**Día de los Muertos**

*Día de los Muertos*, or Day of the Dead is a holiday which is largely celebrated in Mexico and takes place every year between October 31st and November 2nd. *Día de los Muertos* is a colorful celebration to keep the memory of loved ones alive by honoring their life.

In Mexico, parades are held in the streets with music and dancing and people attend festivals decorated with *papel picado* (intricate paper cut banners) and marigolds.

To get in the spirit, people often wear masks or paint their faces like skulls. The colorful, flowery designs remind us to not fear death, but celebrate life.

Many people make ornate altars or, *ofrendas* dedicated to those who have passed away to remember them and pay homage.

On the altar are things which represent what was important to a person before they passed away such as their favorite foods, books, and other items. Also decorating the altar are colorful paper crafts, along with *calaveras* (decorated sugar skulls), candles and *copal* incense.
Pan de muerto is a traditional sweet bread which is eaten around the time of Día de Los Muertos. It frequently has decorations on top which resemble bones and is baked in a round to represent the circle of life. Pan de muerto is often placed as an offering, on the altar to honor the dead and welcome them to the land of the living during this time.

People dress up on Día de los Muertos and paint their faces to look like calaveras (colorful flowery depictions of skulls). But despite the sweet treats, dressing up, and occurring around the same time of year, Día de los Muertos is not like Halloween. Día de los Muertos is a time, not to be sad or fearful of the departed, but instead to celebrate and remember them.

Día De los Muertos is a colorful celebration of the memories of those who have passed.

Try these fun activities for your celebration of life:
1. Word search and crossword puzzle
2. Coloring pages
3. Make your own Dancing Skeleton

Coloring pages, and word search from azcentral.com Día de los Muertos Teacher pack
Word Search

Find these words in the grid above. Keep in mind that the words may be hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally or backwards.

1. ofrenda
2. papel picado
3. piñata
4. altar
5. day of the dead
6. calaca
7. zarape
8. copal
9. ceras
10. calavera
11. cascarones
12. candles
13. marigold
14. pan de muerto
15. Oaxaca
16. angelitos
17. mole
18. máscara
19. dulces
20. mariachis
Dia de los Muertos Crossword Puzzle

Across
1. Burning incense left at altars
4. Souls of children who have died
6. Colorful iced sugar skulls
8. Day of the Dead
9. An iconic image of a skeleton woman
   Drawn by Jose Guadalupe Posada
10. Flor de Muerto, yellow and orange flowers symbolizing death

Down
2. Display and offerings to honor the dead
3. Bread of the dead
5. Whimsical skeleton figure that represents death
7. The art of Mexican paper cutting

Word Bank
Alfeniques  Copal  Papel Picado
Angelitos  Dia de los Muertos  Ofrenda
Calaveras  Marigold
Catrina  Pan de Muerto
Coloring Pages
Dancing Skeletons

Let's start with the ARMS:
1. Take a skeleton body & an arm w/string - attach them with a paper fastener.
2. Get another paper fastener. Attach an arm w/hand at the elbow.
3. Repeat on other side of the skeleton.

Time for the LEGS...
1. Using a paper fastener, attach the leg w/string to the hip.
2. Take a leg w/foot & attach at the knee with another paper fastener.
3. Repeat on other side of the body.

Gently pull the string to make your skeleton DANCE!

Beginning Basics:
- Cut out parts & punch holes on dots
- Attach string to legs & arms (top half)

Supplies:
- Markers or brightly colored crayons
- Scissors
- Brads (paper fasteners)
- Glue or tape (for head)
- String
DANCING SKELETON OR ALIEN
Resources:

NM True TV - Dia de los Muertos Marigold Parade
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iinDrddZRto&feature=youtu.be

2018 Muertos y Marigolds Parade and Celebration
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SdeziyWI-LA&feature=youtu.be

The traditions of Dia de los Muertos

Day of the Dead website with history, traditions, recipes and more
https://dayofthedead.holiday/

Award Winning CGI 3D Animated Short Film: "Dia De Los Muertos" - by Team Whoo Kazoo | TheCGBros
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jCQnUuq-TEE&feature=youtu.be

National Geographic photo resource library on Dia de los Muertos
https://www.nationalgeographic.org/media/dia-de-los-muertos/

Honoring our Ancestors: Smithsonian Latino Virtual Museum Day of the Dead/ Día de los Muertos – Google Arts and Culture online exhibition
https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/honoring-our-ancestors/pAJCjUNS7L8iIA

Dia de los Muertos K-12 Educators Guide – UNM Latin American and Iberian Institute
https://laii.unm.edu/info/k-12-educators/assets/documents/dia-de-los-muertos/complete-guide.pdf

Day of the Dead Teachers Packet from AZCentral.com

Books:


Lulu celebrating Dia de los Muertos!