

# SUGAR SKULLS

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## PARTY!

Normally skulls represent death, but Sugar Skulls are for celebrating - the spirit of past loved ones keeps living in the hearts and memories of their families

Sugar skulls are left on alters as an offering to the souls people want to remember.

✿ *You can even offer them as a gift to friends and loved ones still living.*

## SYMBOLS

- **Hearts:** love for the person
- **Candles:** remembering them: also guiding their should toward the light
- **Marigolds:** Beautiful, tall flowers that represent how fragile life is. Their color and aroma guide the spirit to their family's alter
- **Diamonds:** Less traditional but represents the inner beauty of a person
- **Flowers** → life
- **Cobwebs** → death
- **Beads, Crosses, and Keyholes**

## COLORS

- **Red** - blood
- **Orange** - sunshine
- **Yellow** - death
- **Purple** - pain
- **Pink** - hope, purity & celebration
- **Black** - land of the dead



## DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

Started with the Aztecs BEFORE Spanish invasion, but they used REAL skulls. The Spaniards thought this was gross! So they exchange real skulls with skull made of either sugar paste, or, sometimes, clay. Sugar was much more accessible, so sugar was the natural choice.

Sugar skulls adorn households and tombs to honor the person who has passed away. Sometimes, along with sugar skulls, people would bring the favorite food and items of the deceased one.

Size would vary according to the age of the deceased. The deceased's name might even be written on the forehead of the sugar skull. Glitter, ornaments, icing and ribbons would also be on the sugar skull.

## INFLUENCE TODAY

Today, you can see sugar skull designs everywhere - Fashion Design, Tattoos, Jewelry, and movies (Disney's "Coco")

