

## Day of the Dead

### Día de los Muertos

Many people are sad or scared when they think of **death**. But the Day of the Dead isn't sad or scary. It's a happy time to **remember** and celebrate those we love who have died! The Day of the Dead is really a celebration of life. Day of the Dead (or Día de los Muertos in Spanish) is mostly celebrated in Mexico.

Many countries celebrate it from November 1 to November 2. Many families visit **cemeteries** and set up **altars**, called ofrendas, in their homes. These altars are made with pictures of the dead. Sometimes families will place items that belonged to them. Families will also place gifts of food, drinks, candles, and flowers. The **souls** of the dead are said to be able to visit the living on these days.

Orange and yellow **marigolds** are used for decorations. The scent of the marigold helps attract and guide the spirits. The Day of the Dead is really a celebration of life. People use **skull** decorations and paint their faces like skulls. They make skull-shaped candies and eat pan de muerto (bread of the dead). People dress up, play music, and dance.

Thousands of Monarch Butterflies arrive in Mexico the same time each year. They arrive just in time to celebrate Day of the Dead. Monarchs represent the souls of their family returning to visit them for Día de los Muertos.

death



remember



cemetery



alter



marigold



skull



soul



1. **When** is Day of the Dead?

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2. **Why** do people celebrate Day of the Dead?

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3. **How** do people decorate for Day of the Dead?

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4. Tell **two ways** people celebrate.

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5. **Why** is the Monarch Butterfly so special?

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Monarch Butterfly

