

Lesson 1: Day of the Dead: A Mexican Celebration

<https://intheamericas.org/works/in-the-americas-season-1-2/>

Learning Objective	Discussion Prompts	Lesson Activities	Vocabulary
<p>Students will understand Day of the Dead customs, beliefs, and traditions and how they vary by region.</p>	<p>Death is to be celebrated and not feared? Do you agree or disagree? Explain your reasoning.</p> <p>If you were to create an altar for a loved one, what would you include to represent this individual?</p>	<p>Research Day of the Dead celebrations in Mexico and the United States. What are the similarities and differences? Create a corresponding timeline.</p> <p>Create an altar or artifact to honor a relative or past descendent that incorporates art, color, collage and words.</p>	<p>altar</p> <p>ancestors</p> <p>Aztec</p> <p>custom</p>
<p>Social Studies Standards</p>	<p>Share visual examples of what stood out to you in this video that made it a splendid celebration.</p>	<p>Research a Day of the Dead parade or festival in current times and in historical times, comparing the customs and significance. Share your findings in a Venn diagram or T-chart.</p>	<p>deceased</p> <p>descendent</p>
<p>Culture</p> <p>A, B, C, E</p>	<p>Compare 2-3 beliefs discussed in the video with beliefs that you, your family, and/or culture hold as important.</p>	<p>Write a report about Day of the Dead customs and traditions in the geographical areas discussed in this video in addition to the area where you live.</p>	<p>forged</p> <p>sacred</p> <p>significance</p> <p>soul</p>

Many Native American groups in pre-Conquest Mexico celebrated one day each year when their deceased ancestors would return to visit them-El Dia de los Muertos. This ancient tradition has become the state of the Oaxaca’s most important celebration. Parades, home altars, and gaily-decorated graves welcome back the dead. The custom has spread throughout Mexico and even to Los Angeles and Tucson.