

¡El Día de los Muertos!



El día de los muertos is a Mexican celebration that honors the faithful departed, and occurs every year around the American celebration of Halloween. Your assignment is to research this cultural celebration, write a report, and create two accompanying projects.

Part 1: The Write-up

Visit the following websites for your research on “el día de los muertos”. Your report should be:

1. Written in your own words. Most of what you will be reading for your research will be in English. Remember that translating directly from English to Spanish is considered copying.
2. In Spanish.
3. Between one and a half and two pages long, in Times New Roman 12 pt font, with normal 1-inch margins.

Some of the themes, concepts, and questions you should address in your report are:

1. When does this celebration occur?
2. Where does it occur?
3. Where or what does it come from (what religious or cultural traditions)?
4. Who participates in it?
5. What actually happens during this celebration?
6. Is there special food to go along with it? Special activities or events? What about costumes or clothing?
7. What is the purpose of this celebration? Why do people do it?

The best reports will use these questions as the jumping-off point of a well-researched, interesting, and comprehensive exploration of the topic, but will address much more than a simple answer to each question.

Websites for Part 1:

1. http://www.mexconnect.com/mex_/muertos.html
2. <http://www.bajalife.com/v6pg50.htm>
3. http://www.mexconnect.com/mex_/travel/sdwells/oaxdd/sdwoxacada ydead.html
4. http://www.mexconnect.com/mex_/travel/jking/jkdayofthedeath.html

If you choose to look at the library or online for other sources, you must have them approved by your teacher in advance, and you should cite them at the end of your report.

Part 2: Create an Altar!

In this part, you will create an altar to honor a loved one you have lost. Visit the following website for instructions on how to make your own altar:

1. <http://www.mexweb.com/muertos.htm>

It is not necessary to construct an altar out of wood. The materials you use are up to you, but be creative! You will make a short presentation (2-3 minutes) of your altar in class.

Part 3: El papel picado

Visit the following websites and investigate “papel picado.” Once you have done so, make some of your own to decorate the classroom!

1. http://www.art.unt.edu/ntieva/news/vol_7/issue3/96falp11.htm
2. <http://www.mybackyard.com/current/198p1.htm>

The due dates of the project are as follows:

1. First draft of report due in my office (not in class!) before 3 pm on Monday October 25th
2. The altar presentation and the papel picado are due in class on October 29th
3. Final draft of report due in my office before 3 pm on Tuesday, November 2nd