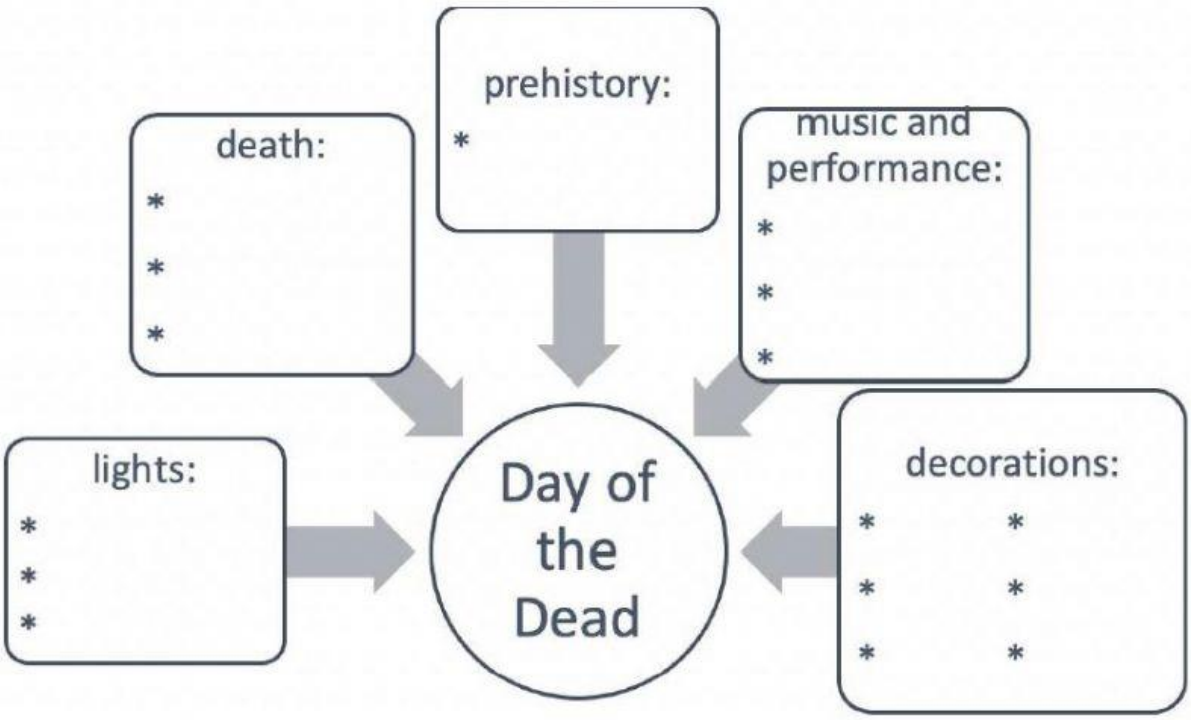
The Day of the Dead (also called All Saints' Day) is celebrated in many countries on 2 November. The celebrations in Mexico are very famous. What do you know about how they celebrate this festival in Mexico?

These things are all used to celebrate the Day of the Dead in Mexico. Write the words in the correct places on the mind map.



graves in a cemetery

processions/parades

fireworks

models of skulls

silver skeletons

trumpets

old sculptures

crosses

lanterns

photographs of relatives

skeleton face paint

guitars

candles

flowers

paper flags

skeleton dolls

2 Watching for the main idea

You are going to watch a short video about the Day of the Dead and you will see all the items on your mind map. Tick each one when you see it. You may see some items more than once! Do you have any similar festivals in your country?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3 Watching for detail

First, just read these three parts of the transcript from the video – you can use the glossary to help you understand the words in bold. Some words are missing but the first letters are given. Next, decide if the missing word is a verb, noun or adjective. Imagine/remember which words would complete the text. Finally watch and check your ideas.

PART 1 (1:01-1:23)

The day of the dead is a festival and in that sense it is very much a c_____ [1] and I suppose that is something that **appeals to** European and North American people because that's not the way we understand d_____ [2].

Death is for us, a s_____ [3] moment. We do remember our d_____ [4] but we remember them in times of **solemnity**.

PART 2 (2:05-2:39)

It's a **multi-sensory** e_____ [5], I think both for the people who make **the altar** and for the dead that v_____ [6].

People go on journeys with the o_____ [7] and take them to their **burial** places and they're sort of e_____ [8] this idea of the **boundary** 'between' the l_____ [9] and the dead.

PART 3 (3:54-4:22)

What we're really talking about is what you see in a lot of cultures, which is material culture or images and ideas being t_____ [10] through time, obviously **evolving** as they come into c_____ [11] with other cultures, so Mexican culture is very much a mix of the d_____ [12] **pre-Hispanic Meso-American** cultures that e_____ [13] before the Spanish **conquest** and all the influence that came from Europe which wasn't just from Spain.

GLOSSARY

appeals to: interests or attracts someone

solemnity: serious and sad feelings

multi-sensory: using several senses at the same time, eg seeing, hearing, touching, smelling and tasting

altar: a small table used in religious ceremonies

burial: placing a dead body in a grave in the ground (verb - to bury)

boundary: a line that separates two different things or areas

evolving: changing over time

Pre-Hispanic Meso-American: referring to the peoples who were living in Mexico before the arrival of the Spanish in the 16th century, eg the Aztecs

conquest: taking control of an area as a result of winning a war (verb - to conquer)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4 Word families

You need to understand both grammar and meaning to use vocabulary correctly. Complete the word family table. You do not need to write in the boxes with ---, but you need to record two nouns in the boxes with a *.

Verb	Noun	Adjective
	celebration	---
	contact	---
	death / the dead (people)	
		different
exist		---
	experience	---
explore	* / *(people)	---
	* / the living *(people)*	
	offerings	---
remember		---
---		sad
transfer		---
visit	* / *(people)*	---

LIVEWORKSHEETS