

Día de los Muertos

Have you heard of the Day of the Dead? It is also known as Dia de los Muertos. It is a holiday when families celebrate and remember friends and family who have passed away. It started in Mexico. It takes place at the end of October.

Families create beautiful altars, called ofrendas, in their homes. They hang pictures of their loved ones. They also leave gifts of flowers, candles and their favorite foods and drinks. These are gifts for the people they have lost.

Day of the Dead started in Mexico, but is also celebrated all over the world. In California, they have a festival every year. Montana has a parade with people dressed as skeletons on stilts.

One of the most colorful items you'll see during Day of the Dead is the sugar skull, or **calavera**. These skulls can come big or small. They're made of sugar. The icing can be fun and colorful. They taste like candy! Some skulls even have things like feathers, glitter and hats. Unlike the skulls you see at Halloween, sugar skulls aren't scary. They're happy, colorful and smiling.

People will also paint their faces to look like a sugar skull to celebrate the holiday.