

*Examining Global Traditions through an Investigation of Día de Los Muertos Part I*

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| **Introduction**  |
| People across the world honor and celebrate the departed in a variety of ways. In Mexico, Día de Los Muertos is a holiday meant to commemorate loved ones who have passed away. It is a celebration of life that is becoming more popular with Latino families in other locations. |
| **Indiana Standards Connections:**  ES.3.1 Students identify and explore current traditions, rites and norms of an ethic or racial group(s) and how they have or are changing over time.3.3.7 Compare the cultural characteristics of the local community with communities in other parts of the world.2.2.4 Describe how people of different ages, cultural backgrounds and traditions contribute to the community and how all citizens can respect these differencesVA:Cn10.1.4a Create works of art that reflect community and/or cultural traditions. | **Compelling Question(s):**  \*How do different cultures honor the dead? \*How do cultural traditions spread to new areas?     |
| **Lesson Objectives:**  Students will be able to: * Identify practices traditionally associated with Día de Los Muertos
* Identify where Día de Los Muertos began.
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| **Materials**  |
| Projection device/screen[3D Model - Calavera (Skull)](https://w2w.indiana.edu/explore-collections/calavera.html) Whiteboard/chart paper[Mexico Facts](https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/geography/countries/country-fact-file-mexico/) – National Geographic Kids[Mexico](https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/geography/countries/country-fact-file-mexico/) – Britannica Kids[All About Mexico for Kids](https://youtu.be/hmhLgM9uGN0) – YouTubeMexico books from library or Epic[The Day of the Dead El Día de Los Muertos](https://youtu.be/rNHWnv3TRxA) read aloud video[The Dead Family Diaz](https://youtu.be/kWBXPyFNz3k) read aloud video[Day of the Dead](https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/celebrations/article/day-of-the-dead) – National Geographic Kids[Five Facts about Día de Los Muertos](https://www.si.edu/stories/5-facts-about-dia-de-los-muertos-day-dead#:~:text=Every%20ofrenda%20also%20includes%20the,paper%20banners%2C%20represent%20the%20wind.) – SmithsonianModern Calavera Images- Google SearchBlank Calavera Images – Google SearchMarshmallows, chocolate sprinkles, food safe markers, regular markers, art supplies on handOptional – Styrofoam skulls, sugar skull mold, sugar |
| **Learning Plan**  |
| **Activities** 1. Project the image of the 3D Calavera and have students silently observe. Complete the thinking routine of your choice ([See Think Wonder](https://pz.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/See%20Think%20Wonder_3.pdf), [Think Pair Share,](https://pz.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/Think%20Pair%20Share_2.pdf) [Visual Thinking Strategies](https://emprobstvts.weebly.com/vts-the-three-simple-questions.html)). Synthesize the thinking routine as a class in an oral discussion, on paper/board or as you choose.
2. Ask where students where in the world they think this artifact is from. Lead them to discover that this piece is from Mexico. Allow students to explore Mexico through websites (NatGeo Kids, Britannica Kids, YouTube, library books or an Epic collection. Links are above. Kids can submit facts to a parking lot, on the whiteboard, post its, Jamboard. Lead a class discussion about what they learned. Did anyone find out more information about our calavera or Día de Los Muertos?
3. A read aloud can pull together all their new-found knowledge. You can read them or use the video links. *The Day of the Dead El Dia de Los Muertos* is a bilingual story about the holiday and traditions. *The Dead Family Diaz* tells the story of the holiday from the perspective to the dead. [The Day of the Dead El Día de Los Muertos](https://youtu.be/rNHWnv3TRxA) read aloud video [The Dead Family Diaz](https://youtu.be/kWBXPyFNz3k) read aloud video
4. Dive deeper into facts about the holiday on [Day of the Dead](https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/celebrations/article/day-of-the-dead) – National Geographic Kids and [Five Facts about Día de Los Muertos](https://www.si.edu/stories/5-facts-about-dia-de-los-muertos-day-dead#:~:text=Every%20ofrenda%20also%20includes%20the,paper%20banners%2C%20represent%20the%20wind.) – Smithsonian This can be teacher led/read or the students can work in pairs or independently.
5. Students will design their own calaveras on paper. Search for blank sugar skulls on Google. Refer back to the original image of the [3D Model - Calavera (Skull)](https://w2w.indiana.edu/explore-collections/calavera.html) Gather images of sugar skulls on Google if students would like to refer to other designs.
6. If you want to extend this activity, students can make their own 3D marshmallow calaveras. This can be as simple or elaborate as you want to make it. Students could use food safe markers and sprinkles to decorate their skulls. Students could do a non-food safe version and use standard makers and craft supplies you have on hand. Styrofoam skulls and molds for sugar skulls can be found at major retailers if you want to go a step further.
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| **Assessment Suggestions**  Students present their creations to the class and include a fact about Mexico and a fact about Día de Los Muertos or calaveras. |
| **Extensions** Part 2 - Ofrendas |