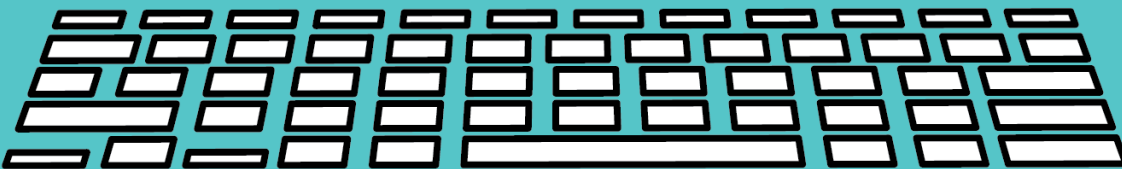




Short Answer	Type Answer Here
1. In what month is Day of the Dead?	
2. What are sugar skulls known as?	
3. What is a common symbol for the Day of the Dead?	
4. What word is used for a hot corn and masa beverage?	
5. Besides gold, what is the other main color of the holiday?	
6. Marigolds represent the sun and what else?	
7. What kind of butterflies often arrive in November?	
8. What Holiday is Day of the Dead not the same as?	



Short Answer	Type Answer Here	Fill in the Blank	Type Answer Here
1. In what month is Day of the Dead?		9. Day of the Dead is also called Día de Los ____.	
2. What are sugar skulls known as?		10. Spanish conquistadors were led by ____ Cortés.	
3. What is a common symbol for the Day of the Dead?		11. Day of the Dead reunites the living with the ____.	
4. What word is used for a hot corn and masa beverage?		12. November 1st is also known as the Day of the Little ____.	
5. Besides gold, what is the other main color of the holiday?		13. Día de los ____ starts at midnight on November 2nd.	
6. Marigolds represent the sun and what else?		14. The Spanish tradition is called ____ Souls' Day.	
7. What kind of butterflies often arrive in November?		15. Mictecacihuatl is also known as 'The ____ of the Dead'.	
8. What Holiday is Day of the Dead not the same as?		16. Sugar skulls often have a ____ on them.	



DAY OF THE DEAD

Mexicans and Central Americans celebrate Day of the Dead, called Día de los Muertos, each year on November 1st and 2nd. It is believed to be a time when the path between the spirit world and earth is open. This festive celebration honors loved ones and ancestors who have passed away. Day of the Dead reunites the living with the dead, and is a rare holiday that celebrates life and death. It is important to understand that the Day of the Dead is not Mexico's Halloween.

Day of the Dead combines indigenous traditions with the Spanish tradition of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day. The celebration is like a family reunion, and celebrates the memory of the deceased.

Native Mexicans believed their ancestors returned to earth once a year for a visit. Leading the celebration was the goddess Coatlicue, also known as 'The Lady of the Dead'. When Spanish conquistadors arrived in Mexico, led by Hernán Cortés, many people converted to Roman Catholicism. All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day were celebrated, and Roman Catholicism merged with native Mexican traditions to become Day of the Dead. The tradition continues by celebrating deceased children on November 1st, when their spirits return. On November 2nd, spirits of the deceased adults return.

Día de los Angelitos, called Day of the Little Angels, starts at midnight on November 1st. Spirits of deceased children return and reunite with their families for 24 hours. Offerings (called ofrenda) include favorite snacks, candies, toys, and photographs. The names of the deceased children are often written on a sugar skull, known as calavera.

Día de los Difuntos starts at midnight on November 2nd. Now families celebrate adults who have passed. Offerings include pan de muerto (bread), mezcal and atole (alcohols).

Day of the Dead decorations include brightly colored skulls and skeletons (known as calacas). The main colors associated with the holiday are purple and gold. Ofrendas (offerings) include the four elements: water, wind, earth, and fire. Monarch butterflies are believed to hold the spirits of the departed because they often arrive in Mexico around November 1st.

Day of the Dead celebrations often begin with setting up a candlelit altar at home. This helps the spirits find their way home. Next, families place favorite

foods for the deceased in the event they are hungry. They also place their favorite books and instruments on the altar, as well as photos.

The next tradition includes a family trip to the cemetery. Here they clean the tombstones and sing and talk to the spirits. Some build private altars at the graveside with food, beverages, photos, and memorabilia. While here, families decorate with orange marigolds called Flor de Muerto, or 'flower of dead'. Marigolds represent the sun and rebirth. It is thought that the bright leaves and strong scent help guide the ancestors from the cemetery to the family home.

At the graveside, families bring toys for the children, mezcal or pulque, or jars of atole (hot corn and masa beverage) for adults. Trinkets and favorite candies of the deceased are also left on the altar. Finally, you can see pillows and blankets at the graves so that the deceased can rest and be comfortable.

Common symbols for Day of the Dead are skeletons. Families make life-size skeletons and mini skeletons from papier-mâché, plastic, and clay. Skeletons are placed in various poses like playing the guitar, making tortillas, and dancing. Experts say that the skeletons remind everyone that death is a part of life.

Candies (sugar skulls) are another symbol of the holiday. Skulls often have a smiling face. They are also decorated in bright colors to reflect the personality of the deceased. They come in many forms, including sugar candies, decorations, and paintings.

On Day of the Dead, breads include candied pumpkin and tamales. Males are welcomed in cornmeal or plantain leaves and filled with ingredients such as cheese, and chilies. Pan de muerto, called 'bread of the dead', is another favorite. Pan de muerto is a round bread topped with candied sugar. It is often decorated with bone-shaped pieces of sugar. Pozole is a soup with balls of corn, garlic, onion, herbs, and pork.

Día de los Difuntos is not Halloween. It is not sad, scary, or creepy, or scary. It is a celebration of loved ones. Day of the Dead is a holiday around the world. However, the traditions vary from country to country. To celebrate Day of the Dead, you can make paper flowers, create skull crafts or cakes, and make a bracelet. The bracelet from the bracelet is believed to wake up the deceased. Day of the Dead is a colorful and joyous occasion that is used to remember, honor, and bring back loved ones.

