

“Stained Glass” Windows,
Stencils, and Day of the Dead

First, let's review...

- What can you tell me about Day of the Dead?

Day of the Dead is...

- a holiday where the memories of deceased loved ones are celebrated and honored.
- Artwork and other objects made for Day of the Dead include calaveras or sugar skulls, calacas, ofrendas, papel picado, and pan de muerto.

Calacas are skeleton figures, made to represent a variety of personas. Popular themes are Catrinas, Death (aka Grim Reaper), Mariachis, and brides and grooms.





Sugar skulls are molded out of sugar, and decorated with icing, glitter and foil, and sometimes have a name written on them.

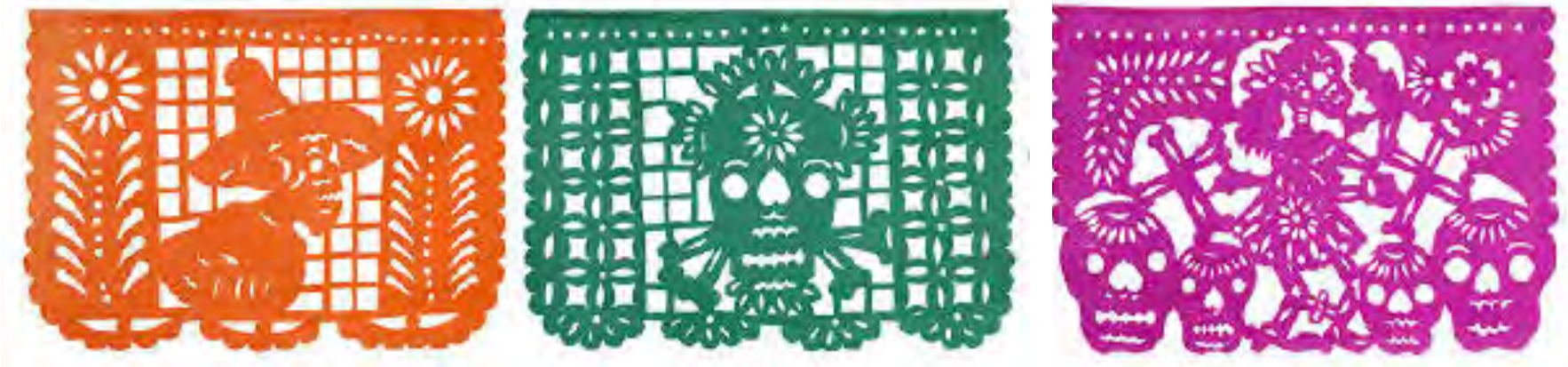
Pan de muerto is a sweet bread eaten during Day of the Dead, and is decorated with bones and teardrops.



Ofrendas can be arranged in the home or at a gravesite, and can include sugar skulls, food and drink for the deceased, flowers called cempasúchitl (marigolds), candles, pictures of the deceased, and papel picado.



Papel picado is colored paper that is cut into elaborate designs. They can be hung like banners, and are often found on ofrendas for Day of the Dead.





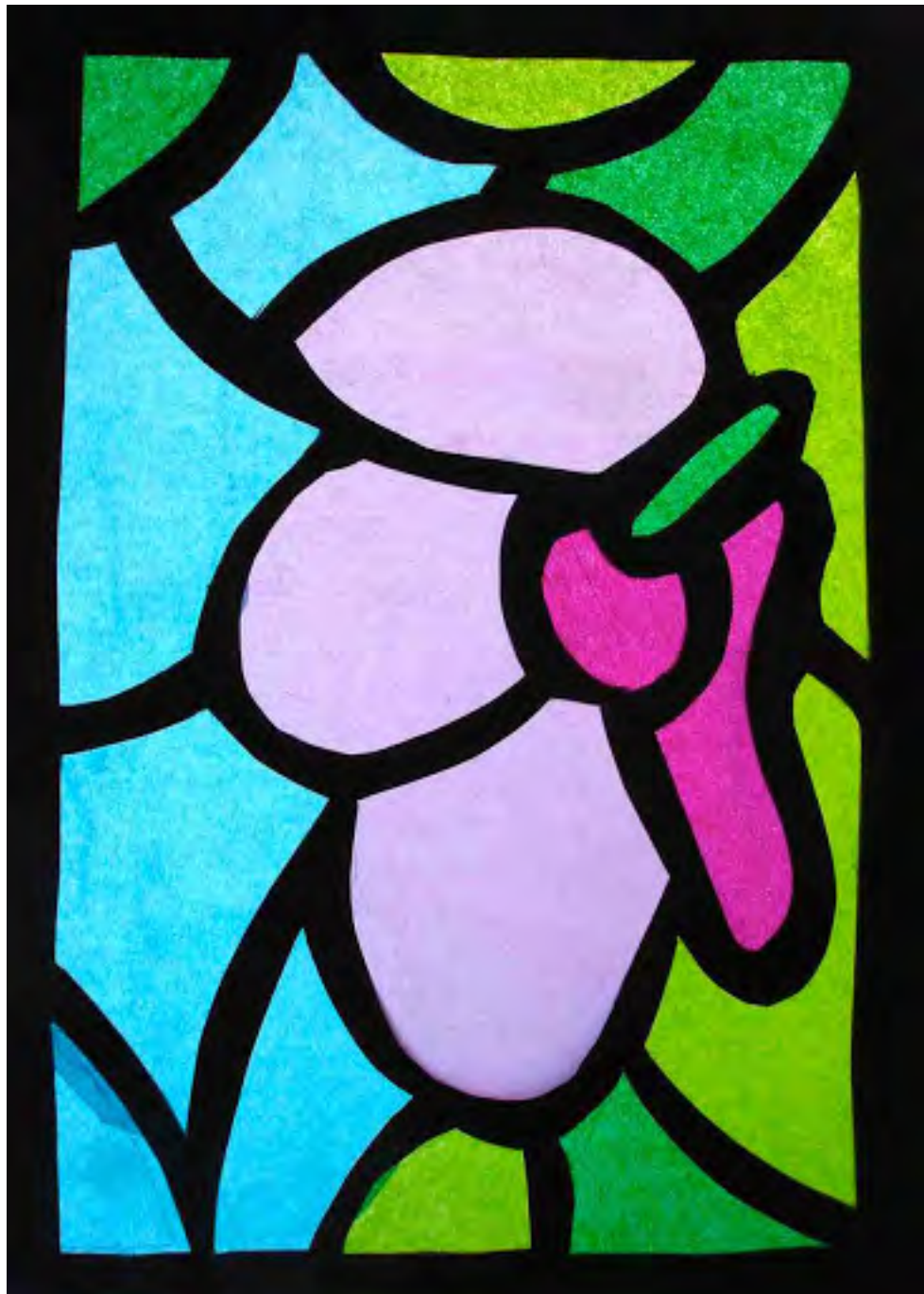
We will be making artwork inspired by Day of the Dead, in the style of stained glass windows.

Typically, stained glass windows are made by cutting tiles of colored glass, and arranging them to form a picture. The glass is fused together with lead.

For us, “the lead” will be black paper we cut a design into.

The “glass” will be colored tissue paper.

The effect will be similar, but much safer and cheaper.



They will look something like this, but Day of the Dead themed, rather than just flowers.



Creating your design for this project will be very similar to creating a stencil.

Your design has to be drawn in a way that it can be cut out, without any loss of detail.

Look at the picture of the flower. Notice how the black paper is all connected.

Each detail is connected to the detail next to it.

The black paper that outlines the center of the flower is connected to the outlines of the petals, the petals are connected to the leaves, and the leaves are connected to the edge of the paper.



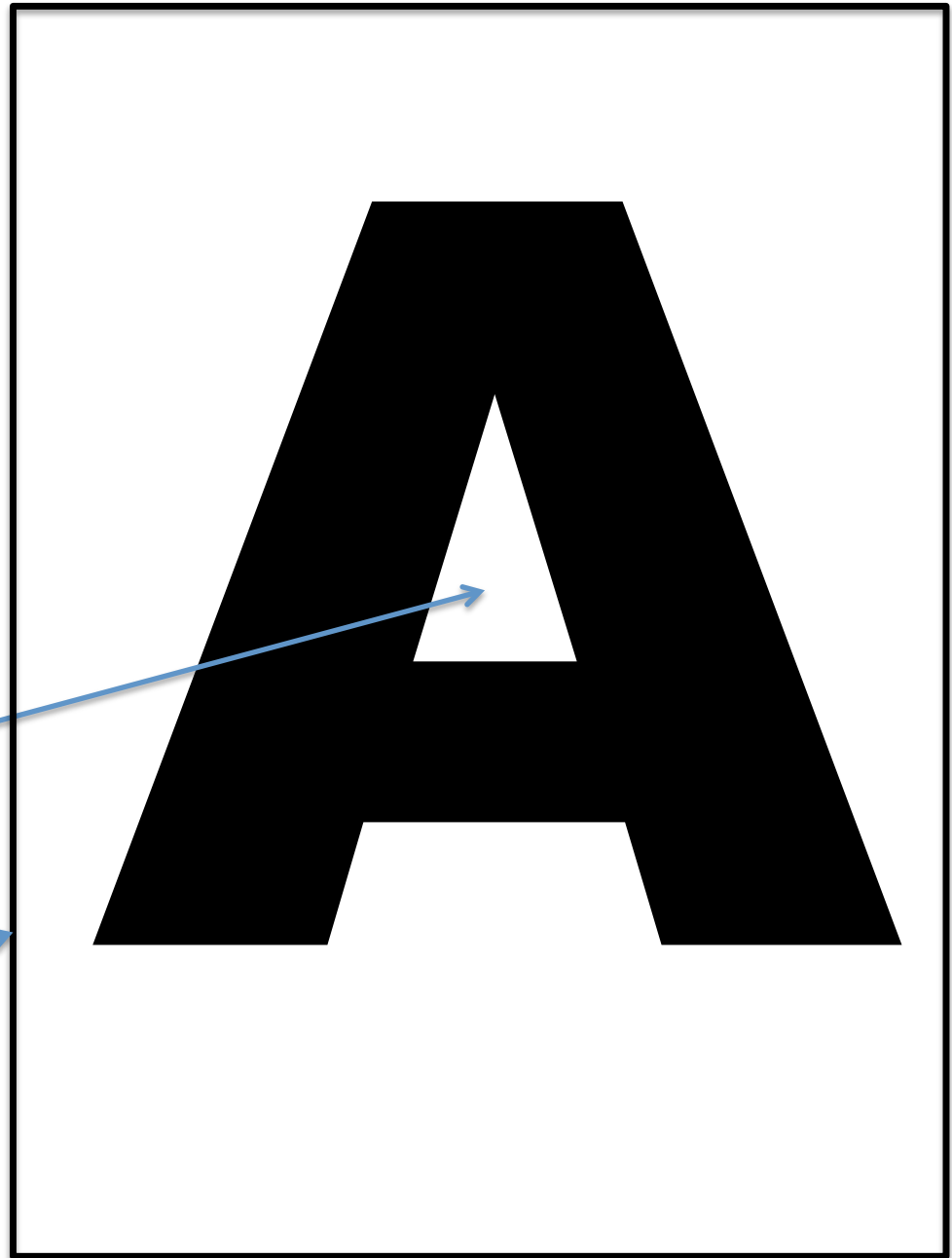
A stencil is made in a similar way.

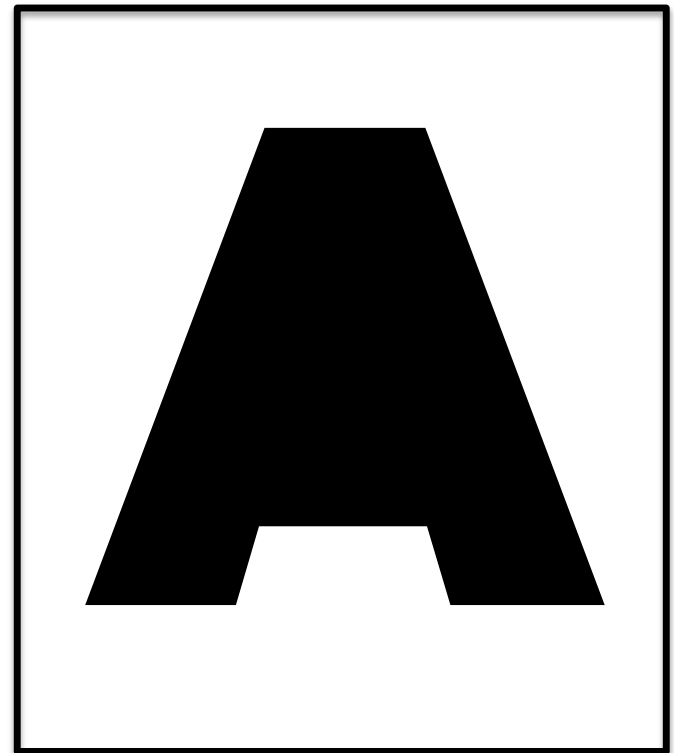
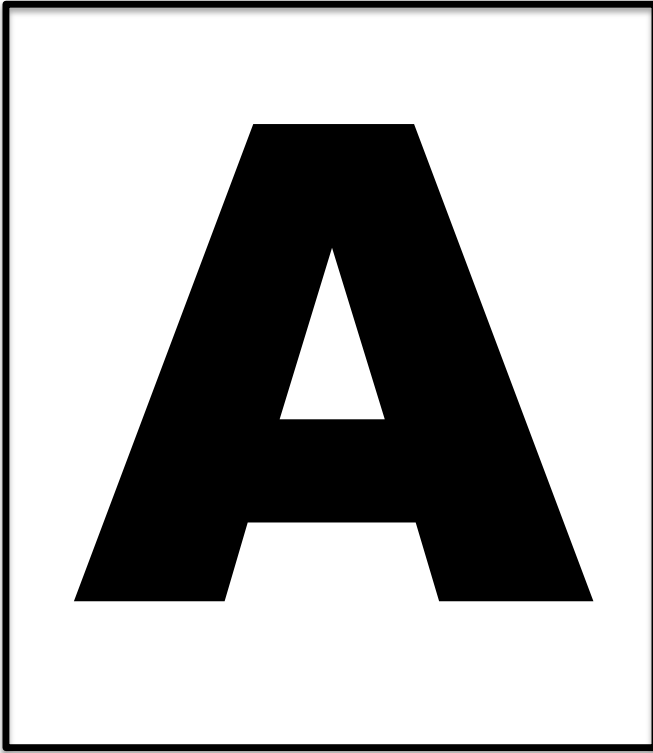
Lets use this letter A as an example.

To make a proper stencil, we would have to connect the center part of the “A” to the outside edge of the paper. If we don’t the center would fall out when we cut the “A” out.

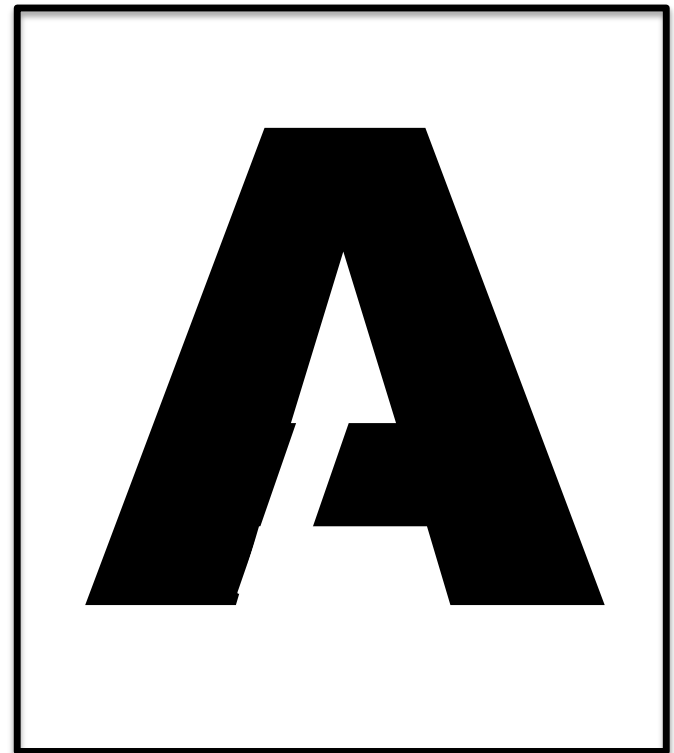
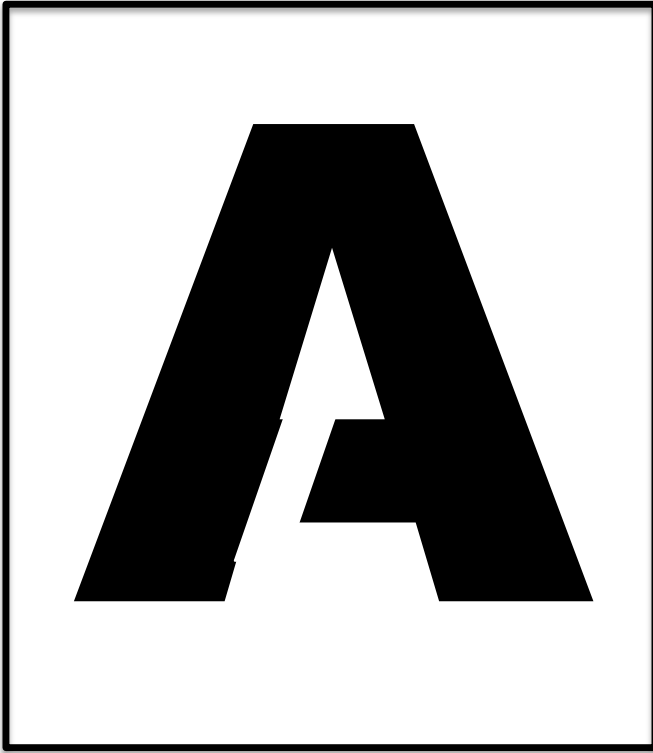
Center of the
letter A

Edge of the paper





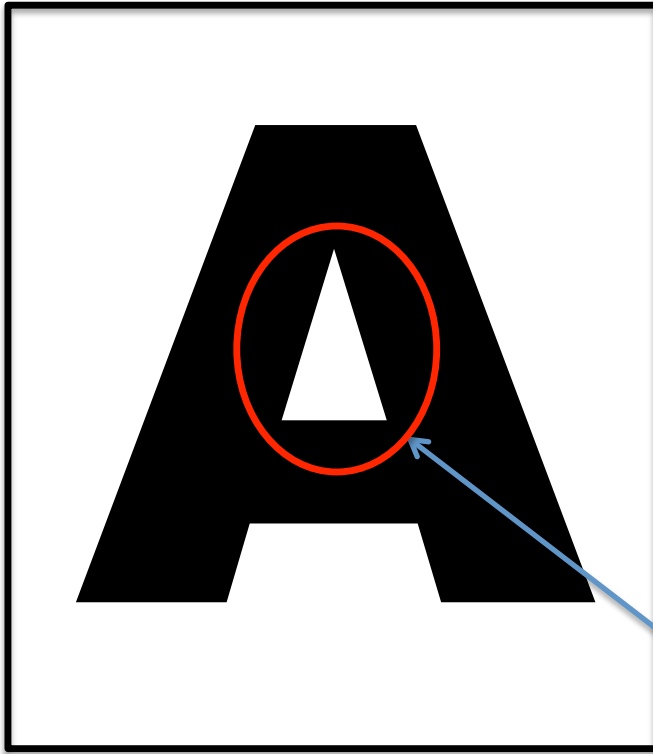
Without connecting the center of the A to the edge of the paper, the center detail will disappear.



Connecting the center detail to the edge of the paper will keep the detail around when the letter is cut from the paper.

The detail that is the center of the A is called an “island.”

The connection between the detail is called a “bridge.”



When creating a stencil, it is helpful to think of islands and bridges.

Islands are land surrounded by water.

Think of the white of the paper as land.
The black is water.

The center of the A is an island because it is white (land) surrounded by black (water).

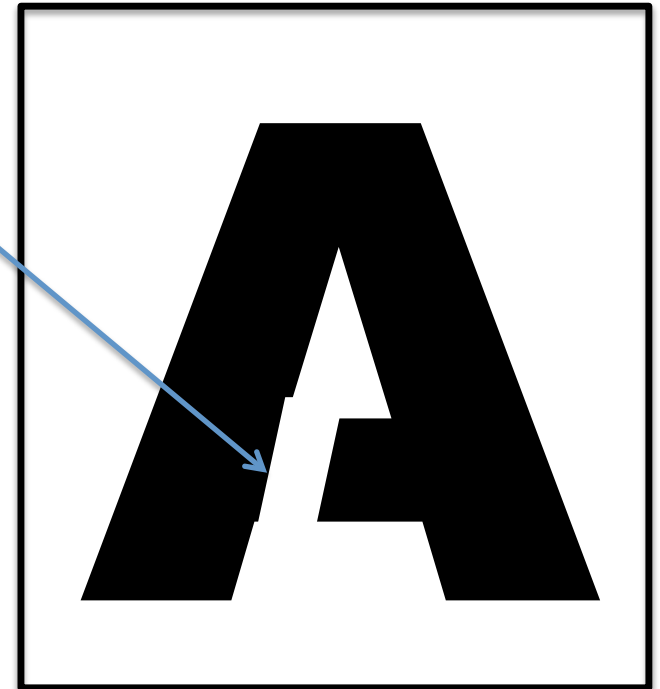
Island

If you wanted to drive to an island, you would need an awesome car that also works as a boat.

Or you need a bridge.

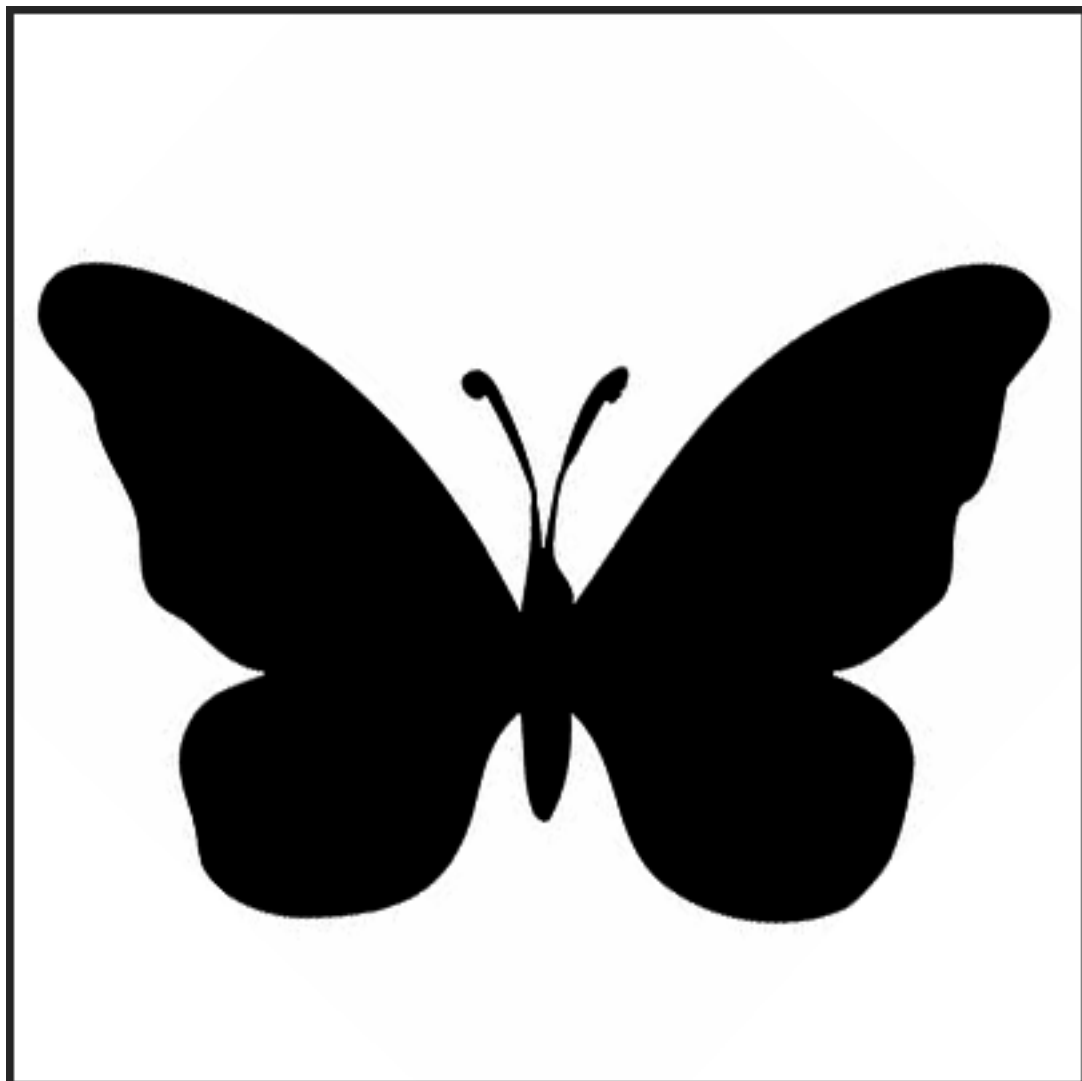
We need bridges to connect the islands to the rest of the “land,” or the detail will fall out when we cut!

Bridge





Would this work as a stencil?



Without bridges, your design would look like this when you cut it out.



Adding bridges to the design allows the detail in the wings to stay.

The artist missed a detail, though.

There is an island without a bridge!

Can you find it?



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Here!