

Day of the Dead Quest Sheets

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Periodo: 3H

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 of death. It seems that Mexicans are much more comfortable with the idea of death than the people of the United States.

When is 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.

The regions of Mexican celebrate Day of the Dead with colorful adornments and lively reunions at family burial plots, preparation of special foods, offerings laid out to the departed on altars, and religious rites that 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/crosses decorated with paper or flowers, velas, flores, especialmente cempazuchiles (marigolds), and barro de Obispo (cockscorn)

List 5 edible goodies enjoyed on Day of the Dead.

Skulls made of sugar, chocolate, aramant seeds, pan de muerto, and 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 might bring picnics, tequila, or even a mariachi band. Local merchants set up stands outside the cemetery to sell food and drinks. The most solemn part of the celebration is an open-air memorial mass, which is announced by the sound of 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

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Who is la Katarina?

La Katarina is a skeletal figure in a plumed hat and dress, the symbol of Día de Los Muertos. She was created by the Mexican press artist Jose Guadalupe.

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

Foods made include moles and tamales, but favorite foods of the deceased person's are made too.

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

The Pan de Muertos varies regionally, so there are more than 200 types of bread and can come in different shapes.

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, and they are clean and repainted specifically for Day of the Dead. The tombstones are found close together. There are flowers and many candles to commemorate the dead.

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 love to try the pan de muerto and the tamales, because I love Spanish heritage and food.

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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, including chilis, sesame seeds, herbs, spices, chocolate, and fruit
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: **careta**—mask worn by dancers to scare the dead away at the end of the celebration
7. acavler: **calavera**—skull; a 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. zpmachtcleui: **cempazuchitl**—a yellow marigold, the symbol of death

Timeline

Oct. 29	Oct. 30	Oct. 21-Nov.2	Nov. 2
Día de los Muertos	Afternoon	Ofrenda Offering	Last Day of
Starts	Procession		Día de los Muertos

Day of the Dead vs. Halloween

