

**Curriculum Unit Title**

**Taking a Stand for Social Justice: Exploring the Chicano Movement and Dia de los Muertos through the Arts**

**Author**

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**KEY LEARNING, ENDURING UNDERSTANDING, ETC.**

**Content**

- People take a stand against injustices that they face.
- What we celebrate is dependent on environmental, societal, and cultural norms.
- Celebrations can be used as a means for cultural change.

**Process**

- Artists work to discover different ways of communicating meaning.
- Artists refine their work and practice their craft through rehearsal.

**ESSENTIAL QUESTION(S) for the UNIT**

What can art pieces tell us about the people who created them?  
How are the arts related to social justice issues?  
What does it mean to “take a stand”?

**CONCEPT A**

Analyzing Art of the Chicano Movement

**ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS A**

- What are the literal and connotative meanings of this piece?
- What message does this piece convey?
- What does this piece tell us about the Chicano Movement?

**VOCABULARY A**

1. Literal
2. Connotative
3. Movement Concepts: time, space, force/dynamics, and body movement

**CONCEPT B**

Creating Art for Social Justice

**ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS B**

- What does it mean to take a stand?
- How did the Chicanos take a stand during the Chicano Movement?
- What do you want to stand up for?

**VOCABULARY B**

1. Photovoice
2. Calavera Poems
3. Image Theater
4. Story Dance

**CONCEPT C**

Communicating Social Justice Issues

**ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS C**

- How and why do artists revise their work?
- Is my piece appropriate for the audience and purpose?

**VOCABULARY C**

1. Dialogue
2. Perspective
3. Artistic Reflection

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/MATERIAL/TEXT/FILM/RESOURCES**

Chicano Movement Images  
[http://depts.washington.edu/civilr/mecha\\_photos.htm](http://depts.washington.edu/civilr/mecha_photos.htm)  
<http://www.library.ucsb.edu/special-collections/cema/digitalChicanoArt>  
<http://www.mexicanmuseum.org/permanent-collection/contemporary-latino-art>

Chicano Movement Music  
<http://www.folkways.si.edu/rolas-de-aztlan-songs-of-the-chicano-movement/american-folk-latin/music/album/smithsonian>

Dia de los Muertos Images  
<https://publicdomainreview.org/collections/the-calaveras-of-jose-guadalupe-posada/>

Dia de los Muertos Information  
<http://latino.si.edu/dayofthedead/>  
<http://www.mexicansugarskull.com/support/dodhistory.html>