

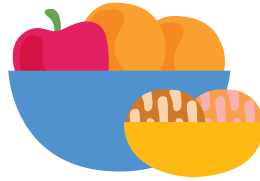
# HAPPY DIA DE LOS MUERTOS!



People in Mexico observe Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) on November 1st & 2nd. Tradition has it that the spirits of loved ones who have died come back to visit and party with family members. It is not a scary or spooky time at all – it is a happy and festive celebration that remembers and honors loved ones who have passed on. Families build colorful and decorative ofrendas (altars) to welcome the spirits home. These alters include different objects and symbols, such as:



Photos of the departed loved one.



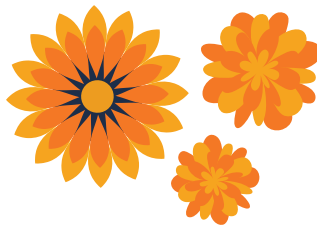
The loved one's favorite food & drink. Included is pan de muerto, which means "bread of the dead."



Water to quench their thirst after their long journey.



Favorite items from when they were alive, like a book or musical instrument.



Marigolds, which make a fragrant and beautiful path for the spirit to follow.



Skeletons, called calacas, shown doing silly things or having fun.



Dazzling sugar skulls.



Candles to light their way.



Colorful tissue paper banners with cut-out designs, called papel picado.



**TRY THIS:** Use a large piece of paper to represent an altar. Pick someone you love who has passed on that you want to honor (it can even be for a pet!). Use pencils or crayons to draw items on the altar from the list above.

**TRY THIS:** Have fun coloring a sugar skull.

