

DAY of the DEAD

READING COMPREHENSION!

Name: _____

Day of the Dead L1



The Day of the Dead, or Día de los Muertos, is a holiday from Mexico. It is a time when families remember and honor loved ones who have passed away. People believe their spirits come back to visit during this celebration. Families celebrate with food, music, and decorations.

1) What is the Day of the Dead?

☐ a holiday to remember loved ones ☐ a birthday party

☐ a winter festival ☐ a school event

2) Where did the Day of the Dead begin?

☐ France ☐ Canada

☐ Japan ☐ Mexico

3) What do families believe happens during this holiday?

☐ it rains a lot ☐ spirits come back to visit

☐ people go camping ☐ everyone gets gifts



Name: _____

Day of the Dead L2



The Day of the Dead, or Día de los Muertos, is a holiday from Mexico. It is a time when families remember and honor loved ones who have passed away. People believe their spirits come back to visit during this celebration. Families celebrate with food, music, and decorations.

1) What is the Day of the Dead?

2) Where did the Day of the Dead begin?

3) What do families believe happens during this holiday?

Name: _____

Day of the Dead L3



The Day of the Dead, or Día de los Muertos, is a holiday from Mexico. It is a time when families remember and honor loved ones who have passed away. People believe their spirits come back to visit during this celebration. Families celebrate with food, music, and decorations.

1) What is the Day of the Dead?

2) Where did the Day of the Dead begin?

3) What do families believe happens during this holiday?



3
levels!



10
topics!

Name: _____ Day of the Dead U



Altars

Families build altars, called ofrendas, in their homes. The altar is decorated with photos, candles, and flowers. People place favorite foods and items of their loved ones on the altar. This is a way to welcome their spirits back.

1) What is an altar called in Spanish?

- ☐ calavera ☐ ofrenda
☐ papel ☐ fiesta

2) What do families put on the altar?

- ☐ photos and food ☐ toys and balloons
☐ hats and coats ☐ paint and brushes

3) Why do families make an altar?

- ☐ to keep pets safe ☐ to sell food
☐ to make music ☐ to welcome spirits back

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Name: _____ Day of the Dead U



Marigolds

Marigold flowers are very important for the Day of the Dead. They are bright orange and yellow. People believe the smell and color help guide spirits home. Families often spread the petals on the ground like a path.

1) What flower is special for the Day of the Dead?

- ☐ rose ☐ daisy
☐ marigold ☐ tulip

2) What colors are marigolds?

- ☐ orange and yellow ☐ blue and purple
☐ red and pink ☐ white and green

3) Why do people use marigolds?

- ☐ to keep birds away ☐ to guide spirits home
☐ to make soup ☐ to write letters

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Name: _____ Day of the Dead U



Sugar Skulls

Sugar skulls are colorful candy made for the holiday. They are shaped like a skull and decorated with bright designs. Sometimes the name of a loved one is written on the forehead. These treats remind people that life is sweet.

1) What are sugar skulls made of

- ☐ sugar ☐ paper
☐ wood ☐ stone

2) What are sugar skulls decorated with?

- ☐ yellow stars ☐ bright designs
☐ dark numbers ☐ four hearts

3) What do sugar skulls remind people of?

- ☐ that sports are fun ☐ that school is hard
☐ that music is loud ☐ that life is sweet

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Name: _____ Day of the Dead U



Bread of the Dead

Pan de Muerto is a special bread baked for the Day of the Dead. It is round and sometimes has shapes on top that look like bones. The bread tastes sweet and is often sprinkled with sugar. Families eat it together to remember their loved ones.

1) What is Pan de Muerto?

- ☐ a sweet bread ☐ a kind of soup
☐ a type of candy ☐ a red toy

2) What shapes are sometimes on top of the bread?

- ☐ clouds ☐ bones
☐ stars ☐ flowers

3) Who eats Pan de Muerto?

- ☐ only teachers ☐ only pets
☐ only farmers ☐ families

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Name: _____ Day of the Dead U



La Catrina

La Catrina is a famous symbol of the Day of the Dead. She is a skeleton lady wearing a big, fancy hat. La Catrina was first drawn by an artist named José Guadalupe Posada. She reminds people that everyone is the same in the end, no matter how rich or poor.

1) Who is La Catrina?

- ☐ a bread made without yeast ☐ a skeleton lady with a fancy hat
☐ a colorful flower ☐ a bright candle

2) Who drew La Catrina first?

- ☐ Frida Kahlo ☐ Diego Rivera
☐ Pablo Picasso ☐ José Guadalupe Posada

3) What does La Catrina remind people?

- ☐ everyone is equal in the end ☐ everyone must wear a hat
☐ everyone eats candy ☐ all of these

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Level
1

Name: _____ Day of the Dead L2



Candles

Candles are placed on altars and graves during the Day of the Dead. The light is said to guide spirits back to visit. Different sizes of candles may be used. Their warm glow makes the celebration bright and welcoming.

1) Where are candles placed?

2) What does the light from candles do?

3) How do candles make the holiday feel?

Name: _____ Day of the Dead L2



Papel Picado

Papel picado is colorful paper cut into designs. It is hung as decoration during the Day of the Dead. The paper moves in the wind, which is said to show the presence of spirits. It adds beauty and color to the celebration.

1) What is papel picado made of?

2) What do people do with papel picado?

3) What does the moving paper show?

Name: _____ Day of the Dead L2



Visiting Graves

Families often go to the cemetery during the Day of the Dead. They clean and decorate the graves of loved ones. They bring food, music, and flowers. Some families spend the whole night at the gravesite together.

1) Where do families go during the Day of the Dead?

2) What do families do at graves?

3) How long do some families stay at the gravesite?

Name: _____ Day of the Dead L2



Music and Dancing

Music and dancing are big parts of the celebration. Bands play lively songs, and people sing along. Dancing is joyful and honors the spirits of loved ones. It makes the holiday full of life and happiness.

1) What do bands play during the Day of the Dead?

2) Why do people dance?

3) How does music and dancing make the holiday feel?

Name: _____ Day of the Dead L2



Day of the Dead

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1) What is the Day of the Dead?

2) Where did the Day of the Dead begin?

3) What do families believe happens during this holiday?

Level
2

Name: _____

Day of the
Dead L3

Altars

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1) What is an altar called in Spanish?

2) What do families put on the altar?

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Day of the
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Marigolds

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1) What flower is special for the Day of the Dead?

2) What colors are marigolds?

3) Why do people use marigolds?

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Day of the
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Sugar Skulls

Sugar skulls are colorful candy made for the holiday. They are shaped like a skull and decorated with bright designs. Sometimes the name of a loved one is written on the forehead. These treats remind people that life is sweet.

1) What are sugar skulls made of?

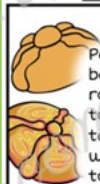
2) What are sugar skulls decorated with?

3) What do sugar skulls remind people of?

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Name: _____

Day of the
Dead L3

Bread of the Dead

Pan de Muerto is a special bread baked for the Day of the Dead. It is round and sometimes has shapes on top that look like bones. The bread tastes sweet and is often sprinkled with sugar. Families eat it together to remember their loved ones.

1) What is Pan de Muerto?

2) What shapes are sometimes on top of the bread?

3) Who eats Pan de Muerto?

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Day of the
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La Catrina

La Catrina is a famous symbol of the Day of the Dead. She is a skeleton lady wearing a big, fancy hat. La Catrina was first drawn by an artist named José Guadalupe Posada. She reminds people that everyone is the same in the end, no matter how rich or poor.

1) Who is La Catrina?

2) Who drew La Catrina first?

3) What does La Catrina remind people?

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Level 3

Name: _____

Day of the Dead U

Music and Dancing



Music and dancing are big parts of the celebration. Bands play lively songs, and people sing along. Dancing is joyful and honors the spirits of loved ones. It makes the holiday full of life and happiness.

1) What do bands play during the Day of the Dead?

☐ lively songs	☐ silent games
☐ scary noises	☐ quiet whispers

2) Why do people dance?

☐ to build houses	☐ to honor the spirits
☐ to take naps	☐ to do homework

3) How does music and dancing make the holiday feel?

☐ cold and empty	☐ full of life and happiness
☐ short and quick	☐ quiet and boring

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Day of the Dead L2



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Name: _____

**Day of the
Dead L3**



Music and Dancing

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- 1) What do bands play during the Day of the Dead?

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**Low
prep!**

Students can practice critical thinking and deductive reasoning to make meaning of the text!

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Visiting Graves

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1) Where do families go during the Day of the Dead?

- ☐ the park ☐ the beach
☐ the cemetery ☐ the mall

2) What do families do at graves?

- ☐ play basketball ☐ sell cars
☐ build sandcastles ☐ clean and decorate them

3) How long do some families stay at the gravesite?

- ☐ all night ☐ one minute
☐ just for lunch ☐ weeks

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Name: _____ Day of the Dead L2



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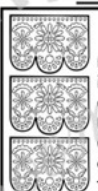
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☐ Japan ☐ Mexico

3) What do families believe happens during this holiday?

- ☐ it rains a lot ☐ spirits come back to visit
☐ people go camping ☐ everyone gets gifts

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**B&W
included!**

Name: **ANSWER KEY** Day of the Dead L1



La Catrina

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Name: **ANSWER KEY** Day of the Dead L2



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1) Who is La Catrina?

La Catrina is a skeleton lady wearing a big, fancy hat.

2) Who drew La Catrina first?

José Guadalupe Posada first drew La Catrina.

3) What does La Catrina remind people?

She reminds people that everyone is equal in the end.

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Name: **ANSWER KEY** Day of the Dead L3



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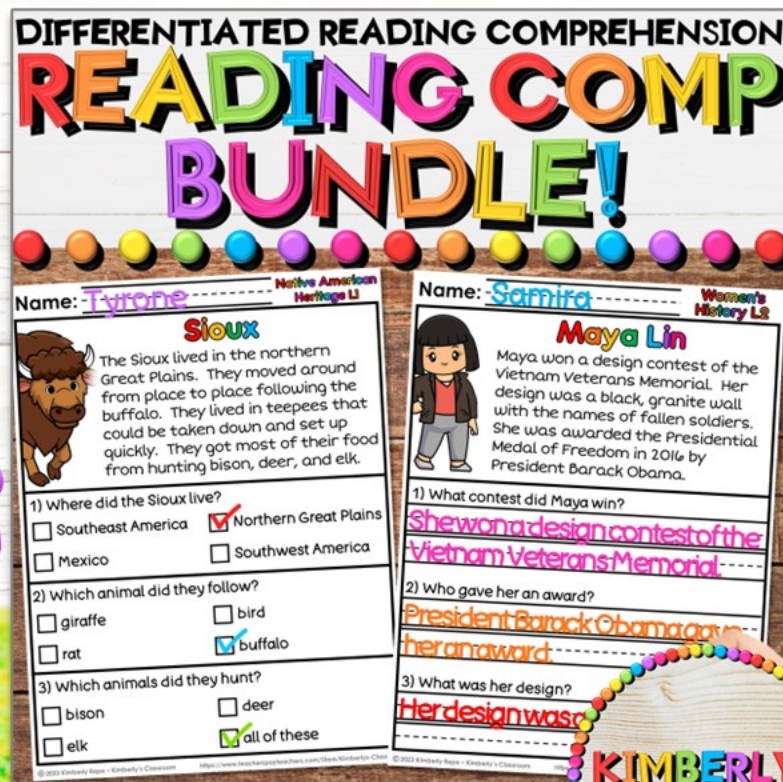
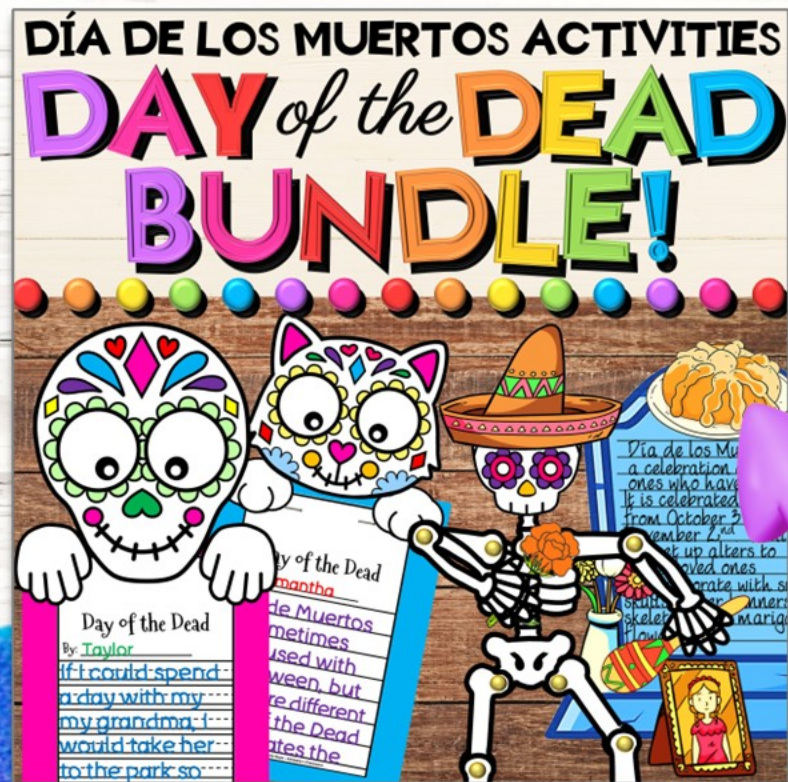
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Answer keys included for quick and easy assessment!

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