

GLOBAL COMPETENCE IN ACTION. SCHOOL PRACTICE

Title: ALTAR DE MUERTOS

School: Escola Octavio Paz

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Global Competence dimension: *Dimension related to the practice*

- ☒ Examine issues of local, global and cultural significance
- ☒ Understand and appreciate the perspectives and world views of others
- ☒ Engage in open, appropriate and effective interactions across cultures
- ☐ Take action for collective well-being and sustainable development

Subject: *Topics related to the 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) to transform our world involved in the practice.*



21st century Skills: *Skills involved in the practice*

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Critical thinking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Creativity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Collaboration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Communication
<input type="checkbox"/>	Information literacy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Media literacy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Technology literacy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Flexibility
<input type="checkbox"/>	Leadership	<input type="checkbox"/>	Initiative	<input type="checkbox"/>	Productivity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Social skills

Target groups: *Choose the educational level focus of the practice*

☒ Primary education ☐ Secondary education ☐ Other: (specify)

Age group: 6-12 year olds

School context: *Information about the school and its context.*

Escola Octavio Paz opened in 1994. It is a state school located in Barcelona for 3-to-12-year-old children. It hosts around 225 children and it belongs to the UNESCO school network in Catalonia. They have received several education awards because they have been able to transform a deprived school into a successful school in five years.

The school defines itself as active, global, innovative, inclusive, open and participative. The school plan focuses on competency-based learning, school projects, assessment and external partnerships.

The school was inaugurated by the Mexican Nobel Prize writer Octavio Paz. Since then, the school has a partnership with two Mexican schools. One of the activities related to this partnership is the building of a school shrine, ALTAR DE MUERTOS, every year during the Day of Dead, a Mexican holiday held in November to remember people who have died.

The school builds a shrine, every year, to honour a deceased famous person using marigolds, pecked papers, food and pictures.

Description: *Summary including the goals and objectives of the practice*

Each year since 2015, the Altar de Muertos is dedicated to a person, died along that year, with a relevant personal and professional trajectory in our country who can be inspiring to our children. Some weeks before the inauguration of the shrine, the children make research to better know the person who is being honoured, they work on a study topic related to the honoured person and they prepare a performance for the shrine's inauguration ceremony.

Year	Honoured person	Profession	Study topic
2015	Tito Vilanova	Football coach	Sports
2016	Muriel Casals	Cultural activist	Culture
2017	Carles Capdevila	Journalist	Communication
2018	Jorge Wagensberg	Physicist & researcher	Science
2019	Neus Català	Concentration camp survivor	Historical memory
2020	Josep M. Benet i Jornet	Playwright	Drama

This project has 4 main objectives:

- To study a recently deceased person from the Catalan culture who can be an example to the children of the school.
- To make children understand the acceptance of death and better understand different cultures.
- To develop creativity and artistic competence by building the shrine with decorative motifs and by participating in a school performance.
- To foster the participation of all the school community stakeholders in a common project.

Learning Outcomes: *What students will learn with this practice*

- To know the work and importance of a well-known recently deceased person from the Catalan culture.
- To search information and expand the knowledge of the topic to which the shrine is dedicated.
- To know the popular Mexican tradition of Día de Muertos (Day of the Dead) and how cultures face death.

- To improve manual skills and creativity by pecking papers, making masks and decorating the shrine.
- To improve personal and social skills by participating in a school performance and in different events organized by the school.

Time Schedule: *Duration, time organization / needed and place*

The practice lasts one and a half months and it is embedded in the daily school routines and activities. The project starts in mid-September and ends with the shrine inauguration the 30th of October.

The sequence and different project activities are explained in the next section.

Activities: *Steps followed to implement the practice.*

Phase	Action	Calendar	Stakeholders
1	Design of the shrine	End of September	Children and staff
2	Pecked paper decoration	Beginning of October	School community
3	Building of the shrine	Mid October	Children, staff and families
4	Study topic week	Last week of October	Children and teachers
5	Tribute to the honoured person (school performance)	Last day of October	School community
	Opening of <i>Altar de Muertos</i>		
6	Visit of schools to the shrine and reception of authorities and media	First week of November	Nearby schools, educational stakeholders and authorities

Impact: *Results, benefits, evaluation and impact of the practice*

- This practice is included in a cultural exchange programme between the Catalan school and two Mexican schools. With this, children learn and acquire new knowledge about Mexican customs, traditions and culture.
- Children learn to understand different traditions, perspectives and values.
- Children examine issues of local cultural significance related to the person to whom the shrine is dedicated.
- The practice reinforces the sense of belonging to the school community as the whole school community is involved in the practice. Families help children to build and decorate the shrine with pecked paper and other traditional Mexican items.

Resources: *Resources used in the practice: human, financial, technical, materials...*

-A programme of activities is developed for the study topic week: lectures, visits, field trips...

-Shrine decorations: pecked paper, marigolds, candles, decorated candied skulls...

-Invitations for the opening ceremony are sent to educational stakeholders, authorities and media. Traditional Mexican food and refreshments are served. Traditional Mexican music (mariachis) is played live.

Supporting documents: *give the link to supporting documents, such as forms, multimedia files, lesson plan, pictures, worksheets...*

-General presentation of the Altar de Muertos: <https://youtu.be/68i2uvkpXj0>

-Information about the exchange between Catalonia and Mexico:
<http://www.escolaoctaviopaz.cat/intercanvi-catalunya-mexic/>

-Opening ceremony of the shrine in 2019 dedicated to Neus Català, concentration camp survivor: <https://youtu.be/ZCNGus610SY>

-Opening ceremony of the shrine in 2017 dedicated to Carles Soldevila, journalist: <https://youtu.be/K5brnXGSD6U>

