

1 Read the text and complete the gaps (1-12) with words from the list.

- dating
- cheerful
- stories
- especially
- traditional
- mourning
- decorated
- fragrance
- intended
- symbols
- relatives
- faces

Dia DE LOS Muertos



2 Answer the questions.

- 1 When does Dia de los Muertos take place?
- 2 Why are orange marigold flowers used to decorate the ofrenda?
- 3 What is pan de muerto?
- 4 How are sugar skulls made?
- 5 Why is the skull an important symbol of Dia de los Muertos?

3 **ICT** In groups, collect information and create a quiz about Dia de los Muertos. Then swap with another group to answer their quiz. How did you do?



Dia de los Muertos is celebrated in Mexico on 1st and 2nd of November each year. It is also known as the 'Day of the Dead'. Some people think that this holiday is like a Mexican Halloween, but that isn't the case. On this day, people believe that the spirits of their deceased friends and **1)** _____ return to visit them. Lots of Mexican families hold parties to celebrate the lives of the deceased. Some people also choose to dress up and paint their **2)** _____ to look like skulls. They also eat a big meal and tell **3)** _____ about the person or people who have died.

Most Mexican households prepare an ofrenda – a table in their home filled with offerings to welcome spirits. They include photographs of the deceased, possessions belonging to them, lots of decorations and a selection of food and drinks. The ofrenda is filled with special **4)** _____ of Dia de los Muertos. For example, the ofrenda is often decorated with orange marigold flowers. These flowers with their bright colour and strong **5)** _____ are thought to guide the spirits and welcome them home. The food and drink on the ofrenda includes **6)** _____ Mexican dishes. They are often those that were the favourites of the deceased, but you can also find a special dish **7)** _____ prepared for Dia de los Muertos, the pan de muerto. This is a sweet bread made with orange zest and spices often eaten with hot chocolate or coffee with milk.

On the ofrenda, you can also find sugar skulls. In fact, they are one of the most well-known symbols of Dia de los Muertos. Sugar skulls are small white skulls made from a mixture of sugar, water and other ingredients **8)** _____ with colourful icing and foil. Some skulls also bear a name in honour of someone deceased. The skull is a symbol **9)** _____ back to prehistoric times when it was believed the offering of a skull would allow someone safe passage into the afterlife. Sugar skulls aren't **10)** _____ to be eaten, though. Instead, they are used as decorations or gifts.

So, while it might seem strange to other people around the world that Mexicans have a whole celebration about death, Dia de los Muertos is actually a very **11)** _____ and colourful celebration. Rather than **12)** _____ the death of the people they love, people in Mexico celebrate this special event to remember and celebrate the lives of those who have passed away.