



# Día de Muertos and Personal Connections



Educator Guide & Lesson Plan inspired by  
*Ofrendas: Celebrating el Día de Muertos*

## Learning Target

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Understanding the meaning of the Day of the Dead and making personal connections to what they have learned.

## Student Outcomes

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Students will

- Understand the cultural significance and meaning behind the Mexican celebration of the Day of the Dead
- Compare and contrast the Day of the Dead and Halloween
- Become familiar with the elements of an ofrenda
- Recognize those elements in the community ofrendas
- Demonstrate their understanding by creating their own classroom ofrenda

## Michigan World Language Standards

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1.2.N.R.b

Understand main idea of simple accessible written materials in the target language.

2.1.N.F.d

Explain the practices and significance of the products associated with an important regional holiday or celebration.

3.2.N.a

Use audio, visual, and/or print materials to recognize that a topic or situation may be viewed differently in one's own culture than in the target culture.

4.2.N.a

Identify basic target culture practices and compare them to one's own.



## Pre-Visit Activities

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Introduce students to the Mexican celebration of the Day of the Dead including its significance to culture and family, how it is commemorated, and how it differs from Halloween.

### Attachments

- *Todo Sobre Día de Muertos* (All about the Day of the Dead) PowerPoint
- Day of the Dead v. Halloween PowerPoint and T-Chart (guided conversation and notes)
- *Día de Muertos* Webquest (2 options)
- Infograph Info Gap Partner Activity
- Elementos de Una Ofrenda Listening Activity

## During Visit

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While students go through the exhibition, they complete a scavenger hunt in which they locate many of the different elements of an ofrenda.

### Attachments

- DIA Ofrendas Scavenger Hunt
- DIA Ofrendas Google Classroom Hunt

## Post Activity

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Students will express their understanding about the Day of the Dead and ofrendas by creating and exhibiting their own ofrenda to honor the memory of a notable deceased Mexican figure.

There are two options for this project – a more traditional table-top, three-tier ofrenda and a more traditional shoebox ofrenda.

### Attachments

- Ofrenda write-up and rubric
- Shoebox ofrenda write-up and rubric
- A gallery-walk feedback sheet appropriate for both projects

*(This educational resource was developed by the DIA Education Programs team in collaboration with Spanish teachers Susie Abrams, Michael Turner, and Daniel Fershtman)*