



HALLOWEEN

 Activities



Día de los Muertos, a celebration of life and death



“Día de los Muertos”, or “the Day of the Dead”, is a vibrant Mexican holiday celebrated on November 1st and 2nd. It blends indigenous beliefs with Catholic traditions and focuses on honoring loved ones who have passed away. Unlike Halloween, which centers on fear and horror, Día de los Muertos is a joyful celebration of life and death. Families believe that the spirits of the dead return to the world of the living for these two days to visit their families.

One of the most important customs is the creation of ofrendas, or altars, in homes or cemeteries. These altars are beautifully decorated with photos of the deceased, candles, marigold flowers, and religious items. Families also place offerings, such as the favorite food, drinks, and personal belongings of their deceased relatives, to make the spirits feel welcomed and remembered. The ofrenda symbolizes the connection between life and death, and it is an important way for families to honor their ancestors.

Calaveras, or sugar skulls, are a well-known symbol of Día de los Muertos. These skulls, made from sugar and decorated with bright colors, are placed on altars and given as gifts. People also paint their faces to resemble skulls, using artistic designs in vibrant colors to represent the beauty of life and death.

Public celebrations, such as parades, are held in many towns and cities. People wear traditional costumes, often dressed as skeletons, and carry candles to light the way for spirits. Music, dancing, and food are essential parts of the celebration, emphasizing that this is not a time of mourning but of remembering the love, happiness, and memories shared with those who have passed away.

Día de los Muertos is a unique and beautiful celebration, where Mexicans remember and celebrate their ancestors, keeping their spirits alive through love, food, and tradition.





After reading the text, decide if the sentences are True or False:

1. Día de los Muertos is celebrated on October 31st and November 1st.
2. The holiday blends indigenous beliefs with Catholic traditions.
3. Día de los Muertos is a solemn event focused on mourning the dead.
4. Families believe that the spirits of the dead visit them during the celebration.
5. One important tradition is building altars called ofrendas.
6. Ofrendas are decorated with flowers, photos, and food that the deceased enjoyed.
7. The marigold flower is commonly used to decorate the altars.
8. Sugar skulls, known as calaveras, are a symbol of Día de los Muertos.
9. People often paint their faces like skulls using colorful designs.
10. Día de los Muertos parades usually involve wearing black clothes and staying silent.
11. The holiday is about honoring ancestors, not forgetting them.
12. Día de los Muertos is considered a sad and scary time, similar to Halloween.



Match the words with their meanings:

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. Ofrendas | ... A type of flower used to decorate altars |
| 2. Calaveras | ... Decorative structures built to honor the dead |
| 3. Marigold | ... Bright and full of energy |
| 4. Altars | ... Items placed on altars to welcome spirits |
| 5. Spirits | ... A deceased family member from past generations |
| 6. Traditions | ... The souls of people who have died |
| 7. Offerings | ... Customary practices passed down through generations |
| 8. Vibrant | ... Sugar skulls, often used as a symbol during the holiday |
| 9. Ancestor | ... Altars or shrines used to honor and remember the dead |



Do you celebrate the day of the dead in your country? Is it connected to Halloween or is it a totally different holiday? How do you feel about this celebration? Share your ideas in a paragraph:



Día de los Muertos Teacher's B2

Answers for the text

1. False
2. True
3. False
4. True
5. True
6. True
7. True
8. True
9. True
10. False
11. True
12. False

Answers for the vocabulary exercise

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. Ofrendas | 3... A type of flower used to decorate altars |
| 2. Calaveras | 4... Decorative structures built to honor the dead |
| 3. Marigold | 8... Bright and full of energy |
| 4. Altars | 7... Items placed on altars to welcome spirits |
| 5. Spirits | 9... A deceased family member from past generations |
| 6. Traditions | 5... The souls of people who have died |
| 7. Offerings | 6... Customary practices passed down through generations |
| 8. Vibrant | 2... Sugar skulls, often used as a symbol during the holiday |
| 9. Ancestor | 1... Altars or shrines used to honor and remember the dead |





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