

Name: _____

Day of the Dead

By Olivia Mendoza

Many people are sad or scared when they think of death. But the Day of the Dead isn't sad or scary. It's a happy time to remember and celebrate those we love who have passed away!



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An ofrenda is an altar of offerings made by loved ones of the dead.

especially marigolds. The souls of the dead are said to be able to visit the living on these days. The marigolds' bright petals and strong scent are supposed to help attract and guide the spirits.

The Day of the Dead is really a celebration of life, and how life and death exist together. People use skull decorations and paint their faces

like skulls. They make skull-shaped candies and eat *pan de muerto* (bread of the dead), which often has bone-shaped toppings. They write lighthearted or



funny poems and stories for their loved ones—both living and dead—that have to do with death. They dress up, play music, and dance. The visiting spirits of the dead are the guests of honor at these lively parties. Families are excited to remember their loved ones and have their spirits celebrating alongside them.

The way people celebrate the Day of the Dead and the days they



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but one thing is always the same. death is not something to be sad or scared about on the Day of the Dead!



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1. When is the Day of the Dead usually celebrated?

2. According to the text, what are at least two countries where people celebrate the Day of the Dead?



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The visiting spirits of the dead are the guests of honor at these lively parties.

In your own words, what does it mean to be a guest of honor?

5. Why do you think we don't know the exact origins of the Day of the Dead?

6. Circle all items commonly offered at an *ofrenda*.

food and drink pumpkins marigold petals pictures of the dead

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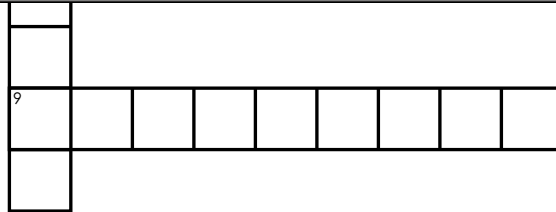
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Complete the crossword puzzle using words from the article. Ignore spaces or punctuation.



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Down

1. the head bone
2. empire at its strongest from the 1300s to the early 1500s; would become Mexico
3. a home altar with offerings to the dead
4. to draw attention and interest
6. a platform or table used for offerings and worship
8. the main country that celebrates the Day of the Dead

Across

5. sweet bread often decorated with bone shapes
7. a place where the dead are buried
8. bright orange and yellow flowers with a strong scent
9. to honor; to hold festivities for

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In the article, "The Day of the Dead," you read about some of the history behind the Day of the Dead. You also read about the main ways people celebrate it.

Halloween is a holiday celebrated on October 31. Pretend you have a friend who thinks the Day of the Dead is a Mexican version of Halloween. Using information from the article, explain what the Day of the Dead is and why the two holidays are very



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1. When is the Day of the Dead usually celebrated?

November 1 to November 2



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food and drink

pumpkins

mango petals

pictures of the dead

ANSWER KEY

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Day of the Dead

9. to honor; to hold festivities for