

Día de Muertos



History of the Holiday

In Pre-Hispanic times, the dead were buried close to family homes (often in a tomb underneath the central patio of the house) and there was great emphasis on maintaining ties with deceased ancestors, who were believed to continue to exist on a different plane. With the arrival of the Spaniards and Catholicism, All Souls' and All Saints' Day practices were incorporated into Pre-Hispanic beliefs and customs and the holiday came to be celebrated as we know it today.

The belief behind Day of the Dead practices is that spirits return to the world of the living for one day of the year to be with their families. It is said that the spirits of babies and children who have died (called *angelitos*, "little angels") arrive on October 31st at midnight, spend an entire day with their families and then leave. Adults come the following day.

Taken from <https://www.tripsavvy.com/day-of-the-dead-in-mexico-1588764>

VOCABULARY

Match the words to the pictures.

- A. Marigold
- B. Sugar skull
- C. Cemetery
- D. Candles



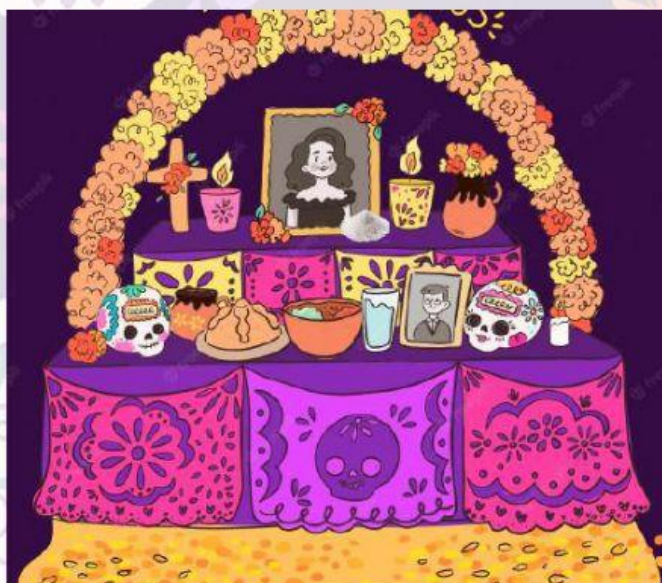
Which of these are elements of the altar?

bread
spiders
portraits
candles
cats

pumpkins
marigolds
witches
water
cross

sugar skulls
food and beverages
special rocks
"papel picado"
salt

Find in the pictures the elements you selected in the last exercise.



Complete the sentences with the following words.

foods

flowers

chocolate

skeletons

spirits

living

1. The spirits of the death visit the _____ during the Day of the Death.
2. "Ofrendas" are certain _____ used to commemorate the dead people.
3. You can have "pan de muertos" and hot _____.
4. Mexican marigold _____ are used to decorate the altar.
5. Marigold guide the _____ to their altars.
6. Skulls and _____ are popular symbols of the Day of the Death.

Match the elements of the altar to what they represent.

- Water
- Salt
- Cirio
- Candles
- Marigolds
- Sugar skulls
- Cross
- "Papel picado"

- It symbolizes the forgiveness of any remaining sins.
- It will prevent the body of the departed from breaking down as it travels along the road to eternity.
- They help to attract the souls to come visit their family.
- It represents the purity of the soul and it's for the thirsty spirits.
- They serve as a guide to light the way in the ascension of the spirit.
- Colorful tissue paper rectangles used to decorate the altar.
- They normally have the name of the deceased on the forehead.
- It symbolizes the soul being alone.

Find the vocabulary in the wordsearch.

marigolds
papel picado
bread
sugar skulls
food
portraits
candles
salt
water
cross
pan de muerto

W	I	T	E	X	E	N	R	B	N	O	R	Q	R
A	Z	H	S	A	L	T	J	P	Y	O	P	G	H
C	E	W	S	C	J	D	H	W	U	H	G	A	P
G	S	U	G	A	R	S	K	U	L	L	S	F	A
P	I	Q	O	W	A	T	E	R	W	B	F	O	P
S	P	A	N	D	E	M	U	E	R	T	O	F	E
J	E	F	P	H	S	G	C	I	V	T	M	C	L
P	Q	B	R	E	A	D	W	I	F	S	V	O	P
D	G	F	X	A	X	Y	S	K	N	O	H	M	I
T	P	O	R	T	R	A	I	T	S	G	O	R	C
O	T	Y	O	C	A	N	D	L	E	S	E	D	A
R	M	W	D	Q	Y	M	Y	U	I	U	O	J	D
X	Q	C	R	F	Z	N	Y	C	R	O	S	S	O
R	R	D	W	M	A	R	I	G	O	L	D	S	V