

Name _____

Date _____



Día de los Muertos/Day of the Dead

Sitting on a bench, and I start to look around.
Soon I see a man hovering over the ground.
He greets me with a comforting smile,
Then suddenly, my stomach starts to growl.
He offers me some type of bread called bread of the dead.
In Spanish, it's pan de muerto, and then he says,
"Hoy es el Día de los Muertos, escuchame.
I'll tell you everything you need to know about this holiday."
Día de los Muertos, Day of the Dead—
Not a day for us to mourn, but celebrate it instead.
To a lot of us, this day might be a mystery,
But don't even sweat it. I'll tell you about its history.
It originated with the Aztecs thousands of years back.
Then Mexico kept the trend 'til now, and that's a fact.
They believe that when somebody dies they go through some steps:
Chiconauictlán, then Mictlán where they get to rest.
On their way to Chiconauictlán, this goes on:
They get offered water and food 'cause the journey's so long,
By their families,
The people that loved them while they were here.
Remember, this day is joyous—just want to make that clear.
In the 16th century, this transpired:
The Spanish conquest of the Aztec Empire.
Then the Spanish wanted to spread Catholicism,
Because they had their own beliefs in their own religion,
Like All Saints' and All Souls' Day—that's celebrated in November.
Eventually, as time passed, they did something clever,

And now they celebrate both holidays together.
Yeah, they celebrate both holidays together.
Hey, celebrate it in November on the first and second.
El Día de los Muertos is 'bout love and remembrance.
Let's remember the good times while we raise a toast
To our friends and our families, 'cause we miss 'em the most.
We celebrate it in November on the first and second.
El Día de los Muertos is 'bout love and remembrance.
Let's remember the good times while we raise a toast
To our friends and our families, 'cause we miss 'em the most.
OK, let's get back to learning some more.
There's tons of info on this day we just got to explore.
It's strongly associated with Mexico, like I told you before,
And they celebrate this holiday with traditions galore.
But for the most part, it's filled with parades
And all types of festivities and food on their trays.
Plus la familia of the dead, they be feeling that it's necessary
To set up altars at their homes or at the cemeteries.
And on these altars they place pan de muerto, which is bread of the dead—
Sweeter than regular bread.
And the ofrendas are decorated with marigolds,
As a way to guide the souls as they're returning home.
I swear this day ain't what it seems.
It's similar to Halloween.
They put on makeup, wear costumes, and have similar themes.
But on this day, they make sure that their makeup is resembling
Skulls, calacas, calaveras, and skeletons,
Just so they can show that the dead are welcome.
Is the mood on this day somber? Nah, very seldom.
If there's anything that you can take away from this song
Is that we celebrate those we lost for two days long.
Hey, celebrate it in November on the first and second.

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