

# Celebrate Día de los Muertos with IXL Spanish



## Grades 2-3

**Objective** Students will broaden their cultural knowledge of Día de los Muertos. They will address misconceptions about Día de los Muertos, compare and contrast the holiday with Halloween in the United States, and reinforce what they've learned using IXL Spanish content.

### Supporting Resources

#### IXL Skills:

Skill Name	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade
Día de los Muertos	<a href="#">6S8</a>	<a href="#">QM7</a>

- Materials:**
- Laptops, tablets, and/or desktops for students' use
  - Headphones
  - Workstation videos
  - Station worksheets
  - Optional: Spanish-English dictionaries

- ANTICIPATORY SET:**
1. Project a photo of a Día de los Muertos altar on the board:
    - [Folk Art Guide: Day of the Dead Altars](#)
    - ["Día de los Muertos Celebration 3"](#)
    - ["Altar de muertos c. Alamos"](#)With a partner or in small groups, have students discuss what they see in the photo. Then encourage students to share their thoughts with the entire class. Write down all the keywords they mention on the board. For example: flowers, skulls, photos, decorative paper, etc.
  2. Brainstorm with students about the meaning of the words: "Día de los Muertos." Have them work together, using previous knowledge and the previous photo discussion, to decipher that "Día de los Muertos" means Day of the Dead.

- TEACHING STRATEGY:**
1. Create four stations in your classroom. Place students into small groups and assign one to each station. Be sure to visibly display each station's YouTube link or cue up the videos ahead of time.

**Station 1:** Have students watch the following video and fill out the accompanying worksheet.

- "What's the deal with the Day of the Dead?" <https://youtu.be/yUIHhSod1GI>

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**Station 2:** Have students watch the following video and fill out the accompanying worksheet.

- “Día de los Muertos: Young People’s Ofrenda” <https://youtu.be/j5vs3RcYAyg>

**Station 3:** Have students watch the following video and fill out the accompanying worksheet.

- “Mexican Day of the Dead” <https://youtu.be/8FhrhH9k-PY>
2. Once students have completed their worksheets, challenge them to work on one of the following IXL skills until they reach a minimum SmartScore of 80.
    - Grade 2: [6S8](#)
    - Grade 3: [QM7](#)
  3. As a class, have students complete the Día de los Muertos vocabulary worksheet. Encourage students to discuss vocabulary terms they’re unsure about and to reflect on what they learned from their workstation videos and from the IXL skill. If needed, have a few Spanish-English dictionaries handy for students to look up words they’re unable to figure out.

**OPTIONAL EXTENSION:** Invite students to participate in the traditions of Día de los Muertos by creating a classroom altar. Set up stations where students can color *calavera* drawings, craft marigold flowers, and make their own *papel picado*.

- Materials:**
- Free Día de los Muertos coloring sheets: <https://spanishmama.com/sugar-skull-coloring-pages-and-masks-for-dia-de-muertos/>
  - Paper flower tutorial: <https://www.holajalapeno.com/how-to-make-paper-flowers-for-day-of-the-dead/>
  - *Papel picado* tutorial and templates: <http://mamitalks.com/2014/11/papel-picado-templates.html>
  - Markers/colored pencils/crayons
  - Yellow/orange tissue paper
  - Pipe cleaners
  - Scissors

# Station 1 Worksheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

“What’s the deal with the Day of the Dead?” video: <https://youtu.be/yUIHhSOd1GI>

**Directions:** While watching this brief video on the Day of the Dead, answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. When is the Day of the Dead celebrated in Mexico?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Which country/countries celebrate the Day of the Dead?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. The Day of the Dead mixes ancient Aztec traditions with what other traditions?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Are people sad and scared during this holiday?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What do people believe happens on the Day of the Dead?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What are some of the Day of the Dead traditions that take place at the cemetery?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What items are typically added to Day of the Dead altars?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Why do people put out water on their altars?

\_\_\_\_\_

## Station 2 Worksheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

“Día de los Muertos: Young People’s Ofrenda” video: <https://youtu.be/j5vs3RcYAyg>

**Directions:** While watching the video about the Day of the Dead ofrendas in Minneapolis, answer the following questions.

1. According to the video, the Day of the Dead makes death less \_\_\_\_\_ .

2. Why are the ofrendas created?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Who do the students make their ofrendas for?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What types of things do the students put in their ofrendas?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Why is it important for these students to make ofrendas?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What is the bright color of the flowers said to do?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. If you were to create an ofrenda, who would your ofrenda honor?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. What types of items would you put on your ofrenda?

\_\_\_\_\_

## Station 3 Worksheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

“Mexican Day of the Dead” video: <https://youtu.be/8FhrhH9k-PY>

**Directions:** While watching the video on the history and evolution of the Day of the Dead, answer the following questions:

1. What do people believe happens on the Day of the Dead?

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2. How is death viewed in Mexico, versus in British/North American culture?

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3. The Day of the Dead is a celebration of what?

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4. Describe the atmosphere of the Day of the Dead. What smells, sounds, and colors do you notice in the video?

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5. What do the grandmothers say about the dead who come back to visit? What do the ancestors take when they visit?

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6. Is the Day of the Dead a new holiday? How does Mexico’s history play a role in the holiday?

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7. Why are memories important in Day of the Dead celebrations?

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# Día de los Muertos Vocabulary

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Fill out the following chart. If you're not sure about a vocabulary term, think about the video you watched, the conversation we had in class, and what you know about Spanish words.

<b>Día de los Muertos SPANISH vocabulary:</b>	<b>Día de los Muertos ENGLISH vocabulary translation:</b>	<b>Drawing of each vocabulary term:</b>
papel picado		
	marigolds	
	sugar skulls	
pan de muertos		
ofrenda		
calacas		
	cemetery	