



DAY OF THE DEAD ANTICIPATION GUIDE

Read each statement and decide if it is True or False. Complete the left column before the reading by circling the T for True or the F for False. Complete the right column after you finish the reading. Did any of your answers change?

BEFORE READING		STATEMENT	AFTER READING	
T	F	Many butterflies often arrive in November.	T	F
T	F	The Day of the Dead is the same as Halloween.	T	F
T	F	November 2 is also known as the Day of the Little Candles.	T	F
T	F	The Day of the Dead is also known as Día de Los Muertos.	T	F
T	F	Spanish conquistadors were led by Hernan Cortés.	T	F
T	F	The Day of the Dead reunites the living with the dead.	T	F
T	F	Día de los Difuntos starts at midnight on November 1st.	T	F
T	F	The Spanish tradition is called All Souls' Day.	T	F
T	F	Sugar skulls often have a crown on them.	T	F

DID YOU KNOW?

It is believed that hair is a guide for the dead to the underworld.

Day of the Dead

Name: _____

Answer the questions below. Then on the coloring page, color each numbered section with the corresponding color. If there is any space left over, color it your choice! Follow the directions provided to cite evidence from the reading.

Questions	Text Evidence	Answer
#1 In what month is Day of the Dead?	Find proof in the reading and <u>UNDERLINE</u> it in <u>PURPLE</u>	November RED
#2 What are sugar skulls known as?	Find proof in the reading and <u>CIRCLE</u> it in <u>GREEN</u>	Muertos BLUE STRIPES
#3 What is a common symbol for Day of the Dead?	Find proof in the reading and <u>BOX</u> it in <u>RED</u>	Skeleton ORANGE
#4 What word is used for corn and beverage?	Find proof in the reading and <u>BOX</u> it in <u>YELLOW</u>	Hernan ORANGE
#5 What is the main color of the Day?	Find proof in the reading and <u>CIRCLE</u> it in <u>ORANGE</u>	Silver BROWN
#6 What colors represent the sun and moon?	Find proof in the reading and <u>UNDERLINE</u> it in <u>PURPLE</u>	Rebirth GREEN STRIPES

DAY OF THE DEAD

Mexico and Latin America celebrate Day of the Dead, called Día de Los Muertos, each year on November 1st and 2nd. It is believed to be a time when the path between the spirit world and earth is open. This festive celebration honors loved ones and ancestors who have passed away. Day of the Dead means living with the dead. It is a rare holiday that celebrates life and death. It is important to understand that the Day of the Dead is not Mexico's Halloween.

Day of the Dead combines the Aztec traditions honoring their ancestors with the Catholic tradition from the 1500s called All Souls' Day. The celebration is like a family reunion, but it celebrates the memories of the deceased.

Native Mexicans believed that their ancestors returned to earth once a year for a visit. Leading celebration was the goddess Mictecacihuatl, also known as 'The Lady of the Dead'. When Spanish conquistadors arrived in Mexico, led by Hernán Cortés, many people converted to Roman Catholicism. All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day were incorporated in Roman Catholicism to remember loved ones who had passed. These early November traditions merged with native Mexican traditions to form the Day of the Dead. The tradition continues by celebrating deceased children on November 1st when their spirits return. On November 2nd, spirits of the deceased adults return.

Día de los Angelitos, called Day of the Little Angels, starts at midnight on November 1st. Spirits of deceased children return and reunite with their families for 24 hours. Offerings (called ofrendas) include favorite snacks, candies, toys, and photographs. The names of the deceased children are often written on a sugar skull, known as calavera.

Día de los Difuntos starts at midnight on November 2nd. Now families celebrate adults who have passed. Offerings include pan de muerto (bread), mezcal and atole (alcohols).

Day of the Dead decorations include brightly colored marigolds and skeletons (known as calacas). The main colors associated with the holiday are purple and gold. Strendas (offerings) include the four elements: water, earth, and fire. Monarch butterflies are believed to hold the spirits of the departed because they often arrive in Mexico around November 1st.

Day of the Dead celebrations often begin with setting up a candlelit altar at home. This helps the spirits find their way home. Next, families place favorite