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Neighborhood Science

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Ask a Librarian >

Book a Librarian >

Find A Library >

Connect with LAPL

Support
Your Library

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El Día de los Muertos / Day of the Dead (Bilingual)

Lupita Leyva, Senior Librarian, Robert Louis Stevenson Branch Library, Thursday, October 27, 2016



_____ history, communities around the world have _____ their loved ones who have _____. In many Western countries, these celebrations tend to be at the end of October or the first days of November. The celebrations for **Día de los Muertos** or **Day of the Dead** that we see all around us in Southern California around this time are generally derived _____ traditional festivities that take place in many parts of Mexico and Central America, as well as other parts of Latin America. **Día de los Muertos** is _____ increasingly popular in the United States, especially in areas with large Mexican immigrant populations or populations of Mexican descent. There are _____ people who think that **Día de los Muertos** is the Mexican Halloween, but that is not the case.

Día de los Muertos is an example of cultural syncretism that emerged from the Spanish colonization of what is now Mexico and Central America. The celebration's roots are _____ in the pre-Hispanic cultures of the American continent _____ had a very different idea of death than that usually found in Western culture. For them, death wasn't so much the end of life as the beginning of a journey to an underworld called *Mictlán*, commonly translated as *the city of the dead* or *the region of the dead*. They _____ commonly had festivities dedicated to remembering and honoring _____ loved ones that had passed on.

_____ the sixteenth century, the European *conquistadores* _____ Christianity and with it the All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day celebrations that are traditionally observed the first days of November. Thus, similarly to other aspects of the culture, _____ gastronomy and art, the differing traditions were mixed _____ they resulted in something altogether new but with indigenous and European roots. Today **Día de los Muertos** is commonly celebrated starting _____ late October through the first days of November, depending on the specific region. One very important aspect of these celebrations is the *altar de muertos*. The altar typically has various steps or levels and includes photographs of the dead along with *cempazuchitl* flowers (marigolds) to _____ guide the souls returning for the offerings.

Text adapted by Andrés Palacios Guayara from <https://www.lapl.org/collections-resources/blogs/lapl/dia-de-los-muertos-bilingual>

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Nov



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