

ABOUT THIS PACKET

Each reading passage in this packet allows students to work on comprehension skills after reading the passage several times searching for evidence.

OVERVIEW

THE CASE

Read the case aloud to your students so they understand the mission.

QUESTIONS

There are 18 questions to be answered by reading the passage and marking the text evidence.

CLUES

After answering each question, the students will **mark** their answer choice on their answer sheet. After all questions have been answered, the suspect, evidence, and location will be revealed.

GRADE LEVEL

RANGE

4

BEGINNING

4

MIDDLE

5

END

5

BEGINNING

5

MIDDLE

6

END

6

BEGINNING

6

MIDDLE

7

END

DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is an important holiday in Mexico. It is believed to be a time when the path between the spirit world and earth is open. Loved ones who have passed away come back to earth to reunite with their families in spirit. The holiday is a joyful time that celebrates the memory of their departed loved ones as a natural part of life. It is important to understand that the Day of the Dead is not Mexico's Halloween.

Día de los Muertos is celebrated over two days, November 1st and November 2nd. November 1st is dedicated to the souls of children who have passed away. The November 2nd is for adults. The celebration is a cheerful and heartwarming time that honors loved ones and is filled with food, drinks, and family gatherings. The main colors associated with the holiday are purple and gold.

Historians believe that the Day of the Dead started thousands of years ago with a Meso-American festival honoring Mictecāhuatl, the goddess of the underworld. The ancient Aztecs, a group that lived in central Mexico, used skulls to honor the dead. They believed Ixchelāhuatl, also known as "Lady of the Dead," protected their deceased loved ones and guided them in the afterlife. In the 16th century, the Aztec Empire was conquered by the Spanish, led by conquistador Hernando Cortés. Spanish missionaries took the Aztec celebrations and made them coincide with other Christian holidays like All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day. The role of the Spanish missionaries was to convert people to Christianity.

Many traditions take place during Día de los Muertos. At home, a large altar is set up with ofrendas, or offerings. On the altars are candles that help guide the souls back to their homes, marigolds, decorated skulls, favorite foods of the loved ones, and items they loved such as books or pictures. Every ofrenda includes the four elements: water, wind, earth,

7

What type of
flowers are often
placed on the graves
of loved ones?



Cactus



Slippers



Red roses



Marigold

8

What is pan de
muerto often
topped with?



Flowers



Strawberries



Caramel



Powdered sugar

9

Every ofrenda
includes the _____
elements.



2



4



6



8

10

Who was the
god of the
underworld?



Aten



Mictecacuatl



Cocacas



Catalpa

11

_____ are wrapped in
corn husks or
paper leaves.



Tamales



Pozole



Ofrendas



Calacas

12

In the 16th century,
the Aztec Empire
was conquered by
the _____.



German



French



Spanish



Irish

13

The role of the
Spanish _____ was to
convert people to
Christianity.



Missionaries



Blacksmiths



Merchants



Artisans

14

What are calacas
also known as?



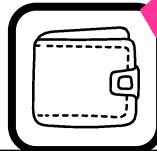
Skeletons



Tomato soup



Sugar candy

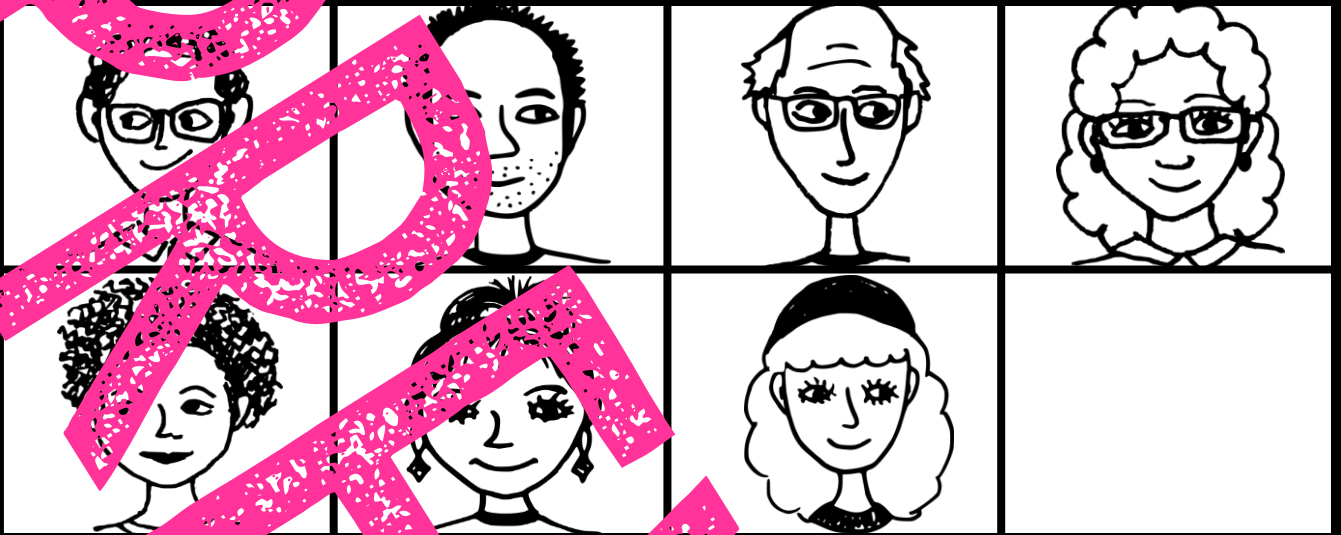


Ghosts

CASE FILE

Cross out the images you use as an answer. What remains will solve the case!

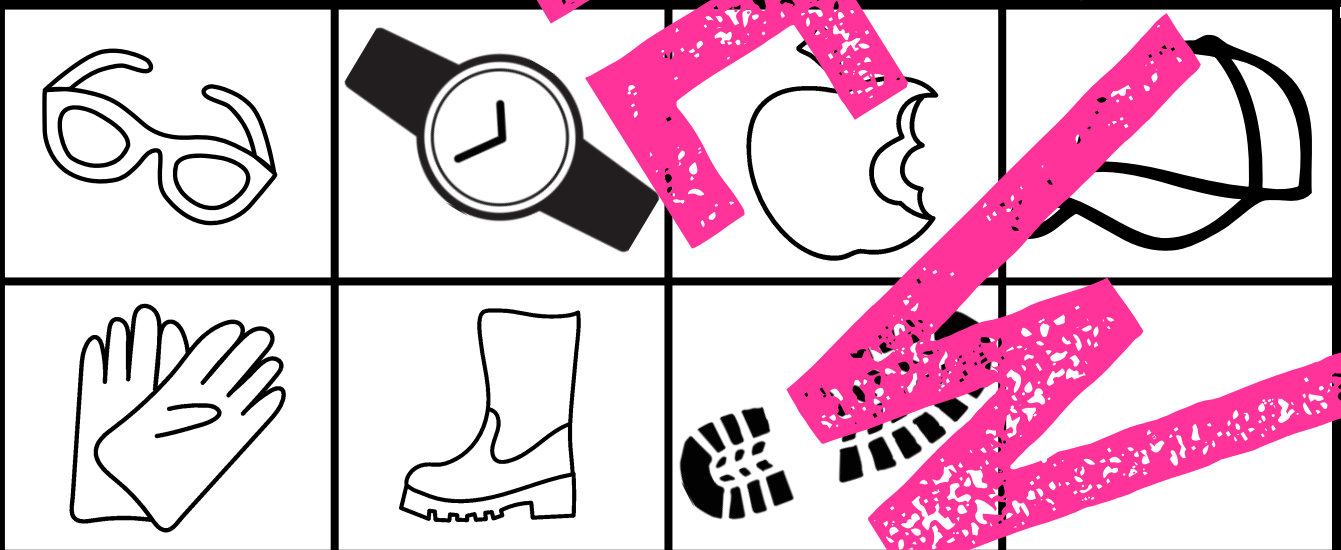
SUSPECTS



LOCATION



EVIDENCE



CONGRATULATIONS

YOU SOLVED
THE CASE!



LEAD DETECTIVE NAME:

CONGRATULATIONS

YOU SOLVED
THE CASE!



LEAD DETECTIVE NAME:

MORE RESOURCES

Click on each icon!

