



LARC Resources about Día de los Muertos

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**Latin American Resource Center
Resources about Día de los Muertos**

Films

Day of the Dead. Shows celebration of the Day of the Dead in Mexico. English, 30 minutes.

The Day of the Dead: A Celebration of Family and Life Celebrate the Day of the Dead (El Día de los Muertos) through the eyes of dancers, artists and storytellers passionate about the most revered Hispanic holiday in the world. Filmmakers Robert D. Kline and Stephanie Heredia chronicle the vibrancy of several contemporary Day of the Dead celebrations in Southern California, including live concert footage of Quetzal, the sound and beat of Latin rock, highlighted by lead singer Martha Gonzales. Explore the colorful customs, meaning and artistic and cultural significance of this holiday that honors loved ones who have passed on, and discover how this traditional expression of love and respect for the dead is the ultimate celebration of life. English, 91 minutes.

Day of the Dead in La Picanda. This documentary presents the annual commemoration of the Day of the Dead as it is celebrated on the island of La Picanda. Spanish with English subtitles, 50 minutes.

El día Tarasco: The Day of the Dead among the Tarascan Indians. English, 30 minutes.

Festivals and Holidays in Latin America. Celebrations, both religious and secular, reflect the different cultures of the many groups inhabiting Latin America. English, 50 minutes.

La Isla de las Almas. The Day of the Dead, an ancient cultural tradition, still flourishes in modern-day Mexico. This beautiful documentary presents the annual commemoration of the Day of the Dead as it is celebrated on the island of La Picanda. Spanish, 50 minutes.

La Leyenda de la Nahuala (The Legend of the Nahuala). It's the Day of the Dead in Mexico and Nando is captured by the Nahuala, an evil ancient spirit. Leo, his coward brother, will have to face his biggest fears if he wants to save Nando. Spanish with English Subtitles, 84 minutes.

The Mexican Celebration of the Days of the Dead: Food for the Ancestors. Each fall, Mexicans celebrate a weeklong holiday called Days of the Dead. The festival honors the memories of loved ones who have died. No celebration describes the Mexican culture as this one: sad, joyful, satirical all at the same time. *Food for the Ancestors* explores this fabulous festival as it is done in the culturally rich state of Puebla. Among the many things that we see during the week of Days of the Dead are Mask Dancing by the children of Cuetzalán and the spectacular Dance of the Colodores performed on a 60 foot pole; the indigenous village of San



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Miguel where waistlooms are used to make beautiful fabrics, and potters use Prehispanic techniques; the fantastic Cholula Pyramid (the Americas' largest pyramid) surrounded by fields filled with the Marigolds, the ancient flowers of the dead; the famous Pueblan artisans creating Day of the Dead skeleton and skull artwork, and cazuela makers. The program focuses on the special foods that are made for this time of the year: sugar skull candies; pulque; bread of the dead; and mole poblano. And viewers can share in eating the oldest Mexican meat: grasshoppers, ant eggs, mosquitoes and their eggs and beetle larvae. *Food for the Ancestors* and the holiday climaxes on the night of November 1st when family members decorate the gravesites and spend the entire night sitting at the gravesite waiting for the ancestors to return. English, 50 minutes.

La ofrenda. Within the framework of the Chicana narrator's personal journey, this film reflects on the pre-Hispanic roots of the Day of the Dead, then looks at the present-day celebration in Oaxaca and its permutations in the United States. English, 50 minutes.

Trav's Travels: Mexico. Travel back in time to the ancient civilizations of the Mayas and Aztecs, celebrate the Day of the Dead in Oaxaca. Trav teaches your class about the geography and culture of Mexico. English, 20 minutes.

Book Resources

Day of the Dead Activity Book

Day of the Dead is an exciting holiday celebrated throughout the world. Make this beautiful and mysterious celebration extra-special with the awesome activities in this book including: Easy recipe for sugar skulls and Graveyard Cake; Day of the Dead-themed mazes, crossword puzzles, and word searches, and much more. English, 16 pages.
English 16 pages

Un Barrilete para el Día de los Muertos (A Kite for the Day of the Dead)

In Guatemala there is a village called Santiago Sacatepequez. It is a very small but famous place because once a year, on the Day of the Dead, the villagers fly some of the biggest kites in the world, filling the sky over the cemetery with brilliant colors. Juan and his brothers always helped their grandfather build the kite for the Day of the Dead. But their grandfather has recently died, and the boys must carry on the tradition on their own. This beautifully photographed book shows us the village of Santiago and tells us Juan's story. Spanish/English, 36 pages.

The Dead Family Diaz

Today is El Día de los Muertos and Angelito's knees are knock-knock-knocking. He's never met a real Living person before, and from what his sister tells him, they sound - gulp - scary. Lucky for him, a holiday fiesta is the perfect place to make a new friend. But when Angelito's new buddy isn't quite what he expected, it'll take the traditions of the Day of the Dead to reunite the



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two boys in time for some holiday fun. Full of playful art, funny situations, and tons of kid appeal, this clever tale of friendship and festivity will be un libro favorito for the Day of the Dead, Halloween, and any day of the year. English, 34 pages.

Felipa and the Day of the Dead

Felipa's beloved grandmother, Abuelita, has died. Felipa misses her terribly and is very sad. Her parents try to comfort Felipa. They tell her that the souls of the dead live on forever. So Felipa decides to find Abuelita's soul. But where is it? She asks her grandmother's donkey, her pig, and her llamas for help. She treks many miles to the highest mountain, but grandmother's soul is nowhere to be found. Then, months later, the entire village is bustling with preparations for the Day of the Dead. Felipa joins in the celebrations honoring loved ones who have died, and in the process finally finds Abuelita's soul. English, 30 pages.

Mi Familia Calaca, My Skeleton Family

In Mexico the skeleton is a beloved and humorous figure. Its origins go back to pre-Columbian times. This book uses paper mache images of skeletons. English/Spanish, 30 pages.

The Festival of Bones (El Festival de las Calaveras)

The little bitty book for the Day of the Dead. The Skeletons are coming and they're going; and you see them passing by. They're dancing over here, They're chatting over there... It's their day and they're going to have a good time! English/Spanish, 28 pages.

Other Resources

Day of the Dead and St. Joseph's Day: A Little Lagniappe for New Orleans Holidays. A podcast. Mexicans and Italians comprise the largest immigrant populations in New Orleans. Despite being 'new' to the city, they have become major actors in the city's annual celebrations. They are responsible for introducing two of New Orleans' biggest holidays, Day of the Dead and St. Joseph's Day. <http://stonecenter.tulane.edu/articles/detail/1001/Day-of-the-Dead-and-St.-Josephs-Day-A-Little-Lagniappe-for-New-Orleans-Holidays>

El día de los muertos. Teaching materials from the workshop conducted by Tulane University's Latin American Curriculum Resource Center in October of 1988. English, 100 pages.

Día de los Muertos 2008. A podcast. A traditional Latin American custom is to build a Day of the Dead altar for All Saints Day. Rachel Wenzel has produced this story on a Day of the Dead altar built in the New Orleans Cabildo. <http://stonecenter.tulane.edu/articles/detail/49/Da-de-los-Muertos-2008>



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Fiestas con Jose-Luis Orozco. José-Luis Orozco is a recording artist, author, composer and host of a children's radio program. His recordings are widely used in schools and libraries throughout the world, effectively reaching millions of children every year. Track list for "Fiestas con José-Luis Orozco": 1. Las Palomitas, 2. Los Mese del Año, 3. Los Tres Reyes Magos, 4. El Invierno, 5. Mamá Yo Quiero, 6. El Palomo Y la Paloma, 7. La Bella Hortelana, 8. Viva César Chávez!, 9. Este Niño Lindo, 10. Cinco De Mayo, 11. La Maestra, 2. Que Bonita Bandera!, 13. Viva Mi Barrio!, 14. Arroz Con Leche, 15. La Quinceañera, 16. Corre, Niño, 17. Dia De la Raza, 18. Tumbas, 19. Dia De Los Muertos, 20. Damos Gracias, 21. Mañanitas Guadalupanas, 22. Las Posadas, 23. Estas Fiestas Seguirán. Spanish, 23 tracks.

The Mexican Celebration of the Days of the Dead: Activity Packet. This curriculum unit and activity packet accompany the PBS film *Food for the Ancestors*. More than fifteen activities made to support vocabulary reinforcement, classroom discussions, and cultural understanding. English and Spanish.

Mexican Celebrations. Teaches about Hispanic-American heritage through the study of holidays. Describes and provides background information on eight Mexican and Mexican-American holidays. Includes songs, games, recipes, decorations, and more. Grades K-12. English 54 pages.