



Day of the Dead *Comparison*



Educator Guide & Lesson Plan inspired by
Ofrendas: Celebrating el Día de Muertos

Learning Target

Students will explore the cultural celebration of Día de Muertos by visiting traditional ofrendas. Students will learn about the celebration along with the key elements in each ofrenda (in Spanish). They will also compare this celebration to Halloween.

Student Outcomes

Students will

- Develop an understanding of the similarities and differences between two different cultural celebrations Day of the Dead (MX) and Halloween (USA)
- Become familiar with typical aspects involved in the Day of the Dead celebration

ACTFL Standards Alignment

3.2.N.a

Use audio, visual and/or print materials available only in the target language to recognize that a topic or situation may be viewed differently in one's own culture than in the target culture.

4.1.N.a

Identify basic target culture practices and compare them to one's own.

21st Century Learning Skills Alignment

- Critical Thinking
- Global Awareness



Pre-Visit Activities

Introduce students to the Day of the Dead. This can be done through a class discussion, books (such as *The Day of the Dead* by Bob Barner) or youtube videos such as these:

[Tica's Travels: Day of the Dead](#) (Click title to open video on Youtube)

[Día de los Muertos- A brief explainer](#) (Click title to open video on Youtube)

After the introduction have students do a compare and contrast with Day of the Dead and Halloween (Venn diagram). Depending on the age group this could be done individually, with a partner, small group, or as a class on the board. Have students brainstorm things that are different about the celebrations (there are a lot) but also the few things that are the same.

During Visit

Students will complete an ofrenda scavenger hunt while at the DIA's *Ofrendas: Celebrating el Día de Muertos* exhibition. Depending on age, students can work alone, with a partner, or in a small group with a chaperone as a leader to help. Students will need a clipboard and coloring materials. A key is available if needed with some of the Spanish words and pictures.

Post Activity

Vocabulary matching - students must match the Spanish words relating to Day of the Dead to the correct photo. These can be cut out and glued onto colored paper. Have students make a title (*Día de Muertos*) and below the pictures have them draw & design their own ofrenda. It can be pretend, or for some, a loved one (family, pets, etc.) that they have lost. This makes for a great take home project as well.

(This educational resource was developed by the DIA Education Programs team in collaboration with Spanish teacher Kaitlin Arteaga)