CALAVERAS DE AZÚCAR / SUGAR SKULLS FOR DAY OF THE DEAD

In Mexico, people get sugar skulls, personalized with their own name. Mass-produced skulls are made of a hardened sugar mixture poured into a mold. Here is a simple version that can be molded by hand and left to air dry.

En México, la gente come calaveras de azúcar, personalizadas con su propio nombre. Elaboradas en grandes cantidades, las calaveras están hechas de una mezcla de azúcar endurecido, esparcida en un molde. Aquí les presentamos una versión simple que puede ser hecha a mano y dejada al aire para que se seque.

Ingredients / Ingredientes:
- 1 pound powdered sugar / 1 libra de azúcar en polvo
- 1 ounce natural gelatin (4 gelatin envelopes) / 1 onza de gelatina natural (4 sobrecitos)
- 2 cups water / 2 tazas de agua

Preparation:
1. Combine the gelatin and water.
2. Slowly add the sugar. It should be mixed to a bread-dough like consistency.
3. Form the desired figures.
4. Decorate with a thick, flowing mixture of powdered sugar and water, tinted with food coloring. You can put this mixture in a small plastic bag, cut off the corner and squeeze the mixture through the hole (or you can use tubes of commercial colored icing). Add small candies or sprinkles, to decorate. For the hair, try using grated coconut tinted with food coloring. Use your imagination and enjoy.
5. Allow to air dry for 24 hours.

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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:

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

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 embel-lished shapes as shown.

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:

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