DIA DE LOS MUERTOS
Sugar Skulls

Sugar skulls are created to celebrate Dia de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead). The skull molds, which the sugar is pressed into, can be made from clay or plastic.

Day of the Dead skulls (calaveras) are whimsical, bright and colorful, rather than frightening or morbid. The skulls symbolize death and the cycle of life. Traditionally, sugar skulls are decorated in the Mexican folk art style with big happy smiles, detailed designs and bright festive colors. In a sense, the decorated skulls are mocking death.

Squeeze the tubes of frosting to draw colorful designs onto your sugar skull. Use your imagination and have fun!

A common tradition is to write a loved one’s name on the forehead of the sugar skull. The skull can be placed on an ofrenda (altar) to honor the deceased or gifted to living friends and family.
A pattern is a repetition of shapes and lines that can be simple or complex. Even complicated patterns start out very simple with either a line or a shape. Read below to learn how to make some cool pattern designs!

**Repeating shapes (floating)**
Shapes and lines are the basic building blocks of patterns. Here are some example shapes that we can easily turn into patterns:

![Example shapes for floating patterns]

Before turning them into patterns, we can spruce them up a bit by outlining and adding shapes to the inside and outside.

![Example shapes with outlines added]

To create a pattern from these embellished shapes, all you have to do is repeat them, as shown below. You can also add small shapes in between the embellished shapes as shown.

![Example pattern from embellished shapes]

These are called “floating patterns” because they are not attached to a line (like the ones in the next example). These floating patterns can be made big or small, short or long.

**Repeating shapes (attached to a line)**
Start with a line, then draw simple repeating shapes along the line. Next, embellish each shape by outlining and adding shapes to the inside and outside. Check out the example below:

![Example shapes attached to a line]

You can also draw shapes in between a pair of lines, like this:

![Example shapes between lines]