



Día de Muertos

Practicas Productos Perspectivas

Perspectivas

¿Qué es?

- Día de Muertos, the Day of the Dead, is a traditional Mexican holiday.
- It honors the dead.
- Día de Muertos is not a sad time, but instead a time of remembering and rejoicing.

¿Qué es?

It is a mixing of Catholic and Pre-Hispanic (Aztec) cultural and religious traditions.

¿Cuándo es?

- It is celebrated every year near the Christian holy days of All Saints Day and All Souls Day.

- All Saints' Day is November 1.

 - It is for remembering children who died.

- All Souls' Day is November 2.

 - It is for remembering deceased adults.

¿Es cómo Halloween?

- Not even close!
- Día de Muertos is not for frightening others.
- There are no “character costumes” like in the U.S.
- It is for remembering loved ones who have passed.

¿Dónde se celebra?

■ Día de Muertos is celebrated in

- Mexico
- Ecuador
- Guatemala
- and other areas in Central and South America populated with the Latino ethnic background.

¿Dónde más se celebra?

- The Day of the Dead is also celebrated in many areas of the United States, especially where there is strong Mexican-American heritage, such as California, Texas, Arizona and New Mexico.

Productos y Practicas

ALTARES



Productos: Altares

- Families arrange ofrendas (offerings) or altares (altars) in their homes.
- The purpose of the altars is to hold the offering for the dead.
- Everything is done as a remembrance of those who have passed on.

Productos: Altares

- The purpose of the *altares* is to hold the offering for the dead.
- Everything is done as a remembrance of children and or adults who have passed on.

Productos: Altares

Altares can have three steps.

From the bottom up each step represents:

- Hell (bottom step)
- Earth (step two)
- Heaven (top step)



What is included in the altars?

Each altar includes:

- A picture of the deceased loved one(s).
- Items they liked such as favorite foods.
- Candles.
- Flowers.
- Gifts.



In the late afternoon...

■ special all night burning candles are lit at cemeteries or homes to remember the departed family members, especially parents and grandparents.

¿Por qué?



■ The purpose of the candles is to light the path to guide the souls to the altar.

El 31 de octubre

■ On October 31,
Preparation Day,
families go to the
markets to buy
items prior to the
Day of the Dead.



El 31 de octubre



El 31 de octubre



- They tidy up and decorate the graves of their deceased loved ones.
- All this is done prior to All Saints' Day (November 1) and All Souls' Day (November 2.)

Producto:El Pan de Muertos

Pan de Muertos (Bread of the Dead)

■ Special loaves of bread are baked, called pan de muertos, and decorated with “bones.”





Producto: MOLE



- Mole is a spicy chocolate sauce.
- It is used all year, but especially during this holiday.

Productos: Marigold



- During Día de Muertos the **yellow marigold** is see everywhere.
- It symbolizes the short duration of life.

Productos: Marigold

■ Other flowers commonly seen during this celebration include the white amaryllis, wild orchids, baby's breath and ruby coxcombs are offered as adornment and enticement for the returning spirits.



Practicas: Coronas de Flores



CORONAS DE FLORES (wreaths) made of flowers, both real and plastic, are placed on the grave sites.

Productos y Practicas: Papel Picado



■ **PAPEL PICADO (cut paper)** is a traditional art used to decorate homes, businesses, markets and altars in preparation for the Day of the Dead.

Productos y Prácticas: Calaveras y Esqueletos



Productos y Practicas: Calaveras y Esqueletos

Calaveras y Esqueletos (skulls & skeletons) are found everywhere as are chocolate skulls, marzipan coffins, and white chocolate skeletons.



Productos y Practicas: Calaveras y Esqueletos



- Figurines can take on any pose from life: musicians, generals on horseback, even skeletal brides, in their white bridal gowns marching down the aisle with their skeletal grooms.

Productos: Calacas



- Calacas are handmade skeleton figurines. They are extremely popular.
- Calacas usually show an active and joyful afterlife.
- They symbolize life after death.

Fuentes de Información

- Día de Muertos: For Teachers and Students

- <http://www.azcentral.com/ent/dead/teachers/>

- Common misconceptions about the Day of the Dead

- <http://www.inside-mexico.com/noes.htm>

- History, Traditions, and Significance

- <http://www.nacnet.org/assunta/dead.htm>

- Google Images

YouTube

- (:45) -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4IFmD1NK6oU>
- (3:40 – Flavor & Tradition -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rdIL45IjkEY>
- (18:00+ : Visit to Oaxaca -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jJ5Qo4Cubxl>