

# CELEBRATIONS

## Day of the Dead

### Worksheet

#### Exercise 1: Mini Mexico quiz



- Mexico is a country in:  
a. North America  
b. South America  
c. Europe
- Its main language is:  
a. English  
b. Portuguese  
c. Spanish
- It has a population of about:  
a. 11 million  
b. 72 million  
c. 127 million
- On its flag there is:  
a. a snake  
b. an eagle  
c. a horse

#### Exercise 2: Day of the Dead vocabulary

##### Match the vocabulary with the definitions.

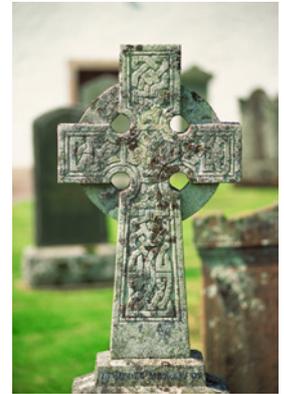
- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. altar                 | a. the place where a dead body is buried in a deep hole in the ground           |
| 2. ancestors             | b. a structure above the ground that can contain a dead body                    |
| 3. cemetery              | c. a respectful way of saying that someone has died or is dead                  |
| 4. grave                 | d. people who are related to you who lived a long time ago                      |
| 5. (to) honour (someone) | e. the part of a person that many people believe continues to exist after death |
| 6. marigolds             | f. the bones of the head  |
| 7. passed away           | g. show your respect or admiration for someone                                  |
| 8. skull                 | h. a special table where religious ceremonies are usually performed             |
| 9. spirit                | i. plants with bright yellow or orange flowers                                  |
| 10. tomb                 | j. an area of ground where dead people are buried                               |

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#### Exercise 3: Text



#### Use the words from exercise 2 to complete the text.

The Day of the Dead is celebrated on 2nd November throughout Mexico and in other parts of the world where many Mexicans live, such as the USA. It is a time when families gather together to (1) \_\_\_\_\_ relatives who have (2) \_\_\_\_\_. The celebration is sometimes called the Days of the Dead to refer to the three-day period which includes Halloween on 31st October and All Saints Day on 1st November.

Some people build private (3) \_\_\_\_\_ called *ofrendas*, others go to the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ and place favourite food and drinks and bright yellow Aztec (5) \_\_\_\_\_ on the (6) \_\_\_\_\_ of a family member or their family (7) \_\_\_\_\_. Mexicans hope that these gifts will make the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ happy and that they will bring good luck and protect their families.

The tradition of decorating a (9) \_\_\_\_\_ made of sugar is very special to the Day of the Dead. These often have big smiles and are very colourful. They help children to learn to respect life and to not be afraid of death.

During the festival families tell stories about their (10) \_\_\_\_\_ and how they lived.

#### Exercise 4: Traditions and culture

#### Discuss these questions.

In your country and culture:

- who looks after cemeteries and graves?  
*E.g. private companies, relatives, local authorities, etc*
- what do people place on graves or tombs?  
*E.g. candles, photos, flowers, etc*
- are there any special days or dates when people remember ancestors and others who have passed away?

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#### Exercise 5: What will they say?

**How would you like your family to remember you?**

**Write three things that you hope people will say about you 100 years from now.**

*She / he always ...*

*She / he never ...*

*She / he was ...*

#### Exercise 6: Speaking

**Work in pairs. Take it in turns to tell each other facts about your family from the past. When you find something that your ancestors have in common, talk about this in more detail.**