

LET'S BUILD AN

ALEBRIJE

WITH

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF
MEXICAN ART





WHAT MATERIALS DO YOU NEED FOR THIS PROJECT



LET'S MAKE AN ALEBRIJE!

ALEBRIJES ARE BRIGHTLY COLORED SCULPTURES CREATED BY MEXICAN FOLK ARTIST PEDRO LINARES THAT ARE MADE FROM COMBINING VARIOUS ANIMALS THAT GIVE US THESE FANTASTICAL (FANTASY/MYTHICAL) CREATURES. THIS ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS THE POPULARITY OF THIS CRAFT IN MEXICO AND AROUND THE WORLD.

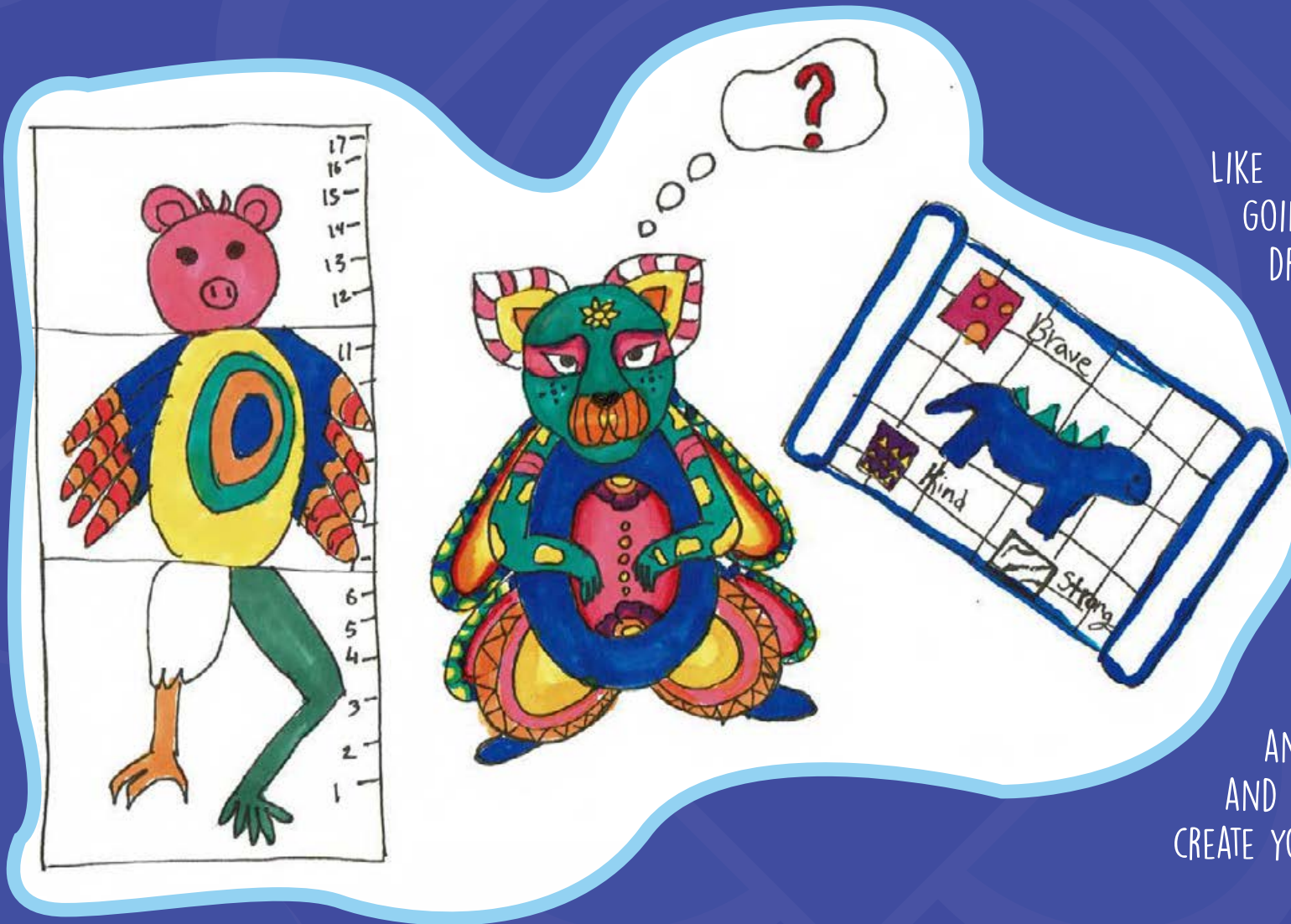
IN THIS WORKSHOP WE ARE GOING TO CREATE AN ALEBRIJE USING COMMON MATERIALS FOUND AT HOME SUCH AS NEWSPAPER, MASKING TAPE AND NATURAL GLUE, OR ENGRUDO, MADE FROM FLOUR, WATER AND SUGAR. THIS ACTIVITY HAS SEVERAL STEPS, BUT IS A GOOD ACTIVITY TO PRACTICE MOTOR SKILLS, IMAGINATION AND TO DEVELOP CREATIVITY WITH THE HELP AND SUPPORT OF FAMILY.



LET'S BEGIN!

I.DESIGN/IDEA

WHAT ANIMALS SHOULD BE USED TO CREATE AN ALEBRIJE? SELECTING OUR ANIMALS CAN BE A LITTLE DIFFICULT SINCE THERE ARE SO MANY FANTASTIC ANIMALS TO CHOOSE FROM! WE WILL USE AN IDEA GUIDE (GRAPHIC ORGANIZER) TO HELP COLLECT INFORMATION FOR THIS PROJECT. THE THEME OF THE ALEBRIJE WILL BE TO SHOW THE LITTLE ONES' CHARACTERISTICS.



LIKE ANY ART PROJECT, WE ARE GOING TO START WITH OUR DRAWING THAT WILL MAKE IT EASIER TO SEE THE SHAPES THAT WE MUST CREATE TO DESIGN THEIR ALEBRIJE. WE WILL USE THIS DRAWING AS A GUIDE, BUT REMEMBER THAT WE HAVE THE ABILITY TO CHANGE AND EXAGGERATE PARTS OF OUR ALEBRIJE. (HERE WE GIVE YOU AN EXAMPLE DESIGN, BUT IF YOU AND YOUR LITTLE ONES LIKE TO CREATE YOUR OWN DESIGN, FANTASTIC!)

2.FORM/ BODY

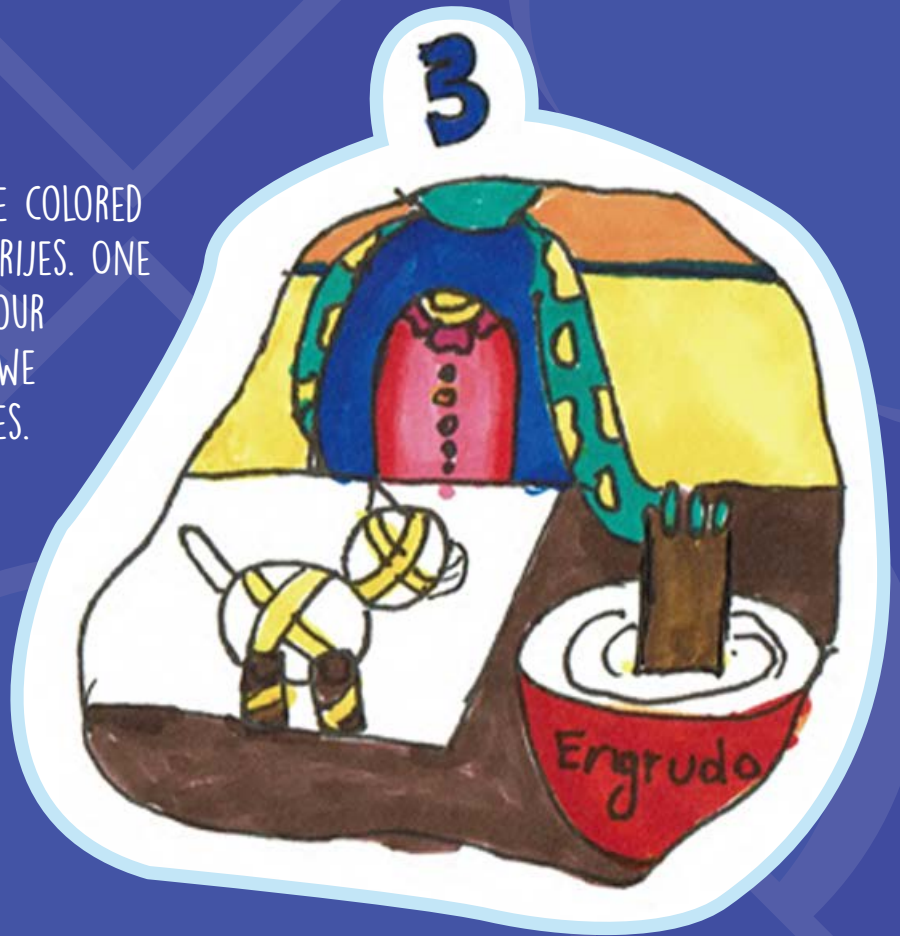
TO START OUR ALEBRIJE, WE WILL CREATE THE DIFFERENT PARTS OF OUR FANTASTIC ANIMAL SEPARATELY USING NEWSPAPER, AND THEN TAPE ALL THE PARTS TOGETHER. WITH THE NEWSPAPER WE CAN CREATE BUNCHES OF PAPER BY SMASHING AND CRUMPLING THEM INTO BALLS IN YOUR HAND, UNTIL WE REACH THE APPROPRIATE SIZE THAT WE DESIRE. IT IS GOOD TO CREATE THE BODY FIRST AS THIS WILL DICTATE THE SIZES OF THE DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE ALEBRIJE SUCH AS THE LEGS, NECK AND OTHER PARTS WE HAVE CHOSEN.



ONCE WE HAVE THE DIFFERENT BODY PARTS, WE ARE GOING TO JOIN THEM WITH THE MASKING TAPE. HERE WE CAN CREATE THE POSITION WE WANT FOR OUR ALEBRIJE. IT DOES NOT MATTER IF THE TAPE IS ON SEVERAL PARTS OF THE ALEBRIJE SINCE WE WILL COVER OUR WORK WITH NEWSPAPER AND THE ENGRUDO PASTE. WE ARE GOING TO CUT PIECES OF NEWSPAPER INTO STRIPS TO COVER OUR ALEBRIJE AND HOLD THE PAPER BALLS TOGETHER WITH THE HELP OF THE ENGRUDO PASTE. THIS PART OF THE PROJECT WILL GET A LITTLE MESSY SINCE WE WILL USE OUR HANDS TO APPLY THE PASTE AND NEWSPAPER. WE ARE GOING TO COVER ALL THE PARTS OF THE ALEBRIJE WITH TWO LAYERS OF NEWSPAPER AND ENGRUDO PASTE. ANOTHER OPTION TO COVER IT IS TO USE BROWN WRAPPING PAPER. AFTER COVERING THE ALEBRIJE COMPLETELY WE MUST LET IT DRY COMPLETELY, USUALLY 24 HOURS IS ENOUGH.

3.DECORATION/DESIGN

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE PAINT, WE WILL USE COLORED PAPER TO EMBELLISH OUR FANTASTIC ALEBRIJES. ONE OPTION THAT WILL ALLOW US TO COVER OUR ALEBRIJE IS USING PAPER PATTERNS THAT WE CAN CUT AND GLUE ONTO OUR STRUCTURES. FOR THIS SECTION OF THE PROJECT WE CAN USE COLORED PAPER, MAGAZINES, OR NEWSPAPER SECTIONS WITH COLOR LIKE THE COMICS, OLD WRAPPING PAPER, BAGS OR TISSUE PAPER. IF YOU HAVE ART PAINT LAYING AROUND THE HOUSE YOU ARE WELCOME TO USE THAT AS A FORM OF DECORATING.



ONE OPTION WE RECOMMEND IS TO CREATE VARIOUS PATTERN DESIGNS AND THEN GLUE TOGETHER TO CREATE THE ALEBRIJE SKIN, OR YOU CAN CUT VARIOUS SHAPES AND ALSO COVER YOUR ALEBRIJE COMPLETELY. THERE IS NO SET RULE IN PLACE, ALL WE RECOMMEND IS TO USE YOUR CREATIVITY. IF YOU ARE HAVING A HARD TIME CREATING A PATTERN DESIGN, THIS CAN BE A GOOD TIME TO LOOK AT OUR CHOSEN ANIMALS AND WHAT KIND OF PROTECTIVE COATING THEY MIGHT HAVE TO HELP CREATE PATTERN DESIGNS. WE CAN LOOK AT BIRDS AND THEIR FEATHERS AS WELL AS SNAKE SKINS AND REPTILES. WE CAN ALSO JUST USE GEOMETRIC SHAPES OR LEAVES TO HELP U DECIDE WHAT TYPE OF PATTERNS TO USE. TO COVER THE OUR ALEBRIJE WITHOUT THE USE OF PAINT HAS MANY OPTIONS. WE CAN USE VARIOUS TYPES OF PAPER AS WELL THE USE OF SEEDS.

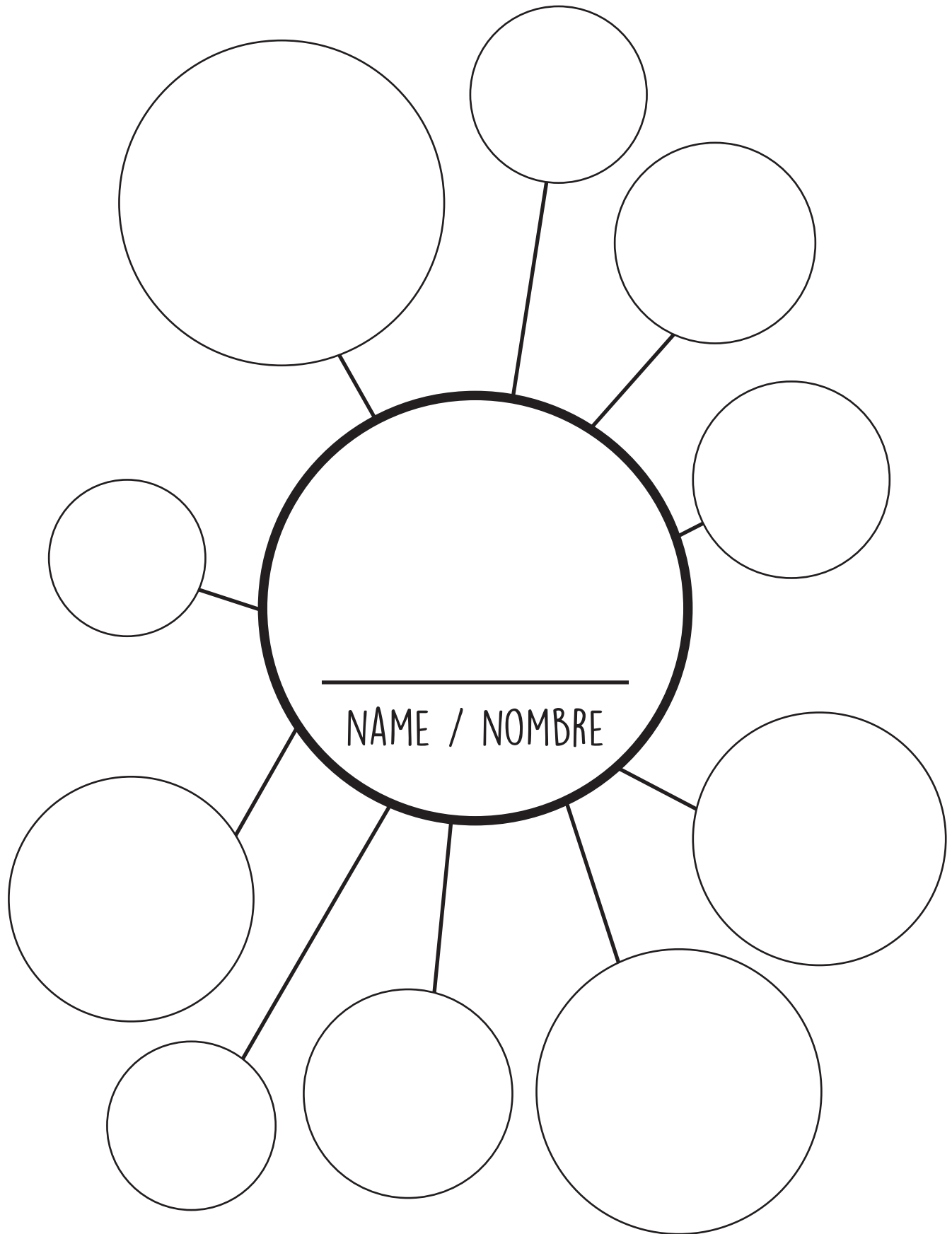
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CONGRATULATIONS, YOU HAVE FINISHED YOUR ALEBRIJE! WE ASK THAT YOU SHOW IT OFF AND TAG US ON YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA!

#ATHOMEWITHNMMMA

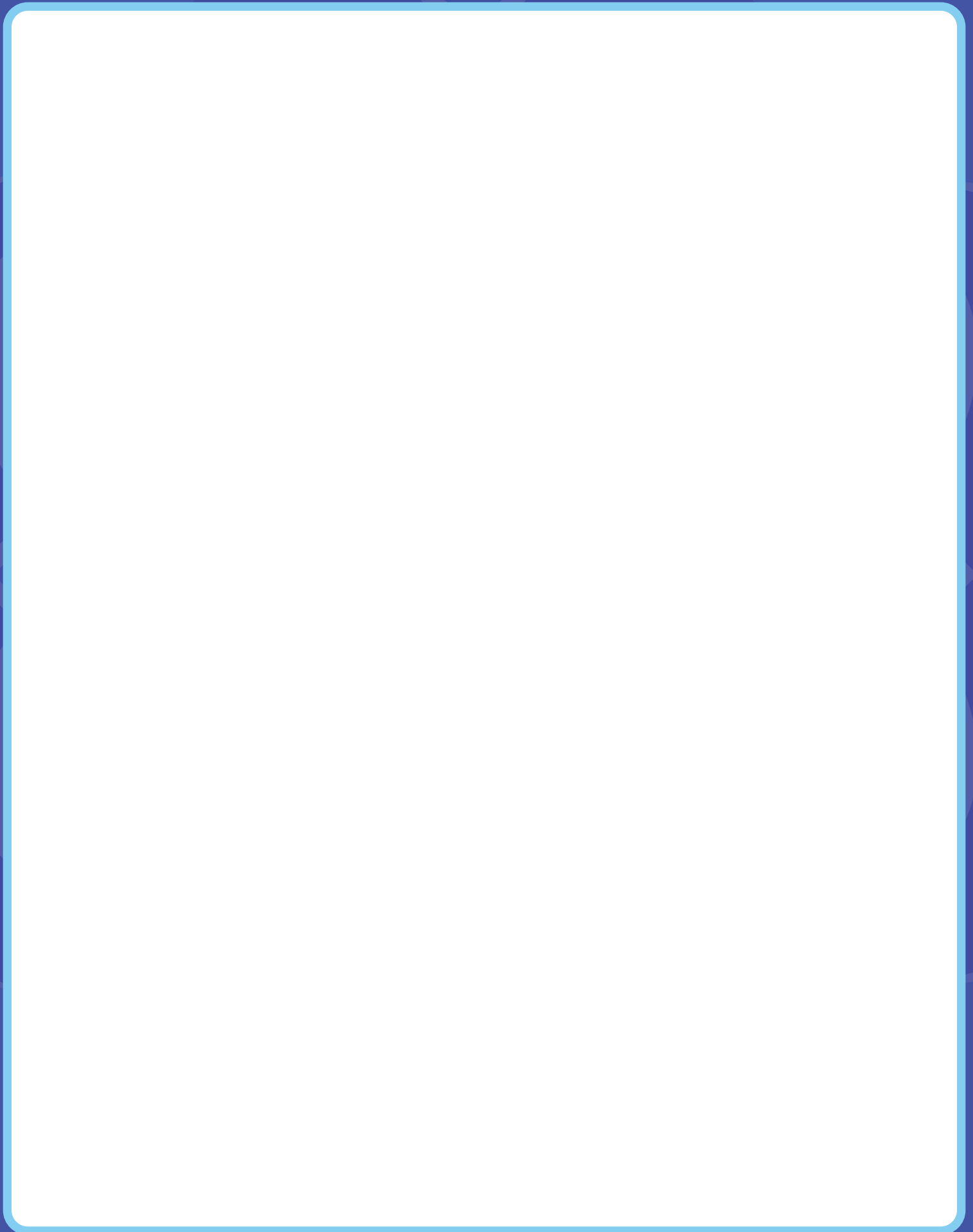


ALEBRIJE GRAPHIC ORGANIZER



ADD YOUR CHARACTER TRAITS INSIDE THE BUBBLES

DRAW YOUR ALEBRIJE





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