

Day of the Dead Resource Guide

by Kristen Cardona

Resource Overview:

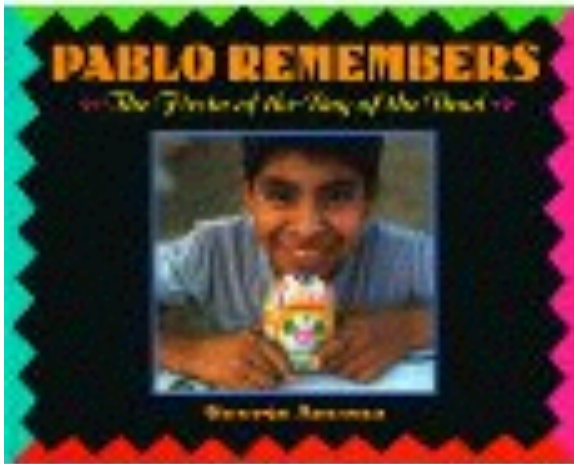
Language instruction is not required by law at the Elementary School level, the frequency and intensity of the program varies greatly from town to town. Even at the secondary level, frequency of instruction and beginning age of instruction can vary within school systems as well as between districts. For this reason, instead of a lesson plan which stipulates class duration and presumes the skill level of a various age group, I have chosen to create a master list.

This resource list provides one with materials and suggested activities, so that a lesson can be designed regardless of class duration, frequency or skill set of the learners. Additionally, due to the rich nature of Day of the Dead, these materials could be used and modified in any subject area. As teachers we are always short on time. I hope this helps to facilitate cross-curricular lesson design and instruction.

Resource list includes:

- books,
- thematic units,
- websites,
- apps,
- videos.

Books: an excellent way to introduce the cultural products and practices of Day of the Dead to a younger audience. Unless otherwise noted these books are appropriate for elementary age students and a Year One Spanish classroom at the middle school level.

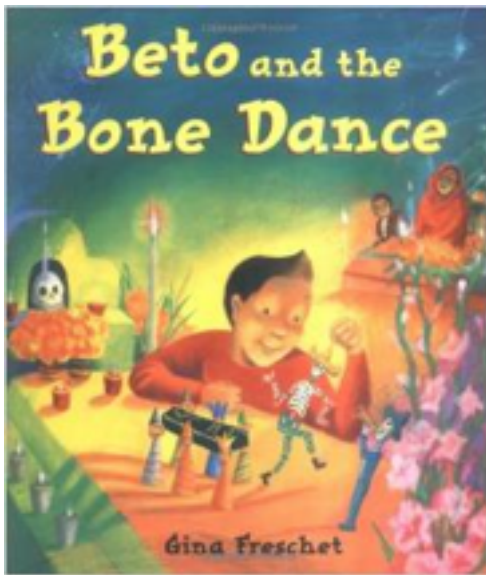


Pablo Remembers by George Ancona
Available in English and Spanish. This photo-documentary follows Pablo and his family as they prepare to honor the memory of Pablo's grandmother.

http://www.amazon.com/Pablo-Remembers-George-Ancona/dp/0688112498/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1406662927&sr=1-1&keywords=pablo+remembers

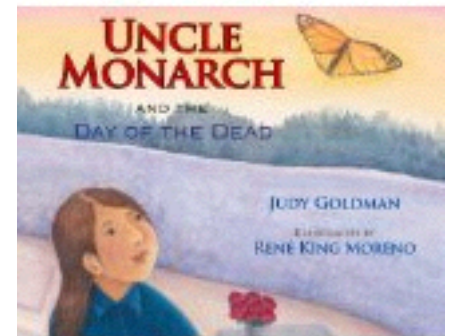
Chumba la Cachumba by Carlos Cotte
Traditional counting song. Great illustrations. Students will enjoy skeletons doing silly things. Teaches numbers, telling time and rhyme. Can be co-taught by music teacher. Enjoyed by all age levels.



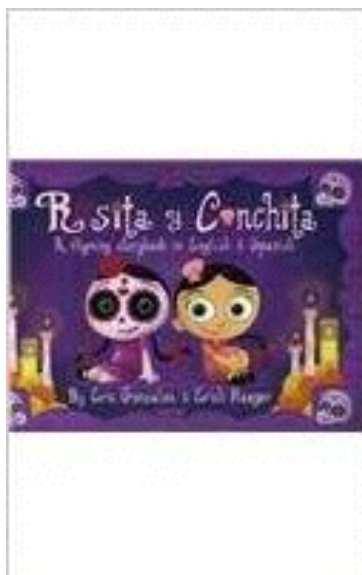


http://www.amazon.com/Chumba-Cachumba-Carlos-Cotte/dp/9802571148/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1408543801&sr=1-1&keywords=chumba

Beto and The Bone Dance by Gina Freschet The story pairs perfectly with Tony Johnston's more straightforward Day of the Dead (Harcourt, 1997) to provide a perfect introduction to George Ancona's as yet unsurpassed photo-essay on the subject, Pablo Remembers (Lothrop, 1993). This is a book to keep in mind for a culturally rich storytime.



http://www.amazon.com/Beto-Bone-Dance-Gina-Freschet/dp/0374317208/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1406661364&sr=1-1&keywords=beto+and+the+bone+dance



Uncle Monarch and the Day of the Dead by Judy Goldman

Addresses death of Uncle and Monarch migration. Can be used as introduction to science and/or butterfly art.

<http://www.amazon.com/Uncle-Monarch-Dead-Judy->



Goldman/dp/1590784251/ref=sr_1_sc_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1408543937&sr=1-1-spell&keywords=Uncle+Monach

Rosita y Conchita / Rosita and Conchita (English and Spanish Edition)

By Erich Haeger, Eric Gonzalez

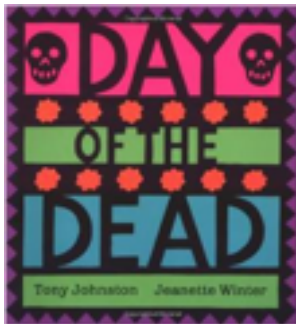
Bi-lingual rhyming tale

Get the book direct by the creators at muertoons.blogspot.com, also available at Amazon.

Día de Los Muertos (Holidays, Festivals, & Celebrations)

By Ann Heinrichs

Young readers discover how food, fun, and memories contribute to a festival that is more about rejoicing than mourning.



http://www.amazon.com/Dia-Muertos-Holidays-Festivals-Celebrations/dp/1592965741/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1408544278&sr=1-1&keywords=dia+de+los+muertos+heinrichs

Day of the Dead by Tony Johnson

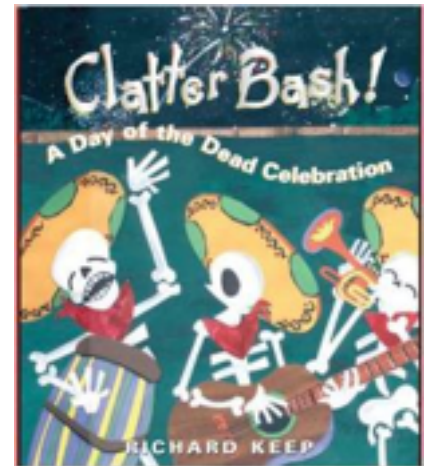
Framed by decorative borders and peppered with Spanish words, *Day of the Dead* is a glorious introduction to a fascinating celebration. A note at the end of the book provides factual information about the holiday.

http://www.amazon.com/Day-Dead-Tony-Johnston/dp/0152024468/ref=pd_sim_b_1?ie=UTF8&refRID=0MMR62S90GMGECS0B95NI

Clatter Bash! A Day of the Dead Celebration by Richard Keep

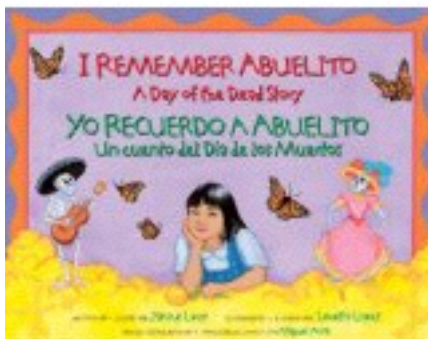
The playful skeletons rise from their graves to celebrate with gusto. All night long, they sing, dance, dine, tell stories, and play games. The vivid cut-paper art is sure to raise the spirits of young readers without frightening them. A sprinkling of Spanish words. Could be used by an Art teacher as well.

[http://www.amazon.com/Clatter-Bash-Day-Dead-](http://www.amazon.com/Clatter-Bash-Day-Dead-Celebration/dp/1561454613/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1408549619&sr=1-1&keywords=clatter+bash)



[Celebration/dp/1561454613/ref=sr_1_1?](http://www.amazon.com/Clatter-Bash-Day-Dead-Celebration/dp/1561454613/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1408549619&sr=1-1&keywords=clatter+bash)

[s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1408549619&sr=1-1&keywords=clatter+bash](http://www.amazon.com/Clatter-Bash-Day-Dead-Celebration/dp/1561454613/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1408549619&sr=1-1&keywords=clatter+bash)



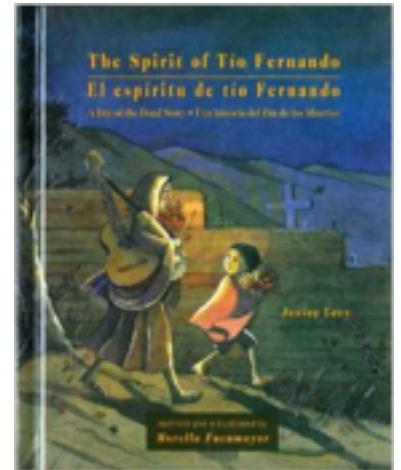
I Remember Abuelito: A Day of the Dead Story / Yo Recuerdo a Abuelito: Un Cuento del Día de los Muertos (Spanish and English Edition) by Janice Levy

It's the Day of the Dead! It's time to celebrate! In this bilingual book, a young girl is busy helping her family prepare to honor those who have died--especially her grandfather. She misses him very much and is excited for his spirit to visit that night.

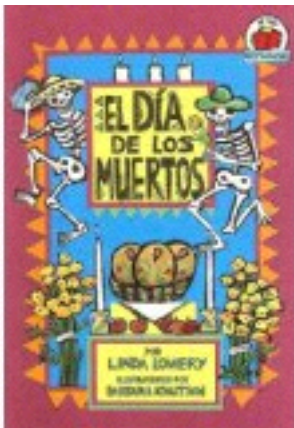
[http://www.amazon.com/Remember-Abuelito-Day-Dead-Story-ebook/dp/B00JRM0EY/](http://www.amazon.com/Remember-Abuelito-Day-Dead-Story-ebook/dp/B00JRM0EY/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1408545228&sr=1-1&keywords=i+remember+abuelito)
[ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1408545228&sr=1-1&keywords=i+remember+abuelito](http://www.amazon.com/Remember-Abuelito-Day-Dead-Story-ebook/dp/B00JRM0EY/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1408545228&sr=1-1&keywords=i+remember+abuelito)

The Spirit of Tío Fernando: A Day of the Dead Story by Janice Levy

It's the Day of the Dead and Nando and his mother are going to honor Tío Fernando. Nando, named for Uncle Fernando, listens as his mother tells him that later, at the cemetery, they will meet with Tío Fernando's spirit.



http://www.amazon.com/Spirit-Tio-Fernando-Dead-Story/dp/0807575860/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1408545313&sr=1-1&keywords=the+spirit+of+tio+fernando



El Dia de los Muertos = The Day of the Dead (Yo Solo Festividades) (Spanish Edition) by Linda Lowery
Provides example ingredients and cooking instructions. Could be co-taught by Consumer Science.

[http://www.amazon.com/Muertos-Dead-Solo-Festividades-](http://www.amazon.com/Muertos-Dead-Solo-Festividades-Spanish/dp/0822531232/ref=sr_1_fkmr0_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1408545391&sr=1-1-fkmr0&keywords=linda+lowrey+dia+de+los+muertos)

[Spanish/dp/0822531232/ref=sr_1_fkmr0_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1408545391&sr=1-1-fkmr0&keywords=linda+lowrey+dia+de+los+muertos](http://www.amazon.com/Muertos-Dead-Solo-Festividades-Spanish/dp/0822531232/ref=sr_1_fkmr0_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1408545391&sr=1-1-fkmr0&keywords=linda+lowrey+dia+de+los+muertos)



Day of the Dead/Día de los Muertos Paper Dolls (Dover Paper Dolls) by Kwei-Lin Lum

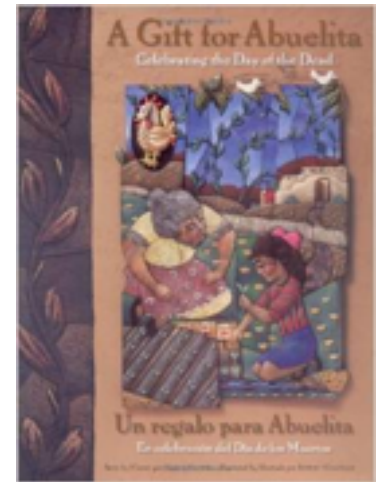
Artfully and accurately rendered in the tradition of Mexico's Day of the Dead, this set of whimsical, vividly costumed skeleton figures honors the memory of the departed. The unique bilingual collection features two paper dolls, fifteen ornate costumes, a variety of altar offerings, and a bonus sticker poster.

http://www.amazon.com/Dead-Muertos-Paper-Dolls-Dover/dp/048647285X/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1408546361&sr=1-1&keywords=day+of+the+dead+paper+dolls

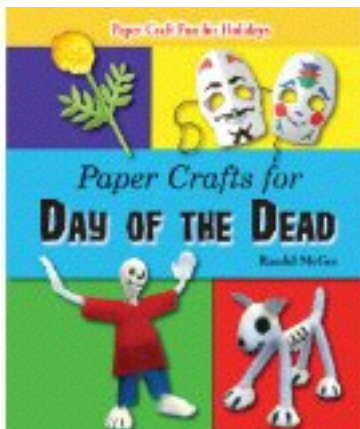
Gift For Abuelita / Un regalo para Abuelita: Celebrating the Day of the Dead/En celebracion del Dia de los Muertos

(English, Multilingual and Spanish Edition) by Nancy Luenn

The story opens with Abuelita teaching Rosita that "one strand alone can be broken, but when they are woven together, they make a cord that is strong. Like my love for you and your love for me." Pairs nicely with lessons on weaving.



http://www.amazon.com/Gift-Abuelita-regalo-para-Multilingual/dp/0873586883/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1408546460&sr=1-1&keywords=gift+for+abuelita



Paper Crafts for Day of the Dead (Paper Craft Fun for Holidays)

by Randel McGee

Do you want to make your own skeleton pet? Learn to make a skull mask, paper marigolds, and even a skeleton candy basket. Art projects for both the Art teacher and classroom teacher.

http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=paper+crafts+for+day+of+the+dead

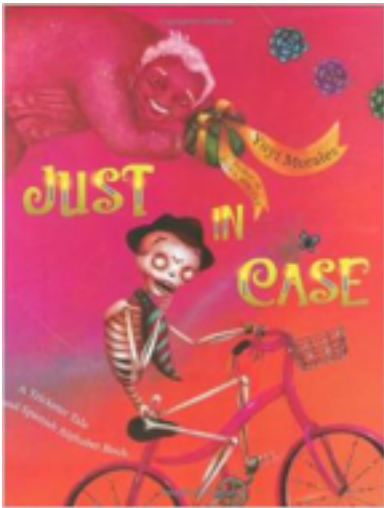
Los Gatos Black on Halloween

by Marisa Montes

Story is mostly in English. It is great for comparing and contrast Halloween and Day of the Dead. Story is only about Halloween. There is also a Kindle Edition. *Los Gatos Black on Halloween* is a 2007 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year, the winner of the 2008 Pura Belpre Medal for Illustration and a Pura Belpre Honor Book for Narrative.



http://www.amazon.com/Gatos-Black-Halloween-Marisa-Montes-ebook/dp/B006WR3GQK/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1408546885&sr=1-1&keywords=Los+Gatos+black



***Just In Case: A Trickster Tale and Spanish Alphabet Book* by Yuyi Morales
THREE-TIME PURA BELPRÉ WINNER**

Morales's art glows in this heart-warming original tale with folklore themes, a companion book to her Pura Belpré-winning JUST A MINUTE. *Just In Case* is a 2009 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year, the winner of the 2009 Pura Belpre Medal for Illustration and a Pura Belpre Honor Book for Narrative. Teaching guide available from author online.

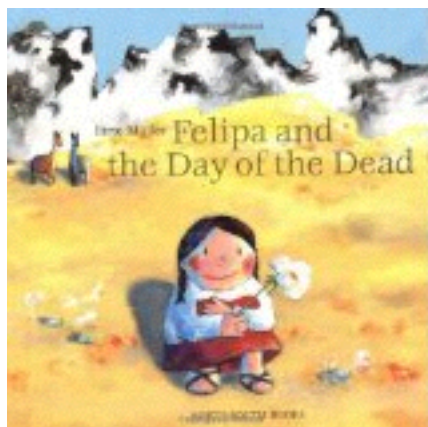
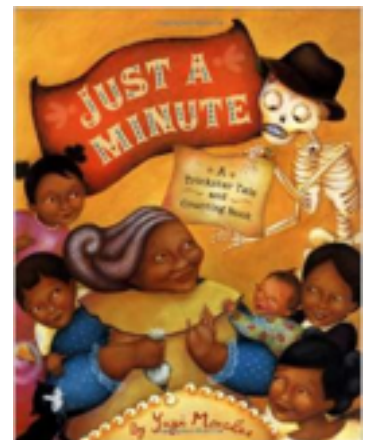
http://www.amazon.com/Just-Case-Trickster-Spanish-Alphabet/dp/1596433299/ref=sr_1_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1408548415&sr=1-2&keywords=just+in+case

***Just a Minute!: A Trickster Tale and Counting Book (Pura Belpre Medal Book Illustrator Awards)* by Yuyi Morales**

This spirited tribute to the rich traditions of Mexican culture is the perfect introduction to counting in both English and Spanish. The vivacious illustrations and universal depiction of a family celebration are sure to be adored by young readers everywhere. Teaching guide available from author online.

[http://www.amazon.com/Just-Minute-Trickster-Counting-Illustrator/dp/0811837580/ref=sr_1_1?](http://www.amazon.com/Just-Minute-Trickster-Counting-Illustrator/dp/0811837580/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1408548489&sr=1-1&keywords=just+a+minute)

[s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1408548489&sr=1-1&keywords=just+a+minute](http://www.amazon.com/Just-Minute-Trickster-Counting-Illustrator/dp/0811837580/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1408548489&sr=1-1&keywords=just+a+minute)



Felipa's beloved grandmother, Abuelita, has died. They tell her that the souls of the dead live on forever. So Felipa decides to find Abuelita's soul. But where is it? Felipa joins in the celebrations honoring loved ones who have died, and in the process finally finds Abuelita's soul. She celebrates the universal spirit of remembrance, where sorrow and loss are coupled with joy as people commemorate and commune

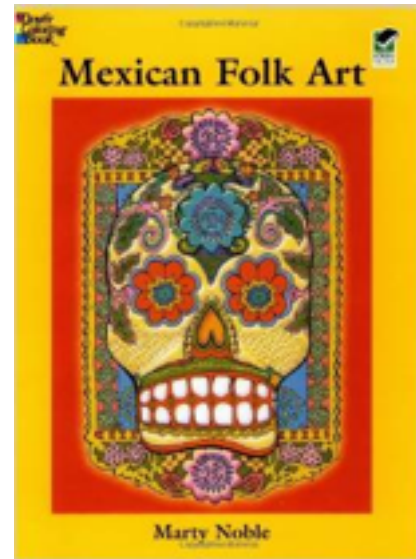
with loved ones who have died.

<http://www.amazon.com/Felipa-Day-Dead-Birte-Muller/dp/0735820112>

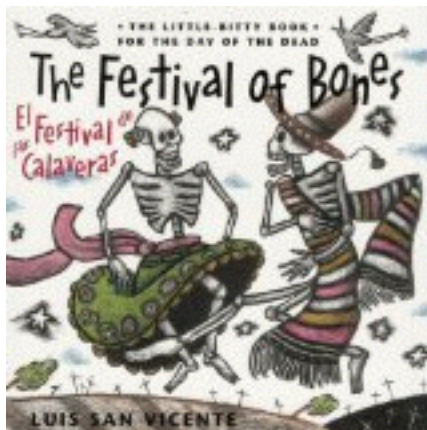
Mexican Folk Art Coloring Book (Dover Design Coloring Books)

by Marty Noble

Striking adaptations of authentic native art depict, among other subjects, a Mixtec circular design from an incised gourd rattle, religious figures from a Metepec candlestick, and images of jaguars taken from a Guerrero lacquered chest. A coloring book of 30 illustrations.



http://www.amazon.com/Mexican-Coloring-Dover-Design-Books/dp/0486427501/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1408549784&sr=1-1&keywords=mexican+folk+art+coloring+book

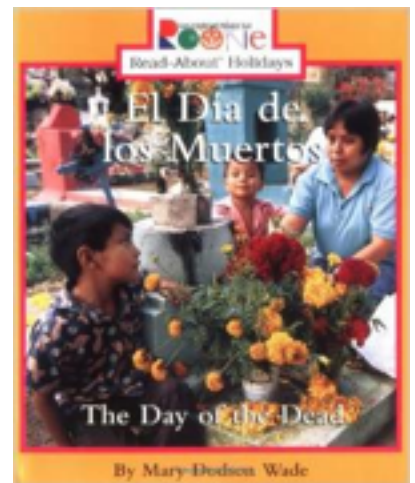


Festival of Bones / El Festival de las Calaveras: The Little-Bitty Book for the Day of the Dead (English and Spanish Edition) by Luis San Vicente A short and fun essay, directed toward young readers, will explain this important Mexican holiday. The works of Mexico City artist Luis San Vicente have been exhibited in Mexico, Venezuela, Europe, and the United States. He has won UNESCO's prestigious NOMA Encouragement Concours Prize for Illustration, and UNESCO honored his work (1997, 1998, and 1999) in their prestigious Youth and Children's Catalog of Illustrations.

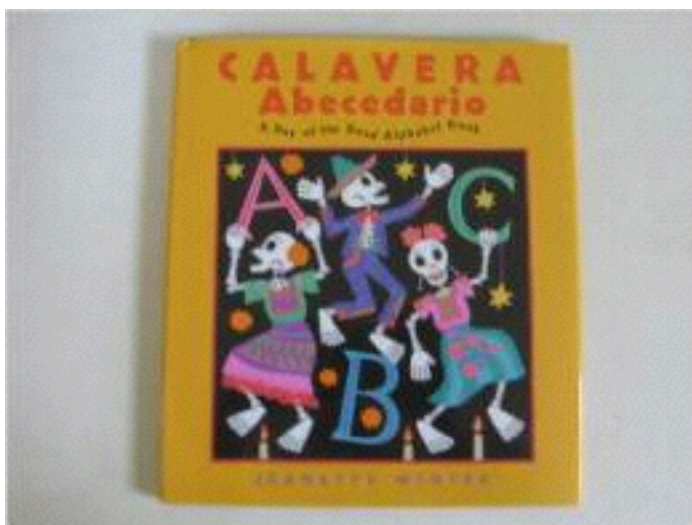
http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=festival+of+the+bones

El Dia de Los Muertos (Rookie Read-About Holidays) by Mary Dodson Wade A picture book with limited language. Written in English with some Spanish terms. Very brief.

<http://www.amazon.com/Dia-Muertos-Rookie-Read-About->



Holidays/dp/051627354X/ref=sr_1_1?
s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=undefined&sr=1-1&keywords=el+dia+de+los+muertos+wade

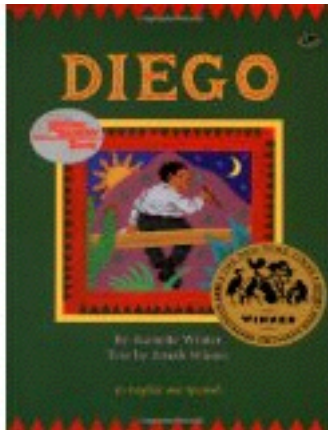


Calavera Abecedario: A Day of the Dead Alphabet Book by Jeanette Winter

Every year Don Pedro and his family make papier-mâché skeletons, or *calaveras*, for Mexico's Day of the Dead *fiesta*. *This is the only book I know of that includes 'Monos' (large papier-mâché dolls used in Calendas in Oaxaca. Includes a glossary of Spanish words and an author's note. Could be used by Art teacher as it documents a famous local artist. Available on Kindle as well.*

<http://www.amazon.com/Calavera->

Abecedario-Dead-Alphabet-Book-ebook/dp/B003V4B5M4/ref=sr_1_1?
s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1408550014&sr=1-1&keywords=calavera+abecedario



Diego by Jonah Winter and Jeanette Winter

Story of the life and work of Diego Rivera told in Spanish and English.

Frida by Jonah Winter

Story of the life and work of Frida Khalo. Available in Spanish and English.



http://www.amazon.com/Diego-Jonah-Winter/dp/067985617X/ref=sr_1_fkmr1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1408550591&sr=1-1-fkmr1&keywords=diego+winter+frida

http://www.amazon.com/Frida-English-Language-Jonah-Winter/dp/0590203207/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1408550669&sr=1-1&keywords=winter+frida

Thematic Units:

Origins of Halloween and Day of the Dead. Includes great background material, featured lesson plan links, featured websites. Excellent materials.
<http://edsitement.neh.gov/feature/origins-halloween-and-day-dead>

Mexican Culture and History through it's National Holiday. Explores three Mexican holidays. Site has links to primary source materials, lesson plans, and website links.
<http://edsitement.neh.gov/lesson-plan/mexican-culture-and-history-through-its-national-holidays#sect-introduction>

Not Just Halloween: Festivals of the Dead from Around the World
Comprehensive lesson that compares festivals of ancestor remembrance in Mexico, Japan and Cambodia. <http://edsitement.neh.gov/not-just-halloween-festivals-dead-around-world>

The Mennello Museum of American Art.

<http://www.mennellomuseum.com/pdf/Dia%20de%20los%20Muertos%20lesson%20plan.pdf> Excellent complete unit plan can be use at all levels. Gives explanation of how to make paper marigolds, “papel picado” (paper cutting,) “papel pegado” (paper-maché,) and recipes for Calaveras de azúcar and Pan de Muerto.

Mexic-Arte Museum of Texas

http://www.mexic-artemuseum.org/images/uploads/education/Day_of_Dead_Guide.pdf Extremely comprehensive (20 page) guide which addresses Ritual and Death in the World, Mesoamerican Culture, Mestizaje, Establishing a Mexican National Identity, Celebrating the Day of the Dead, Reinventing Tradition, Recipes and Art Activities.

Arizona State University Museum of Anthropology https://asuma.asu.edu/sites/asuma.asu.edu/files/ao_education_packet_final_sm_0.pdf 25 page guide on Elements of an Altar and Ancient Offerings.

<http://www.miscositas.com/index.html> by **Lori Langer de Ramirez**. It is geared for third year (intermediate) Spanish students. I have used her materials for all ages/levels of elementary instruction. This is a comprehensive unit with 63 pages of activities, vocabulary, and more. All of Ramirez’s thematic units for sale on her site are quality merchandise.

AZCentral.com <http://archive.azcentral.com/ent/dead/> Great links to be used as class or by individual students for research. Loads of craft links. Great interactive explanation of altar. Also has a shorter Teacher Packet with a really great bibliography.

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS UNIT <http://web.calstatela.edu/faculty/jshindl/teaching/GloriaDuranISP.htm> Unit plan based on classes that are 45 minutes to an hour each. Includes Rubric. Appears made for a college class. Design may need to be modified to be age appropriate.

Mini Unit by Holly McCarty was created for 5th graders. She has divided it into 4 lessons, each centered around a different aspect of the holiday: Dia de los Muertos Overview, Papel picado, Calavera Puppets, Pan de los Muertos & Hot Chocolate. http://education.illinois.edu/YLP/97-98/97-98_units/97-98mini-unit/HMcCarty_DiaMuertos/EI_Muertos.html

El Alma de la Raza Project This unit lesson is designed for high school students (grades 9-12) and covers a variety of subjects (math, geography, reading, writing, art, and history). <http://www.dpsk12.org/programs/almaproject/pdf/EIDiadelosMuertos.pdf>

Online Resources:

<https://www.peabody.harvard.edu/node/287> link to **Peabody of Harvard** for ongoing activities regarding Dia de los muertos. School programs and materials are available through this link.

[http://latino.si.edu/dayofthedead/Dia de los Muertos for K-2.pdf](http://latino.si.edu/dayofthedead/Dia_de_los_Muertos_for_K-2.pdf) **Smithsonian National Museum of American History's Program of Latino History and Culture.** A lesson plan.

http://www.mexconnect.com/mex_/muertos.html **Personal Narratives and stories.**

<http://www.incredibleart.org/lessons/middle/Lauren-Posada.htm> Nice lesson for Art teachers. Intended for middle school, however can be modified for any level. A study of the Art and life of **Jose Guadalupe Posada**.

Very comprehensive site on **Art of Mexico** <http://www.incredibleart.org/files/mexico.htm> Great for Art teachers but can be used by anyone interested in incorporating art into their classroom. The section on Día de los Muertos is towards the middle of the listing.

<http://www.inside-mexico.com/dayofthedeadarticles.htm> Inside Mexico has a great list of articles on a **variety of subjects**.

Celebrate-day-of-the-dead.com— This site even sells an instant downloadable **sugar skull coloring book** .<http://www.celebrate-day-of-the-dead.com/sugar-skull-coloring-book.html>

Apps:

There are many apps available. They change frequently and new one are offered each fall. A current google search will render sufficient results. Here is a list of free and paid apps to celebrate Day of the Dead compiled by NBC Latino:

Día de Muertos by WashaWasha Games

This game is simple yet addicting. Skeletons pop up in boxes, and the player must wait to see the icon for which element of the ofrenda they need flowers, pan de muerto, prayer, or tequila, and then give it to them before they go back underground. Watch for the bar at the top that fills up as you miss feeding them. It means they are “pulling your feet.” Recommended for ages 12 and up. Price: FREE

Calavera Abecedario: A Day of the Dead Alphabet Book by Jeanette Winter

This app is a riff on the interactive storybook genre. It lets you record yourself reading the story of Don Pedro Linares, a famous Mexican calavera maker. While the narrative is in English, the last half of the story is the abecedario with words like “candelera” and “tortillera.” The illustrations are skillful, and kids will love hearing their own or parents’ voices as part of the game. Recommended for ages 4 and up. Price: \$7.99

Day of the Dead Experience the Tradition by University of Notre Dame

This game would make a good resource for students doing a school project about the holiday. It’s also interactive so parents can read about and discuss the topic of death with their children in a positive way. Recommended for ages 4 and up. Price: FREE

Day of the Dead Meby Simply Sweet Apps

Take a photo of anyone and use the app’s image tools to put hats, roses, painted eyes, and masks on your “dead face.” Halloween and Día de Muertos are combined with this app. Recommended for ages 4 and up. Price: \$0.99

Rosita y Conchita by Peek ‘n Play Story Apps

This app is based on the bilingual book, Rosita y Conchita by Erich Haeger and Eric Gonzalez of Muertoons. On Day of the Dead, Conchita prepares an altar for her sister as Rosita’s tries to find her way while her spirit can still breakthrough. The app lets children choose to listen to the story in English or Spanish. Recommended for 4-10. Price: \$4.99

Videos:

El Perro y El Gato “Día de fiesta” episode HBO bilingual cartoon series. Just over five minutes. Only teaches American holidays.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4TNan9EDF0>

"Día De Los Muertos" from Whoo Kazoo - Animated film short. Approximately three minutes. CGI Student Academy Award Gold Medal Winner Short Film

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jCQnUuq-TEE>

Las calaveras están de fiesta Teaching video with simple language for beginning learners of Spanish. Approximately three and a half minutes.

<http://www.watchknowlearn.org/Video.aspx?VideoID=50995&CategoryID=15715>

In-flight movie - **El Día de los Muertos en Mexico** It includes simple Spanish narration and some text for beginning level Spanish learners. Just over four minutes in length.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kimX-rwPmyk>

Global Wonders — This forty-five second animated video trailer shares what the holiday is all about.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xca7k2ga__M

Dia de los Muertos: Young People's Ofrenda – This is a beautiful short video about a collaborative project of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and El Colegio charter school. Under four minutes.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j5vs3RcYAyg>

Viva Calacas — From art director and designer Ritxi Ostáriz. Three and a half minute music video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WYsIVID5bv8>

Chumba Speaks very slowly for beginning students. To be used with Chumba book. Almost four minutes long.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cFgu-nBfdYM>

This link has better music and graphics, also goes with **Chumba** book. Note that singer's accent is from Spain, not Mexico. Under two minutes long.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CYYRibaMQoA>

This is an actual video of the book **Chumba** set to music. About four and a half minutes long. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xg3Sf-1O6fs>

Teacher's Discovery Short video trailer. This is my favorite video on the holiday. It is available on CD and can also be instantly downloaded from Teacher's Discovery site. Activity packet is also available for purchase for Teacher's Discover website.
<http://www.teachersdiscovery.com/gp1v1383.html> (to purchase)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X3AXPBNY2fE> (to view trailer)

