

Cultural Lessons for Spanish Teachers

EL DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS: A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

CULTURAL READINGS AND ACTIVITIES
FOR YOUR CLASSROOM



DIA DE LOS MUERTOS: A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

“The word death is not pronounced in New York, Paris or in London, because it burns the lips. The Mexican, in contrast, is familiar with death, jokes about it, caresses it, sleeps with it, celebrates it; it is one of his favorite toys and his most steadfast love.”

-Octavio Paz, The Labyrinth of Solitude, 1961.



The Day of the Dead or *Día de los Muertos*, observed November 1st and 2nd, is a vibrant and profoundly meaningful tradition that originated in central and southern Mexico during the Aztec Empire. People believe that on these days, the spirits of the deceased return to their earthly families for a happy, fun, celebratory ritual. The deceased loved ones are honored in a variety of colorful, festive and pensive traditions

that happen over these 2 days. This celebration is in contrast to how death is remembered in some cultures as sad, solemn and serious. Streets, homes, churches and cemeteries come alive with folkloric art and are adorned with brilliant marigold flowers, favorite foods and drinks of those passed, sugar skulls, altars, and offerings. *Día de los Muertos* combines ancient, indigenous, Aztec rituals with Catholic traditions introduced by the Spanish conquistadors and the result is a brilliant, colorful, festive celebration of life!

Our team of Spanish teachers has created various lesson plans and hands on activities that are vetted, tested and take very little time to prepare. These lessons focus on teaching about *Día de los Muertos* through various literacy, music, and art-based activities. In the process of participating in these literacy and hand's on activities, students will acquire how other cultures view death and better understand the cultural significance and purpose of *Día de los Muertos* celebrations.

IN THIS CULTURAL LESSON YOU YOU FIND...

Diverse and easy to implement activities! Pick or choose which lessons and activities you would like to use or use all of them. You can use them in sequential order or not! The 3 lessons are:

1. **Introducción** a *Día de los Muertos* ¿Qué es el *Día de los Muertos*?
2. **Delve deeper** into the history and traditions. DDLM authentic text, vocabulary & comprehension questions
3. **Student led presentations, creation and re-enactment** of the following 3 traditions: (all investigative materials, step-by-step instructions and recipes are included, just need to hand out to students) *calaveritas de azúcar, ofrendas y pan de muerto*

The following templates, lesson plans, materials, activities are included in this lesson:

- Article: *Día de los Muertos* text is written primarily in the present and past tenses and is great for advanced beginning levels and beyond. Vocabulary and comprehension questions are included.
- *Pan de Muerto* Recipe in Spanish and English (tie in command form lesson into baking)
- Step by Step Instructions to build your own *Ofrenda* in Spanish and English
- Template to implement a *Día de los Muertos* cultural experience in your classroom. Follow this to have a student directed cultural celebration in your classroom. You students will present, create and re-enact 3 traditions. All materials included
- Fun, creative *calaveras* coloring pages
- Resources to videos, songs, and more activities all about *Día de los Muertos*
- Easy to follow lesson plans included

LESSON PLAN Introduction to DDLM | ¿Qué es el Día de los Muertos?

Use this lesson to introduce this holiday and the cultural themes to your students. This lesson is great for students that:

- Know very little or nothing about the holiday
- Are beginning Spanish students

If you do not have the instructional time to teach this introductory lesson, [download this Día de los Muertos homework assignment](#) where students are introduced to this cultural tradition in a guided 30 minute out of class assignment.

The 3 objectives for today's lesson are all built around scaffolding so your students can progressively delve deeper into this cultural lesson and work independently toward sharing their cultural piece in the last day of this lesson series.

- 1. Set-up & Establish Connections:** Discuss what students already know about *Día de los Muertos*. Allow students to make connections to this tradition.
- 2. Learn New Vocabulary and Build Upon:** This is a great scaffolding step to aid in their understanding of the rituals, grammar and vocabulary they will be exposed to in the various activities and readings in this lesson.
- 3. A Peek into the Tradition:** We have some relevant resources you can share with your students, so they gain a glimpse into this celebration before they dive deeper into the unique traditions.

LESSON IMPLEMENTATION

1. Image Walk: Gather a wide variety of *Día de los Muertos* images from the internet. [Use this link](#) if you are looking for images. Divide your class into groups and give each group several images. Have them work through the questions below and “show what they know”. Many students might already know about this holiday and some students will have very limited knowledge.

2. Lluvia de ideas: Some good questions to get started are:

- ¿Qué ves en las fotos?
- ¿Cuáles emociones están representadas?
- ¿Qué piensas que está pasando?
- ¿Qué es el Día de los Muertos?
- ¿Es una celebración para celebrar...?
- ¿Es una celebración triste o feliz?
- ¿Dónde se celebra?
- ¿Cuándo?
- ¿Cómo se celebra el Día de los Muertos?
- ¿Cuáles preguntas tienen ustedes?

3. Making Connections:

- Do any of your students celebrate *Día de los Muertos* or know anyone that does? What are their particular family traditions?

4. Building Vocabulary:

- What vocabulary centered around this tradition are your students familiar with in Spanish?
- Create a “word wall” with the vocabulary centered around DDLM
- Can they begin to describe this tradition or ways to celebrate in Spanish? Great activity for small groups or as a class.
- As students begin to discuss, collect important vocabulary centered on this theme.

5. A Glimpse into the Tradition: Take a look at how the Day of the Dead has appeared in pop culture in recent years. Pick one or two of the videos or songs below to show to your class. Add any new vocabulary to your collection.

1. Use this heartfelt video, no words, animated about a little girl remembering her grandmother and how her memories come to life: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jCQnUuq-TEE>
2. This video in in Spanish and is made for the Spanish classroom <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kimX-rwPmyk>
3. This is a music video by Latin Alternative group called El-Haru Kuroi of beautiful images of the celebration in Mexico: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2luTdONIFfQ>

6. Preguntas de Comprensión y/o Conversación: After watching the videos above, use these questions to initiate conversations as a large class or in small groups:

- ¿Quién celebra el Día de los Muertos? ¿Por qué se celebra?
- ¿Cómo se celebra?
- ¿Cómo son las imágenes de la muerte (las calacas y las calaveras)?
- ¿Qué es una ofrenda? ¿Para qué se ponen?
- ¿Qué hace la gente en el cementerio?
- ¿Si tú celebraras Día de los Muertos en tu familia, a quién recordarías y qué pondrías en la ofrenda?

7. Pick your project! IMPORTANT, before students leave class today, have them pick one of the three projects on the next page that they are responsible for informing their classmates about through a creative presentation in Spanish during the last day *Día de los Muertos* celebration in your classroom. All investigative links and directions are included for students. Simply pass out the project page to you students.

***Students pick your project!

On our final day in this cultural lesson we will have a mini- *Día de los Muertos* class celebration! You and your partner or group will share in Spanish about one of the three rituals below.

- **Pan de Muerto:** inform the class about this tradition, test out your skills in the kitchen and bring *pan de muerto* for the class on the last day. Prepare a mini-presentation in Spanish about the significance of this bread and share the bread with your classmates. Use the recipe attached to make *pan de muerto* and the resources below to learn about the significance.



- <http://www.art-is-fun.com/pan-de-muerto/>
- <https://cookpad.com/es/recetas/108693-pan-de-muerto-receta-original>
- <https://www.mexicodesconocido.com.mx/pan-de-muerto.html>
(receta y video)

- **Calaveritas de azúcar:** inform the class about this tradition. Test out your art skills and have fun decorating *calaveritas*. Teach your peers about the significance of this tradition, why do they make *calaveritas* and what does it mean? Here are some recipes to follow and resources to learn about the significance of the *calaveras*.

- <http://www.mexicansugarskull.com/support/dodhistory.html> This is a fantastic site to get recipes and more information and Sugar Skulls
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JeGwRuSbLao> This is a recipe to make them without a mold
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y3aO7Fvi2do> In Spanish, a bit crazy

- **Ofrendas:** inform the class about this tradition. Test out your art skills and have fun decorating an altar. Teach your peers about the significance of this tradition, why do they carefully set up an altar with offerings to their deceased family members? Use the step-by-step instructions attached to make an *ofrenda* and resources below to learn about the significance of the *ofrenda*.

- <http://www.crizmac.com/artandsoul/index.php/2010/10/08/how-to-ofrenda/>
- <http://www.themijachronicles.com/2011/11/how-to-make-a-dia-de-los-muertos-altar/>



DÍA* DE LOS MUERTOS

Pan de Muerto "Bread of the Dead"

En honor al próximo Día de los Muertos, nos gustaría compartir la receta tradicional para elaborar el Pan de Muerto ("Bread of the Dead"). Este pan suele ser moldeado con forma de calavera o en panes redondos con tiras de masa enrollada a modo de huesos.



Ingredientes

1/4 de taza de margarina	1/4 de taza de azúcar blanca
1/4 de taza de leche	2 huevos batidos
1/4 de taza de agua caliente (110 grados F/45 grados C)	2 cucharaditas de ralladura de naranja
3 tazas de harina multiuso	1/4 de taza de azúcar blanca
1 1/4 cucharaditas de levadura seca activa	1/4 de taza de jugo de naranja
1/2 cucharadita de sal	1 cucharada de ralladura de naranja
2 cucharaditas de semillas de anís	2 cucharadas de azúcar blanca

Instrucciones

1. Caliente la leche y la mantequilla en una cacerola mediana hasta que la mantequilla se derrita. Retire del fogón y añada el agua caliente. La mezcla debe alcanzar alrededor de los 110 grados F (43 grados C).
2. En un tazón grande, mezcle una taza de harina, levadura, sal, semillas de anís y 1/4 de taza de azúcar. Añádalos en la mezcla de leche caliente y luego añada los huevos y la ralladura de naranja hasta que la mezcla sea homogénea. Agregue 1/2 taza de harina y continúe añadiendo más harina hasta que la masa esté suave.
3. Vuelque la masa en una superficie ligeramente enharinada y amase hasta que quede liso y elástico.
4. Coloque la masa en un tazón ligeramente engrasado, cúbrala con una envoltura plástica y déjela reposar en un lugar cálido hasta que doble su tamaño. Esto tomará alrededor de una o dos horas. Luego saque la masa del tazón y moldéela hasta lograr un pan redondo con un masa en forma de círculo o botón en la parte superior. Coloque la masa en una bandeja para hornear, cúbrala con una envoltura plástica y déjela reposar en un lugar cálido por aproximadamente una hora o hasta que esté por doblar su tamaño.
5. Meter en el horno precalentado a 350 grados F (175 grados C) por unos 35 a 45 minutos. Retire el pan del horno, déjelo reposar un poco y luego barnice con glaseado.
6. Para hacer el glaseado: En una cacerola pequeña, combine el 1/4 de taza de azúcar, el jugo de naranja y la ralladura de naranja. Cocine a fuego lento y deje hervir por dos minutos. Barnice la superficie del pan mientras todavía está caliente. Espolvoree el pan glaseado con azúcar blanca.

DÍA* DE LOS MUERTOS

Pan de Muerto "Bread of the Dead"

In honor of the upcoming Day of the Dead, we'd like to share this traditional recipe for Pan de Muerto, "Bread of the Dead" – this bread is often shaped into skulls or round loaves with strips of dough rolled out and attached to resemble bones...



Ingredients

1/4 cup margarine	1/4 cup white sugar
1/4 cup milk	2 eggs, beaten
1/4 cup warm water (110 degrees F/45 degrees C)	2 teaspoons orange zest
3 cups all-purpose flour	1/4 cup white sugar
1 1/4 teaspoons active dry yeast	1/4 cup orange juice
1/2 teaspoon salt	1 tablespoon orange zest
2 teaspoons anise seed	2 tablespoons white sugar

Directions

1. Heat the milk and the butter together in a medium saucepan, until the butter melts. Remove from heat and add warm water. The mixture should be around 110 degrees F (43 degrees C).
2. In a large bowl combine 1 cup of the flour, yeast, salt, anise seed and 1/4 cup of sugar. Beat in the warm milk mixture then add the eggs and orange zest and beat until well combined. Stir in 1/2 cup of flour and continue adding more flour until the dough is soft.
3. Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured surface and knead until smooth and elastic.
4. Place the dough into a lightly greased bowl, cover with plastic wrap and let rise in a warm place until doubled in size. This will take 1 to 2 hours. Punch the dough down and shape it into a large round loaf with a round knob on top. Place dough onto a baking sheet, loosely cover with plastic wrap and let rise in a warm place for about 1 hour or until it has doubled in size.
5. Bake in a preheated 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) oven for 35 to 45 minutes. Remove from oven let cool then brush with glaze.
6. To make glaze: In a small saucepan combine the 1/4 cup sugar, orange juice and orange zest. Bring to a boil over medium heat and boil for 2 minutes. Brush over top of bread while still warm. Sprinkle glazed bread with white sugar.

DÍA* DE LOS MUERTOS

Crea tu propia ofrenda



La *Ofrenda* es creada en honor a los fallecidos y representa todas las cosas que los seres amados disfrutaban mientras estaban en su viaje terrenal. El propósito de este ritual es mostrar las cosas que eran significativas y amadas por la persona que es honrada. Cada cosa es colocada intencionalmente y con mucho significado. La decoración es ampliamente variada ya que es personal, sin embargo, hay algunos elementos que encontrarás en la mayoría de las *Ofrendas*:

- Muchas *Ofrendas* incorporan los 4 elementos naturales de la vida representados en las creencias indígenas: tierra, viento, agua y fuego. “La tierra es representada por símbolos y aromas de la época de cosecha... el viento es evocado mediante el uso de papel picado revoloteando libremente en la brisa... el agua es colocada en un recipiente abierto, así las almas pueden saciar su sed luego del largo viaje; y el fuego es simbolizado por las siempre presentes velas encendidas que guían a las almas a casa, y también representan a las almas en sí mismas” Hall, D. (n.d).
- Otro símbolo comúnmente usado es la sal. Esta es usada para purificar los espíritus.

Las *ofrendas* son creadas en superficies planas (tales como tablas o mesas) o en escalones de zaguanes, o incluso en el cementerio.

¡Empecemos!

1. Empieza con una pequeña mesa colocada contra una pared.
2. Cubre la mesa con un lindo mantel, o también con algo que haya pertenecido a la persona que estás honrando.
3. Incluye tantos elementos tradicionales en tu ofrenda como sea posible:
 - Agua (así las almas pueden saciar su sed debido al largo viaje)
 - Sal (para purificar los espíritus)
 - Caléndulas (representan la cosecha, la tierra)
 - Velas (representan el fuego)
 - Frutas y vegetales (representan la tierra)
 - Papel picado (representa el viento)
 - Varitas de incienso de copal
 - Pan de muerto
 - Calaveritas de azúcar
4. Efectos personales:
 - Comida o bebida favorita del honrado
 - Efectos personales favoritos de la persona amada
 - Una fotografía enmarcada de la persona honrada

Junta creativamente estos elementos de la forma que prefieras y tómate un momento para honrar a tus seres amados que se han ido antes que tú.

DÍA* DE LOS MUERTOS

Build your own Ofrenda



La *Ofrenda* “the offering” is created to honor the deceased and represents all the things the loved ones enjoyed while on their earthly journey.

The purpose of this ritual is to display items that were meaningful and loved by the one that is honored. Each item is intentionally placed and has much significance. Decorations are widely varied, as it is personal, however, there are a few elements that you will find in most *Ofrendas*:

- Many *Ofrendas* incorporate the 4 natural elements of life represented in indigenous beliefs: earth, wind, water and fire. “The earth is represented by symbols and aromas of the harvest season...wind is evoked by the use of *papel picado* (artfully cut paper) fluttering freely in the breeze...water is placed in an open container so the souls may quench their thirst after the long journey; and fire is symbolized by the ever-present burning candles that guide the souls home, and they are also representative of the souls themselves” Hall, D. (n.d).
- Another common symbol is salt. Salt is used to purify the spirits.

Ofrendas are either built on flat surfaces, like tables, on steps leading up to an entryway or even in the cemetery.

Let's get started!

1. Begin with a small table placed up against a wall.
2. Cover the table with a nice tablecloth, perhaps something that belonged to the person that you are honoring.
3. Include as many of these traditional elements on your *Ofrenda*:
 - Water (so the souls can quench their thirst from a long journey)
 - Salt (to purify the spirits)
 - Marigold flowers (represents the harvest, the earth)
 - Candles (represent fire)
 - Fruits and vegetables (represents the earth)
 - Papel picado banners (represent the wind)
 - Copal incense sticks
 - Pan de muerto / Bread of the Dead
 - Calaveritas / Sugar skulls
4. Personal items:
 - Favorite foods or beverages of the honored one
 - Favorite personal items of the loved one
 - A framed photograph of the person being honored

Creatively arrange these elements to your preference and take a moment to honor the loved ones in your life that have gone before you.

LESSON PLAN Delve Deeper into the History, Vocabulary and Traditions

Get into the “meat” of the cultural festivity in this lesson. This lesson is great for:

- students that have already learned about DDLM in previous years
- Student that want to learn more specifics about the history and traditions
- Intermediate Spanish students and beyond

The objectives for today’s lesson are all built around diving deeper and giving your students a variety of ways to learn about this cultural tradition through this literacy based lesson.

1. Review and build upon vocabulary
2. Dive into culturally authentic text and activities
3. Assess comprehension

LESSON IMPLEMENTATION

1. Review vocabulary and themes discussed on day one:

- Use the included vocabulary list with definitions in Spanish
- Take time to review the vocabulary included in this reading
- Define any vocabulary that came up as they were discussing in small groups and add to the list
- Try to incorporate 1 or 2 different ways for students to understand new vocabulary without defaulting to English:
 - Charades, Pictionary, TPR(s)
 - Circumlocution= you talk around what you want to say because you don’t have the exact word in your vocabulary. Using descriptive adjectives helps students... i.e. *Es de color rojo, vuela en el cielo, tiene 2 alas. ¿Un pájaro?* *[Read more about this concept!](#)
 - Human Dictionary (students circle around the room and ask their classmates if they can define the word or give an example of its meaning in Spanish (not English))

2. La Lectura: Read this text in your classes. Our amigo Rosben Olivera from Mexico City shares his fresh take on *Día de los Muertos*. This text is written mainly in the present and past tenses and full of great new vocabulary centered around *Día de los Muertos*. We’ve built in some comprehension questions as well so that it’s a perfect mini lesson for the day.

There are many ways to do this in a class. Here are some suggestions:

- Read in small groups or pairs of two. Have them add any new vocabulary to their class vocabulary lists
- Be sure to have students read out loud to practice their pronunciation.
- You might consider giving them the article to read the night before. They can focus on reading it one time and underline any vocabulary that they do not understand. This helps students get familiar with the text before the class lesson.

3. Discussion Questions: Teacher starts a whole class discussion about this article by asking the class two or three opening questions.

- Be sure to review any vocabulary that came up as they were reading.
- Break students into small groups and answer (in Spanish) the questions included about the text.

4. Homework: be sure students are on track for their presentations in your last day of this lesson plan.

Día de Muertos

2 de Noviembre



El 2 de noviembre de cada año se celebra en México el Día de Muertos, un día especial para recordar a los familiares o amigos que ya fallecieron. Aunque parece ser una celebración triste en realidad es un momento de alegría, humor y tradición que todos los mexicanos disfrutan haciendo varias actividades recreativas pensando en las personas que ya no están con nosotros.

Se cree que las almas de los niños muertos visitan a los vivos el 1 de noviembre y las almas de los adultos el 2 de noviembre. Existen varias formas de celebrarlo, algunas de las cuales son las siguientes:

a) La gente visita los panteones y lleva flores y velas durante el día, y por la noche algunos se quedan ahí para estar un rato con los muertos, cantarles o cenar con ellos en el cementerio. El tipo de flor que llevan se llama flor de cempaxúchitl, es de color naranja y tiene un olor muy particular.

b) Muchas personas hacen una ofrenda o altar para los muertos en sus casas. El altar es básicamente un lugar en el que pueden poner comida, flores, velas, dulces, pan de muerto y cosas que les gustaban a las personas que murieron. Es muy común hacer tamales para comer ese día y para ponerlos en el altar. Otros también ponen bebidas tales como agua, café, chocolate, tequila o cerveza; para que los muertos coman y beban algo en su visita. En el centro de la ofrenda se coloca la foto de la o las personas que murieron y se decora con papel cortado con figuras y colores diferentes. Hay también competencias de altares en algunas escuelas para ver quién hace el altar más bonito o más original.

c) Otra forma de celebrar el día de muertos es haciendo calaveras, las cuales pueden ser de dos tipos: Se le llama calaveras a un tipo de texto literario en el que la gente con versos habla sobre La Catrina (una versión en mujer de la muerte), indicando que viene a llevarse a alguien y a veces publican estos textos. También hay competencias para ver quién hace la calavera más original. El segundo tipo de calavera es un dulce hecho de azúcar que se puede comer o poner también en el altar de muertos. La imagen de La Catrina es muy popular en estos días y la visten y arreglan de muchas formas.

El día de muertos es una tradición muy antigua y popular en México y en otros países de América Latina. Se celebra con alegría recordando a todos los que ya no están vivos.





LAS TRADICIONES Y EL VOCABULARIO DEL DÍA DE MUERTOS

Paso 2: Vocabulario

Español	Definición en Español	English meaning?
Los muertos	Las personas que han fallecido.	_____
El altar de muertos	Los lugares sagrados donde los familiares y/o amigos honran a sus muertos. Se hacen sobre bancos o mesas. Colocan las cosas favoritas de los queridos que han fallecido.	_____
El arte folklórico	Cualquier pieza artística creada por campesinos o artesanos locales.	_____
La ofrenda	Referente a las cosas que se colocan en el altar.	_____
El / la ángelito(a)	Niño o niña que ha muerto.	_____
El atole	Bebida antigua hecha de harina de maíz y agua con sabores de frutas.	_____
Las calacas	Figuras de esqueletos usadas durante el Día de Muertos como adorno.	_____
Las calaveras	Canciones y poemas que le cantan a la celebración.	_____
Las calaveritas de azúcar	Dulce con forma de cráneo que se elabora con pasta de azúcar.	_____
El cementerio	Lugar donde entierran a los muertos.	_____
El cempasúchil	El nombre azteca para la flor caléndula. Una flor amarilla, símbolo de la muerte.	_____
El copal	Aceite aromático utilizada para hacer incienso.	_____
La cruz	Símbolo de la cruz en la que murió Jesús.	_____
El Día de los Muertos	Celebración realizada entre el 1 y el 2 de noviembre en México.	_____
El esqueleto	Conjunto de huesos que conforman el cuerpo.	_____
Los dulces	Golosinas que se añaden como ofrendas al altar.	_____
La flor de muertos	La caléndula o cempasúchil.	_____
El pan de los muertos	El pan tradicional de este festivo, suele ser en forma de calavera o redondo.	_____
El papel picado	Papel de colores con complicados diseños.	_____
La tumba	Sitio en el que se sepulta o entierra a un fallecido.	_____
Las almas	El espíritu o la entidad no material e invisible que poseen los seres humanos.	_____
El ciclo de vida	Período que comprende el tiempo que toma nacer, crecer y morir.	_____

Preguntas de comprensión: Día de los Muertos

- ¿Cuál de las palabras es sinónimo de *fallecieron*?
 - perdieron
 - murieron
 - hicieron
 - tuvieron
- ¿Qué quiere decir actividades recreativas?
 - actividades que la gente hace para divertirse
 - actividades que la gente hace para llorar
 - actividades que la gente hace para visitar a sus familiares muertos
 - actividades que la gente hace para no estar triste
- ¿Cuál de las palabras es sinónimo de *panteón*?
 - fiesta
 - muertos
 - altar
 - cementerio
- ¿Para qué va la gente al cementerio la noche del 2 de noviembre?
 - para ver a sus familiares
 - para recordar, honrar, y cantar a sus familiares muertos
 - para divertirse con juegos
 - para enterrar a la gente fallecida en esos días
- ¿Qué es una ofrenda o altar de muertos?
 - es cuando la gente tiene algo que vender en el cementerio
 - es cuando la gente recuerda a sus muertos cantando y cenando en el cementerio
 - es cuando la gente pone cosas para sus muertos como velas y comida, en un lugar especial el 2 de noviembre
 - es cuando la gente come tamales y calaveras el 2 de noviembre
- ¿Qué artículos pone la gente en las ofrendas del día de muertos?
 - muertes, cerveza, altares, textos literarios y otros
 - tequila, alegría, imágenes, tierra
 - nada
 - comida, bebidas, calaveras, velas, flores, e imágenes
- ¿Quién es la Catrina?
 - una calavera de dulce decorada con nombres
 - una flor de cempaxúchil
 - una imagen de la muerte en forma de mujer
 - una mujer muy arreglada
- De acuerdo con el texto, en los altares del día de muertos la gente pone una foto de la persona que murió.
 - verdadero
 - falso
 - no dice
- La tradición del día de muertos solamente se celebra en México.
 - verdadero
 - falso
 - no dice
- La celebración del día de muertos es muy importante para los mexicanos porque les ayuda a recordar con alegría a sus familiares o amigos que murieron.
 - verdadero
 - falso
 - no dice

LESSON PLAN: Student presentations, creation and re-enactment of DDLM

CELEBRATE *DIA DE LOS MUERTOS* IN YOUR CLASSROOM Today your students get a to display their knowledge of this rich tradition during a mini classroom celebration of *Día de los Muertos*. Students will present their projects to the class and share sights, sounds, tastes of this festive tradition with their classmates.

Background Knowledge of the three *Día de los Muertos* traditions that students will present on:

- 1. *La Ofrenda*:** “the offering” is created to honor the deceased and represents all the things the loved ones enjoyed while on their earthly journey. The purpose of this ritual is to display items that were meaningful and loved by the one that is honored. Each item is intentionally placed and has much significance. Decorations are widely varied as it is personal, however, there are a few elements that you will find in most *Ofrendas*:
 - Many *Ofrendas* incorporate the 4 natural elements of life represented in indigenous beliefs: earth, wind, water and fire. “*The earth is represented by symbols and aromas of the harvest season...wind is evoked by the use of papel picado (artfully cut paper) fluttering freely in the breeze...water is placed in an open container so the souls may quench their thirst after the long journey; and fire is symbolized by the ever-present burning candles that guide the souls home, and they are also representative of the souls themselves*” (Hall, n.d.)
 - Another common used symbol that is used is salt. Salt is used to purify the spirits.
 - *Ofrendas* are either built on flat surfaces, like tables, on steps leading up to an entryway or even in the cemetery.
- 2. *Las Calaveras or Calaveritas*:** “Sugar skulls” are a traditional folk art from Mexico. They are brightly decorated with frosting, glitter, sequins, colored tin foil and more. Often the name of the deceased is placed on the forehead in colored tin foil to honor that person. Sugar skulls are placed on altars and taken to the cemetery as decorations. Open air markets are filled with sugar skulls during this time.
 - Recipe and instructions can be found in this packet and more information here mexicansugarskull.com
 - Sugar skull kits for your classroom can be ordered through Calavera King by contacting them at 505-554-1814 or here http://www.mexicansugarskull.com/sugar_skulls/index.html
- 3. *Pan de Muerto*:** or “bread of the dead” is a type of sweet bread that fills bakeries starting a few weeks before *Día de los Muertos*. This bread is used to decorate altars, cemeteries and eaten as well. It is a round loaf that has the forms of bones on top and/ or shaped like a skull. Recipe and instructions can be found in this packet.

Día de los muertos classroom celebration flow

- 1. Classroom set-up:** Here are some suggestions to get your classroom ready for this cultural day
 - Consider “setting the mood” in your classroom. You can simply change the ambience of your classroom by :
 - Making or buying some *papel picado* and stringing it throughout your classroom
 - Setting electric candles throughout the room to change the feel
 - Arrange desks and tables ahead of time so students can set up their *ofrendas*
- 2. Explain expectations of the day:** Once students arrive take 2 minutes to explain what the flow of the class will look like and what is expected of students. For example:

- *Bienvenidos a mi clase, gracias por venir y honrar a las personas a quienes amamos...* today in we are going to see a glimpse into the *Día de los Muertos* tradition that we have been learning about. We will take turns presenting and sharing about one aspect of this tradition. Only Spanish will be used.

3. Debrief the experience: As students conclude their presentations, ask debrief questions to engage students and solidify concepts. Another idea is to set up peer interviews to see what each other has learned.

4. How is *Día de los Muertos* celebrated in the US? Don't forget to search online for Day of the Dead events this weekend in your city! It has become a popular celebration across the U.S., even among non-Latinos, with art exhibits, family-oriented events, parties, music, and rituals taking place nationwide. Don't miss out!

"El camino de regreso al mundo de los vivos no debe ser resbaladizo por las lágrimas." Translated, "The path back to the world of the living must not be made slippery by tears." Author unknown

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ADDITIONAL *DIA DE LOS MUERTOS* RESOURCES & BIBLIOGRAPHY

Book & Article Recommendations:

- *A Gift for Abuelita / Un regalo para Abuelita: Celebrating the Day of the Dead / En celebración del Día de los Muertos* by Nancy Luenn
- *The Spirit of Tío Fernando / El espíritu de tío Fernando: A Day of the Dead Story / Una historia del Día de los Muertos* by Janice Levy
- *Pablo Remembers: The Fiesta of the Day of the Dead* by George Ancona
- *Days of the Dead* by Kathryn Lasky
- *Day of the Dead: A Mexican-American Celebration* by Diane Hoyt-Goldsmith
- *Beto and the Bone Dance* by Gina Freschet

General *Día de los Muertos* Videos & Resources:

- <http://latino.si.edu/dayofthedead/> (history & activities)
- <http://www.mexicansugarskull.com/support/dodhistory.html> (history & activities)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kimX-rwPmyk> (In Spanish)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jCQnUuq-TEE>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LVIjThmgRQ> (In English)
- <http://www.sbmuseart.org/programs/st.web>
- <https://laili.unm.edu/outreach/common/lesson-plans/dia-de-los-muertos/complete-guide.pdf>

Calaveritas / Sugar Skull Resources:

- http://www.mexicansugarskull.com/sugar_skulls/gallery.html
- <http://www.foodnetwork.com/videos/festive-mexican-sugar-skulls-62816.html> (in English)
- http://www.mexicansugarskull.com/sugar_skulls/instructions.html (English)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvTQHO8J3mc> (Sugar skull face painting)

Pan de Muerto:

- <https://cookpad.com/es/recetas/108693-pan-de-muerto-receta-original>
- <https://www.mexicodesconocido.com.mx/pan-de-muerto.html> (receta y video)

How to make your own altar or *ofrenda*:

- <http://www.crizmac.com/artandsoul/index.php/2010/10/08/how-to-ofrenda/> (English)
- <http://www.themijachronicles.com/2011/11/how-to-make-a-dia-de-los-muertos-altar/> (English)
- <http://www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/chngmexico/211> (English)

Sited Sources:

- Hall, D. (n.d.). "A Proper 'Día de los Muertos' Altar: Symbols and Soulful Elements Made Personal by the Maker." Retrieved July 22, 2013 from <http://www.zocalotx.com/aproperdiadelosmuertos.htm>