

Festival Preparation Activity 1

COSTUMES

LEVEL: ELEMENTARY

SOURCE: "Dedos de Luna" Elementary Literature Series, Children's Literature in Spanish: Bilingual Edition, Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education, 1992

MATERIALS

- 2 sheets of 32 x 26-inch butcher paper
- pencil
- scissors
- tempera paint (a variety of colors)
- paint brushes
- felt-tipped pens and markers (a variety of colors)
- yarn
- glue
- stapler

INSTRUCTIONS

To create the body:

1. Fold one sheet of butcher paper in half, top to bottom.
2. Cut a "V" or round-neck large enough for the students head, in top of the quadrangle. Cut down the left side about 6 inches to make an opening for the arm.
3. Staple the shoulder edges together. Then staple the right side, leaving a 6-inch space near the top for the arm.

To create the legs:

4. Fold the other sheet of butcher paper as you did with the first one.
5. About 8 inches from the folded area, draw a straight line top to bottom and cut.
6. Then cut this piece in half width-wise. You will now have two pieces, each folded and measuring 13 x 8 in.
7. Attach each leg section to the torso with tape, front and back, making sure the folded edge faces outwards. Leave the inside edges open to allow for leg movement. Cut bottom of legs to fit child's height.

To create a tail:

8. Roll the remaining pieces of butcher paper into a long thin tube and tape together.
9. For the tip of the tail, attach pieces of yarn, or make fringe with leftover paper.
10. Attach the tail to the torso with tape or staples.
11. Paint the costume to resemble tigers, mermaids, caimanes, etc. For examples, refer to books about Mexican mask and dance traditions cited in the Resource List.

