



O-original Art Activities: Paper Flower Sculptures La Cuetlaxochitl (Poinsettia)



Celebrate the holiday season by creating paper la cuetlaxochitl (Kwet -la-sho-cheel) and learn a decolonized history of this popular winter holiday flower.

The original name of poinsettia is cuetlaxochitl in the Aztec language, Nahuatl. La cuetlaxochitl is **indigenous** to what is now referred to as Mexico. The flower was an important part of Aztec culture and still holds significance to Indigenous Peoples today. Joel Poinsett stole the flower from Mexico and introduced it to the United States where the flower received its English name, poinsettia in reference to Poinsett.



Supplies

Color Paper, Scissors, Tape

Instructions

Step 1: La cuetlaxochitl comes in a variety of colors including red, white, pink or a mixture of colors. Decide which color or colors of the flower you want to make.

Step 2: Use a pencil to draw the flower's leaves on green paper and additional leaves on the color paper of your choice.

Step 3: Use scissors to cut out the leaves.

Step 4: Roll up a piece of paper to create the stem of the flower.

Step 5: Use tape to attach the leaves to the stem.

Step 6: Create the flowers or yellow center of the plant by ripping yellow paper into strips then use your index finger and thumb to roll a strip into a ball. Use tape attach the flowers in the center of your plant.

Step 7: Practice pronouncing the true name of the winter flower, la cuetlaxochitl (Kwet-la-sho-cheel). Show your friends and family your artwork and share what you learned about this flower's history. Encourage them to use its true name.

Vocabulary

Indigenous – an adjective use to describe a person, plant, or animal that is native to from a specific area

Colonization – occurs when one country or group of people take control of another country or region and establish a settlement or colony. One of the reasons countries formed colonies was to take advantage of natural resources in new lands. They took precious metals, gems, timber, and furs from the territories and sold them to make money for themselves.

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