

CELEBRATIONS

Day of the Dead

Teacher's notes

Age: Teenagers/Adults

Level: Pre-intermediate upwards (A2+)

Time: 60 minutes

Activity: In this lesson, students will:

1. read and talk about cultural traditions connected with the dead
2. find out what their ancestors had in common

Language focus: vocabulary related to the Day of the Dead

Materials: one copy of the worksheet per student

Procedure

1. Students answer the multiple choice questions in exercise 1 to test their basic knowledge of Mexico.

Key:

1. a
2. c
3. c
4. b

2. In exercise 2, students match the words 1–10 with the definitions a–j. They will need these words for the following task.

Key:

1. h
2. d
3. j
4. a
5. g
6. i
7. c
8. f
9. e
10. b

3. In exercise 3, students read the text and use the words from exercise 2 to fill in the gaps.

Key:

1. honour
2. passed away
3. altars
4. cemetery
5. marigolds
6. grave
7. tomb

8. spirits

9. skull

10. ancestors

4. Students discuss the questions in exercise 4 in small groups, or (especially if your students all come from the same country and culture) together with the whole class.
5. Students complete the three sentence beginnings in exercise 5 with information that they hope their future family members will remember them by. Provide an appropriate example for your students, e.g. *She was always a very patient and caring person. She looked after her mother when she was ill, and hardly ever complained.* Then get them to discuss their sentences about themselves with a partner or in small groups.
6. Working in pairs or groups of three, students take it in turns in exercise 6 to tell each other facts about their past family – encourage them to talk about people who have passed away a while ago (not just recently). When they come across something that both their ancestors have in common they should continue talking about this fact and should try to find more similar aspects from their families' lives. Hold a short feedback session after this task.