





Los Barriletes

Each year to celebrate Día de los Muertos in Guatemala, barriletes gigantes (giant kites) are launched at dusk over the cemetery in Sacatepéquez. Thousands of people gather for the celebration, which is a three thousand year old combination of Mayan and Catholic traditions. Kites measuring more than 30 feet across are made almost entirely out of tissue paper and take up to 3-4 months to build. On All Saints Day, the colorful works of art soar up into the heavens, the crowds cheer, and the barriletas are quickly destroyed by the strong November winds. Barriletes that survive the winds are displayed in the Church during a novena for family and friends who have died.

Make your own barrilete for our Día de los Muertos ofrenda. Draw a picture of someone important to you who has died: a family member or even a special Saint in the center of the barrilete on the other side of this page. Cut out your barrilete. Punch a hole in the bottom of the barrilete and attach a kite tail. Be sure to write your name on the back.

This project is due on November 1 in class.

Nombre: _____