

Day of the Dead Quest Sheets

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Day of the Dead Quest Sheet

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 plaything and his most lasting love." In your opinion, how is this idea similar to or different from our "United States" view on death?

In the United States, we are generally more afraid and reverent of death. It seems that Mexicans are much more comfortable with the idea of death than the people of the United States.

When are All Saints Day and All Souls Day celebrated?

November 1 is All Saints Day and November 2 is All Souls Day.

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

All the regions of Mexico celebrate Day of the Dead with colorful adornments and lively reunions at family burial plots, the preparation of special foods, offerings laid out to the departed on commemorative altars, and religious rites that are likely to include fireworks.

November 1 is reserved to remember deceased infants and children (angelitos).

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

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

esqueletos y otros juguetes, papel picado (intricate tissue paper cutouts), elaborate wreaths or crosses decorated with paper or flowers, velas, flores, especially cempazuchiles (marigolds) and barro de obispo (cockscorn).

List 5 edible goodies enjoyed on Day of the Dead.

- Skulls, coffins, etc. made from sugar
- Chocolate
- Amaranth seeds
- Pan de muerto
- Unadorned dark breads molded into humanoid figures called animas (souls)

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

papel picado, velas, flores, fotografías de los muertos, cráneos de dulce con el nombre de los muertos, y sus comidas y bebidas favoritas

What occurs on November 2?

Family members gather at the gravesite for a festive reunion. They sometimes bring picnics, tequila, or even a mariachi band. Local merchants set up stands outside the cemetery to sell food and drink. The most solemn part of the celebration is an open-air memorial mass, which is announced by the sound of booming fireworks.

How do Aztecs view death?

It was considered a blessing to die in childbirth, battle, or human sacrifice, because these people were ensured a desirable destination in the afterlife.

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

All family burial plots are covered with many earthly delights in hopes of luring the spirits of the dead. Relatives mourn the loss of the dead with “la llorada” (the weeping). Later, several votive candles light the graveyard. At midnight they go home to the sound of bells. Each soul is remembered by reciting the Rosary.

Food Quest Sheet

Nombre _____ Clase _____ Periodo _____

Who is la Katrina?

Katrina is a fictional skeleton figure dressed in a plumed hat and dress. She was created by the Mexican press artist Jose Guadalupe. Katrina and skeletons like her are seen all over on the Day of the Dead.

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

Typically, different foods are made based on the deceased person's preferences, but moles and tamales are very common.

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

It varies regionally, so there are more than two hundred types of the bread.

What do children love to eat?

Los niños come skull candies.

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

After their journey, souls are supposedly tired and thirsty.

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

The cemeteries are lively places. The tombstones are close together, and the scene is lively. It goes against the American belief that cemeteries should be solemn places and the dead respected by staying quiet and avoiding graves.

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?

I would eat both el pan de muertos y los tamales because the pan is sweet and the tamales are yummy (I've had them before).

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Wordplay Quest Sheet

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

1. avlasecr: **Calaveras**: songs and poems about Day of the Dead
2. oelm : **mole**: thick sauce made from a variety of ingredients
3. lpoalic: **copalli**: scented resin used to make incense
4. otlae: **atole**: an ancient drink made with cornmeal and water and flavored with various fruits
5. gatnielso: **angelitos**: the souls of the children who have died; “little angels”
6. tacera: **cartera**: mask worn by dancers to scare the dead away at the end of the celebration
7. acavler: **calavera**: skull; slang term for “daredevil”
8. fodraen : **ofrenda**: an offering: refers to the goods set out on the altar
9. qfelnaieu: **alfenique**: special confection used to fashion skulls, fruits, and other figures
10. apn ed osl ermtuso: **pan de los muertos**: bread of the dead
11. zpamhtcleui: **cempazuchitl**: a yellow marigold, the symbol of death

Day of the Dead vs. Halloween

Halloween

-trick-or-treating
originated from people
begging for foods such
as bread

-costumes originated
from keeping ghosts
from recognizing you;
people would leave
food out to appease
the ghosts so that they
went away

-one day: October 31

-candy

-skeletons,
skulls, coffins

-lots of
decorations
and lights

Day of the Dead

-several foods such as pan
de muertos

-leave food earthly goods
out to encourage the
spirits of the dead to come

-two days: November 1
and 2