

# **Day of the Dead Quest Sheets**

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## Day of the Dead Quest Sheet

1. Octavio Paz writes the Mexican has no problems with death that he "...chases after it, mocks it, courts it, hugs it, sleeps with it, it is his favorite play thing and his most lasting love." In your opinion, how is this idea similar to or different from our "United States" view on death?

Everyone has different views death, and it is not stereotypical. It does not discriminate. As a whole, we feel that death is seen as a bad thing. Mexico views death as a sacred loss of a human person.

2. When are All Saints Day and All Souls Day celebrated?

All Saints Day: November 1<sup>st</sup>

All Souls Day: November 2<sup>nd</sup>

3. Even though each region in Mexico celebrates Day of the Dead differently, what are things that they do have in common.

The Day of the Dead is celebrated at the gravesite. Also, they party at the grave site. Ofrendas are built to commemorate the dead on such a holy day. Colorful adornments and lively reunions at burial plots, the preparation of special foods, and noisy fireworks are all the common practices of all the Mexicans.

4. November 1 is reserved to remember infants and children.

5. November 2 is reserved to remember those who died as adults.

6. From mid-October to the first week in November, what are some of the items markets and shops stock up on?

They have a bunch of skeletons and other macabre toys, tissue paper cut-outs (papel picado), elaborate wreaths, and crosses with many accessories like: paper or silk flowers, candles and votive lights, and seasonal flowers (marigolds and cockscomb).

7. List 5 edible goodies enjoyed on Day of the Dead.

Skulls & coffins made out of sugar

Sugary sweet rolls (pan de muerto)

Dark rolls molded into humanoid figures (animas)

Chocolate

Amaranth seeds

8. What are some things that are used to create an altar?

They use papel picado, candles, flowers, photographs of the departed, candy skulls inscribed with the name of the dead, and group of the favorite foods and beverages of the corpse.

9. What occurs on November 2?

Family members gather at the cemetery for the gravesite reunions more festive than somber. Some bring along picnic baskets, bottles of tequila for toasting the dead or even a mariachi band to lead a heartfelt sing-along. Local merchants set up stands outside the cemetery gates to sell food and drinks. Rockets may announce the commencement of an open-air memorial mass.

10. How do Aztecs view death?

They believe it's a blessing to die during the time of childbirth, battle or human sacrifice. This assured the victim had a desirable destination in the afterlife.

11. In Mixquic, what takes place to celebrate Day of the Dead?

The merchants set up street stands for the Day of the Dead. All family burial plots are elaborately embellished with an array of earthly delights in the hope of bringing the departed spirits together at the cemetery.

## Food Quest Sheet

Nombre: Jorge Singer Clase 2

### 1. Who is la Katrina?

She is a skeletal figure who wears a plumed hat and a dress. It has become a visual signal of El Día de Los Muertos.

### 2. What are some foods that are made during Day of the Dead?

Pan de Muerto is a sweet, egg-rich "bread of the dead". Chocolate is a main ingredient in most of the foods during Day of the Dead. Candied pumpkin with a combination of chocolate is sweet treat.

### 3. What are the different types of Pan de Muertos or Bread of the Dead?

Bakeries make different shapes of their bread. According to one of the interviewees in the article, there are over 200 different types of pan shapes. Some of the shape include: humans, animals, and especially rabbits. Some of the bread is maker of anise seed.

### 4. What do children love to eat?

In the children's ofrenda, the following can be found: not-so-spicy foods, candies, and a mini pan de muerto.

### 5. What is the purpose of having a glass of water at the altar?

After the journey there, a glass of water is very essential. The souls become thirsty and pretty tired.

6. In your own words, describe the cemeteries in Mexico? What do you like or dislike about the cemetery decorations?

Cemeteries have tombstones that are quite close together and include monumental structures. Flowers are necessary with pictures of the dead on them. The gravesite is repainted with hundreds of candles scattered around. Families will sit around the graves and bands or musicians will play the person's favorite songs.

7. Look at the two recipes along the right side of the page. Would you eat either one of these recipes? What do you like and do not like about each?
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I would eat the caramel flan because I don't think the texture of the flan is not bad. Also, I would not mind trying "pan de muerto" because it seems like sweet bread, and I like sweet things.

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## Wordplay Quest Sheet

*Unscramble the vocabulary word, then using the glossary, write the definition.*

1. aavlasacr calaveras
2. oelm mole
3. lpoalic copalli
4. otlae atole
5. gatnielso angelitos
6. tacera careta
7. aacavler calavera
8. fodraen ofrenda
9. qfelnaieu alfenique
10. apn ed osl ermtuso pan de los muertos
11. zpamchtcleui cempazuchitl

### Definitions

1. Songs and poems about the festival
2. A thick sauce made from a variety of ingredients, including chilis, sesame seeds, herbs, spices, chocolate, and fruit
3. A scented resin used to make incense
4. An ancient drink made from corn meal and water and flavored with various fruits
5. The souls of the children who have died; literally "little angels"
6. Mask worn by dancers to scare the dead away at the end of the celebrations
7. A skull; also a slang term for "daredevil"
8. An offering; refers to the goods set out on the altars
9. A special confection used to fashion skulls, fruits and other figures
10. Bread of the dead
11. A yellow marigold, the symbol of death, also known as cempasuchil or zempasuchitl

# Day of the Dead vs. Halloween

