Grades K–4

Students know that the visual arts have both a history and specific relationship to various cultures.

Students identify specific works of art as belonging to particular cultures, times, and places.

Students demonstrate how history, culture, and the visual arts can influence each other in making and studying works of art.

National Language Arts Standards
NL-ENG.K-12.7 EVALUATING DATA
Students conduct research on issues and interests by generating ideas and questions, and by posing problems.

They gather, evaluate, and synthesize data from a variety of sources [e.g., print and non-print texts, and artifacts].

NL-ENG.K-12.8
DEVELOPING RESEARCH SKILLS
Students use a variety of technological and information resources (e.g., libraries, databases, computer networks, video) to gather and synthesize information and to create and communicate knowledge.

National Social Studies Standards
NSS-G.K-12.2 PLACES AND REGIONS
Students should understand how culture and experience influence people's perceptions of places and regions.

Objectives
Explore Mexican American culture, history, and contemporary society.

To draw upon library resources, multimedia and the Internet to develop research skills.

To introduce to students that murals may draw upon the influences of other cultures.

To provide an entrance into the world of Mexican celebrations.

To gain knowledge of literature, art and history of the Mexican culture.

Overview
The Mission District of San Francisco is home to young José Luis, an active, curious member of his Latino family and community. Through the artful use of photographic compositions, color, and point of view, and through clear, fluid prose, Ancona shows the reader José's daily interests and pathways through El barrio. At the same time we see his community's history, hopes, and gatherings through the images of people of the Americas who have shaped the lives of today's community. In murals, we see Rigoberta Menchú Tum, César Chávez, children, and refugees embellished with messages of strength and freedom; we see teachers assisting children and artists leading families in song and play. Across the pages, Ancona shows readers the abiding commitment to a place and its people that makes El barrio, and every community, home.

INTERNET EXERCISE #1



Mission District of San Francisco
Mission Dolores Website

Mission Basilica San Francisco de Asís, also known as Mission Dolores, was founded on October 9, 1776. It was the sixth California mission, founded by Father Francisco Palou. It is located in San Francisco, and received the name Mission Dolores from the *Arroyo de los Dolores*, a nearby stream. It was named for St. Francis of Assisi, the founder of the Franciscan Order. The buildings have remained relatively unchanged since their construction in 1782.

After the California Gold Rush began in 1848, the city of San Francisco had grown tremendously. There were saloons and two racetracks on the mission property. During the 1906 earthquake, the basilica next to the mission church fell and was destroyed, but the Mission San Francisco de Asís remained unharmed.

The mission is still an active church in the city of San Francisco. Many people attend services in the mission church and even more attend mass in the basilica next door. The mission is open to visitors. The Mission District is now the name of the San Francisco neighborhood adjacent to church.

California has 21 Missions. Every one of the California missions tells a story about the history of California.

Research on the Internet what the other Missions are and where they are located.

Activity

The Looking Exercise #1 will provide an introduction to the murals painted by refugees. Very often, immigrants living in the barrio are refugees who fled their countries to save their lives. Some immigrants have returned to their homelands when life there gets better.

LOOK EXERCISE # 1:

Barrio: Jose's Neighborhood

George Ancona

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Rigoberta Menchú Mural

Maestrapeace Art Works-Murals

<http://www.maestrapeace.com/index.shtml>

The murals of the barrio sing out the stories of the neighborhood. A portrait of Rigoberta Menchú dominates one side of the Women's Building. She spoke out against the killing of her people, the Maya of Guatemala, and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1992.



Rigoberta Menchú

Speak Truth to Power Website

<http://www.speaktruth.org/>

What is the Nobel Peace Prize? Who is Rigoberta Menchú?

Activity

Possibly no other country in the world has as many festivals, fairs and feast days as Mexico. National holidays, religious holidays and people's *santos* (saints' days) are all celebrated with gusto, as are the observances of the patron saints of virtually every city, town and pueblito. The *santoral*, or calendar of saints' days, is so crowded with names that nearly every day brings a reason for a *fiesta* in any given neighborhood, and one of the most essential elements of these festivities is food.

[A Calendar of Mexican Food Festivals
http://www.mexconnect.com/mex_recipes/puebla/kgfoodcalendar.html]

Twenty-fourth Street where many stores sell imported foods from Latin America, signs appear in both English and Spanish:

Taquerias
Carnicerias
Boticas
Panaderias
Mexicatessens
Jitomates
Nopales
Platanos machos

What are these foods?

La Dulce Vida

The Mission District's panaderias offer warmth, hospitality and Latino pastries

Just shy of 6 on a Friday morning, 24th Street in San Francisco's Mission District is empty. That is, until you reach York Street, where La Mexicana Bakery has been packed since 4:30 a.m. Inside, Estella Valle hustles to refill coffee pots and keep vintage wooden cabinets full of fresh baked sweet breads for the men in work boots who stream into the shop.

"Construction workers, drivers, everybody comes here," says roofer Victor Hernandez, leaning on the bakery's window ledge and sipping coffee with a friend before heading off to work. Hernandez has no time to make breakfast at his house, where his wife and three children are still asleep. "To be waking up the whole family doesn't make sense," he says. "We just come down here and fill up."

They could hit a fast-food restaurant or 24-hour donut shop, but La Mexicana offers more than pastry. For Hernandez, who is from the state of Puebla, it's a taste of home. Although panaderias, or Latino bakeries, dot the Bay

Area, a handful of Mexican and Salvadoran panaderias in the Mission -- La Mexicana, La Victoria, Dominguez and Pan Lido -- have become cultural institutions, renowned for generations for their high-quality breads. Many Mission residents visit their favorite panaderia at least once a day, while people living farther away might come weekly to stock up on bread and pastry.

Panaderias make a number of rolls based on the French baguette -- such as the crusty tapered oval bolillo of Mexico -- that are eaten plain with coffee, turned into a sandwich or used as a substitute for tortillas to accompany savory foods. Pan dulce, or sweet-yeasted bread or pastry, come in countless sizes, colors and flavors to eat with coffee, milk or hot chocolate.

"People grew up with those flavors. It's a part of their palate; it's a part of their diet," says Carlos Cordova, professor of La Raza Studies at San Francisco State University and a Mission District resident. "It's also a social thing. People know you (at the panaderia), they know what you like. It's good quality, so you go."

Not everyone succumbs to the allure of pan dulce, which can be a little dry for some palates. Though many pan dulce resemble French pastry and American Danishes, their flavor and texture are often different because they are made with shortening, margarine or lard instead of butter.

But even those who are used to more buttery pastries can find a lot to love in the Mission's best panaderias: Dominguez' colorful cookies and delicious cinnamon-dusted churros (on Sunday mornings); La Victoria's cafe con leche and thick-crust bolillos; and Pan Lido's Salvadoran pasteles (fruit- and meat-filled pockets), with their light and flaky crust. La Mexicana creates delicate custard-filled pastries and animal-shaped rolls.

[San Francisco Chronicle Wednesday, April 28, 2004 Tara Duggan, Chronicle Staff Writer]

Activity

Learn about the Celebration of Día de los Muertos / The Day of the Dead

Read more about Day of the Dead on the websites below or in the curriculum unit for *Just a Minute* (linked from the Americas curriculum page).

Try Skull and Skeleton activities on this website, to help celebrate The Day of the Dead:

<http://www.chroniclebooks.com/Chronicle/excerpt/0811837580-e1.html#activity>

Days of the Dead Activities:

<http://www.tohonochoyulpark.org/PDF/DayofDeadActivity.pdf>

Bones Around the World:

http://www.childrensmuseum.org/special_exhibits/bones/teachers/PDFs/AroundTheWorld.pdf

Mexico's Day of the Dead:

http://www.mexconnect.com/mex_feature/daydeadindex.html

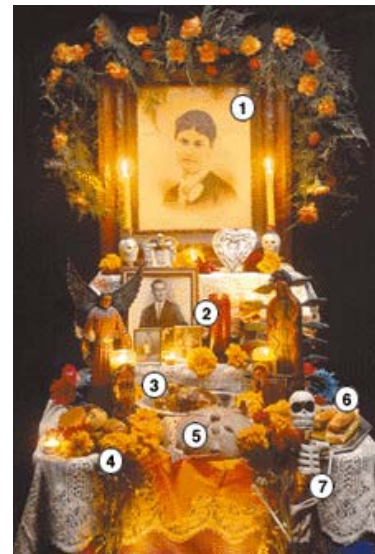
Day of the Dead in Mexico.

<http://www.dayofthedeath.com/>

INTERNET EXERCISE #1: Day of the Dead Altars



Día de los Muertos
Day of the Dead Altars Website



Día de los Muertos
Day of the Dead Altar

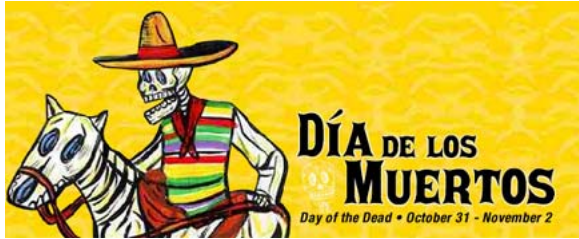
The Day of the Dead is a time for the dead to return home and visit loved ones, feast on their favorite foods and listen to their favorite music. In the homes, family members honor their deceased with ofrendas or offerings, which may consist of photographs, bread, other foods, flowers, toys, and other symbolic offerings.

On the Internet view the different items that make up Día de los Muertos altars.

Day of the Dead Altars

<http://www.azcentral.com/ent/dead/altar/tradaltar.html>

INTERNET EXERCISE #2:



Día De Los Muertos
Day of the Dead History Website

What Do Mexicans Celebrate On The Day Of The Dead?

Día de los Muertos
<http://www.azcentral.com/ent/dead/>

RESOURCES

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Garza, Carmen Lomas. *Magic Windows*. San Francisco, California: Children's

Book Press. 1999.

Hoyt-Goldsmith, Diane. *Las Posada: An Hispanic Christmas Celebration*. New York: Holiday House, 1999.

Internet Websites

California Mission Foundation
<http://www.missionsofcalifornia.org/missions/index.html>

California Mission History- Mission Dolores
<http://www.californiamissions.com/cahistory/dolores.html>

California Missions
<http://missions.bgmm.com/>

Days of the Dead Activities
<http://www.tohonochulpark.org/PDF/DayofDeadActivity.pdf>

La Dulce Vida: The Mission District's Panaderias San Francisco Chronicle
Wednesday, April 28, 2004 Tara Duggan, Chronicle Staff Writer
<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2004/04/28/FDG136AE4E1.DTL>

Maestrapeace Art Works-Murals
<http://www.maestrapeace.com/index.shtml>

Mexico Day of the Dead
http://www.mexconnect.com/mex_/feature/daydeadindex.html

Mexico for Kids
http://www.elbalero.gob.mx/index_kids.html

Skull and Skeleton Activities The Day of the
Dead

<http://www.chroniclebooks.com/Chronicle/excerpt/0811837580-e1.html#activity>

Spanish Missions of California

<http://library.thinkquest.org/3615/>