

Paper Mask Template

Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) is a two-day holiday celebrated on November 1 and 2. Día de los Muertos was originally designed to celebrate life by honoring the memory of the departed. On these days, families often go to the cemetery and place beautiful flowers on the graves of their lost relatives; singing usually takes place and sometimes mariachis show up to serenade the dearly departed.

It is believed that on these days the gates of heaven open up and children who have passed on come to Earth to visit on November 1, called Día de los Angelitos – the day of little angels. On November 2, the gates open up again and adults come down to visit, this day is called All Soul's Day.

Setting up an altar is part of the tradition and customs of Día de los Muertos. The altar will be created in a small corner of a room, probably the dining room. According to tradition, an altar can have candles, pictures of the deceased, flowers (usually marigolds), drinks and food. The belief is that any visiting souls may be hungry from their long journey and so the food and drink is for nourishment, in order to help them make their journey back. This is supposed to be a happy day, filled with eating, drinking and sitting around and telling stories of those being honored.



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