



Day of the Dead (Día de los Muertos)

Flashcards: Test yourself and your friends on this Day of the Dead Vocabulary. Underneath, you will find the context of this vocabulary



La Calavera



México



La Ofrenda



La Calaca/ El Esqueleto



La Familia



Los Angelitos



El Pan de Muerto



La Calabaza



El Papel Picado



La Catrina



Las Memorias



Los Aztecas



La Cruz



La Flor



La Vela



Noviembre



El Cementerio



El Altar

Next, match up the picture flashcards to their descriptions!

In this context, altar can be used as a synonym with <i>ofrenda</i> , which shows the connection between religion and this festival.	Candles light the path for the returning souls during Day of the Dead.	The Day of the Dead is a festival in which families come together to commemorate their dead ancestors and keep their memories alive.
This is a traditional altar filled with gifts and portraits honouring dead relatives. Each <i>ofrenda</i> contains the four elements in their creation; fire, water, wind and earth, which each carry a spiritual meaning.	This is a slang term for skeleton in Mexico. They are often used for decorations, and children may paint their faces as a skeleton. The name <i>La Calaca</i> can also be a euphemism for the figure of death.	Cemeteries and graves are often decorated for the Day of the Dead.
The Day of the Dead comes from Mexico , the largest nation in Central America.	The Day of the Dead is celebrated on the 1st-3rd November of each year.	On the Day of the Dead, the family is the festival's heart. You put a picture of your deceased relatives on the <i>ofrenda</i> and leave gifts to honour them.
Flowers form an important part of the holiday, especially Marigolds (<i>Flores de cempasúchil</i> in Mexican Spanish), which is called the 'flower of death.' It is thought to attract souls of loved ones back to earth with their strong scent and bright orange petals.	These ' little angels ' are used to represent the souls of children that have died. Their deaths are celebrated the day before the adult souls, as it is said that they are so eager to come back that they rush ahead of the adults.	The holiday takes influences from two key heritages: The Roman Catholic tradition and the Aztec traditions native to Mexico. Specifically, the goddess of death Mictecacihuatl is an icon of the holiday
This traditional food is a sweet bread which is shaped like a roll and glazed. It also has bone shaped decorations on top to fit the theme.	Pumpkins! They form part of the <i>ofrenda</i> , and have been used since Aztec Era.	The Day of the Dead comes from All Saints Day, and therefore has a Christian element to it which should not be ignored. 78% of the population of Mexico are Roman Catholic.
Skulls. These are the most famous symbol of Day of the Dead. You will often find painted sculptures of skulls and skull-shaped candies during the festivities.	Iconic figure of the festival, created by Mexican artist José Posadas in the 20s. It has since become a Mexican national symbol.	This colourful paper bunting is used to decorate homes and <i>ofrendas</i> . They represent the element of wind.

Notes on the vocab:

México– The Day of the Dead comes from **Mexico**, the largest nation in Central America.

La Calavera– **Skulls**. These are the most famous symbol of Day of the Dead. You will often find painted sculptures of skulls and skull-shaped candies during the festivities.

La Ofrenda– This is a traditional altar filled with gifts and portraits honouring dead relatives. Each *ofrenda* contains the four elements in their creation; fire, water, wind and earth, which each carry a spiritual meaning.

La Calaca– This is a slang term for **skeleton** in Mexico. They are often used for decorations, and children may paint their faces as a skeleton. The name *La Calaca* can also be a euphemism for the character of death. The general term to be used in all other situations is **el esqueleto**.

La Familia– On the Day of the Dead, the **family** is the festival's heart. You put a picture of your deceased relatives on the *ofrenda* and leave gifts to honour them.

Los Angelitos– These '**little angels**' are used to represent the souls of children that have died. Their deaths are celebrated the day before the adult souls, as it is said that they are so eager to come back that they rush ahead of the adults.

El Pan de Muerto– This traditional food is a **sweet bread** which is shaped like a roll and glazed. It also has bone shaped decorations on top to fit the theme.

La Calabaza– **Pumpkins**! They form part of the *ofrenda*, and have been used since Aztec Era.

El Papel Picado– This colourful **paper bunting** is used to decorate homes and *ofrendas*. They represent the element of wind.

La Catrina– Iconic figure of the festival, created by Mexican artist José Posadas in the 20s. It has since become a Mexican national symbol.

Las Memorias– The Day of the Dead is a festival in which families come together to commemorate their dead ancestors and keep their **memories** alive.

Los Aztecas– The holiday takes influences from two key heritages: The Roman Catholic tradition and the **Aztec** traditions native to Mexico. Specifically, the goddess of death Mictecacihuatl is an icon of the holiday

La Cruz– The Day of the Dead comes from All Saints Day, and therefore has a Christian element to it which should not be ignored. 78% of the population of Mexico are Roman Catholic.

La Flor– **Flowers** form an important part of the holiday, especially Marigolds (*Flores de cempasúchil* in Mexican Spanish), which is called the 'flower of death.' It is thought to attract souls of loved ones back to earth with their strong scent and bright orange petals.

La Vela– **Candles** light the path for the returning souls during Day of the Dead.

Noviembre– The Day of the Dead is celebrated on the 1st–3rd **November** of each year.

El Cementerio– **Cemeteries** and graves are often decorated for the Day of the Dead.

El Altar– In this context, **altar** can be used as a synonym with *ofrenda*, which shows the connection between religion and this festival.