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Día de los muertos

Día de los muertos is a Mexican holiday that honors the dead. Use this webquest to learn more about this holiday, the people who celebrate it, and the country where it is celebrated. (*Día de los muertos* is also celebrated in other places in the world where groups of people of Mexican heritage live.)

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Find it

Find the answers to the questions below by using the “search” tool to search key words. Since this activity is about *Día de los muertos*, you can start by searching the key words “*Día de los muertos*.”

Write the answers on the lines provided or below the question.

1. On what day is *Día de los muertos* usually celebrated?
2. *Día de los muertos* is Spanish for _____.



***Users of the Advanced database can find extension activities at the end of this webquest.**

3. Who are honored on Día de los muertos?

4. On Día de los muertos, there are special candies and other treats in the shape of _____, _____, and other _____.

5. What is the name of the elaborate altar that many families prepare for the holiday?

6. Name five things that are used to decorate the altars.

7. What ancient belief does this holiday reinforce?

8. Name three places that families gather to pray for and remember their deceased loved ones during this celebration.

9. Look at the image “Día de los muertos.” What is the family in the photo using to decorate the graves of deceased family members?

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Facts about Mexico

Día de los muertos is a Mexican holiday. Answer the questions below to learn more about this Latin American country. (Hint: For help in answering these questions, see the “Mexico” article.)

10. The capital and largest city of Mexico is _____.

11. From which country did Mexico gain its independence in 1821?

12. Look at the image “Mexico and coat of arms.”
What do each of the colored stripes stand for?
 - (a) Green: _____

 - (b) White: _____

 - (c) Red: _____



What's the word?

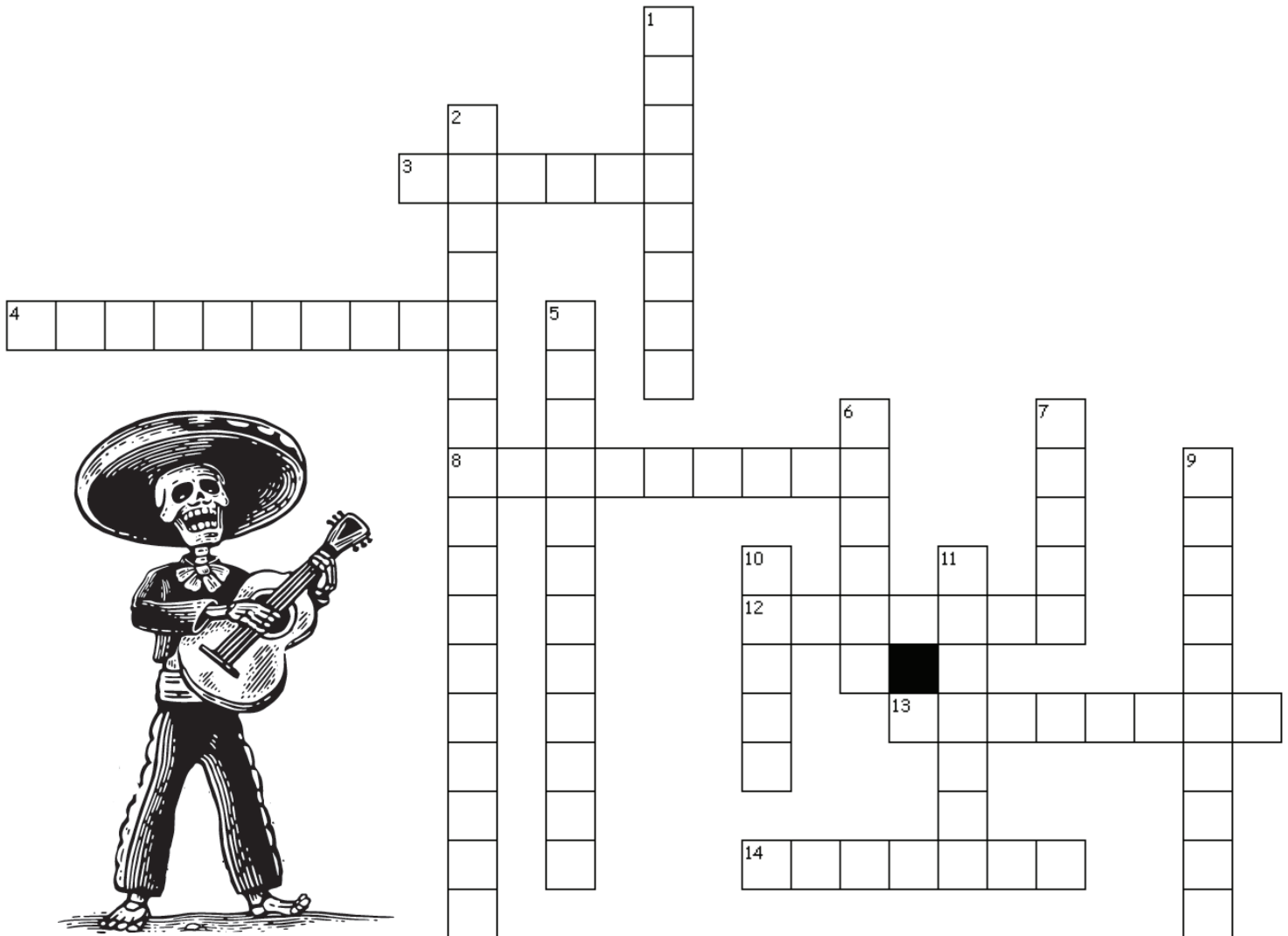
Use the clues below to fill in the puzzle. All of the answers appear in the "Día de los muertos" and "Mexico" articles in World Book.

Across

3. Country south of Mexico
4. Last Aztec emperor
8. Boundary between much of Mexico and the United States
12. Ocean west of Mexico
13. Mexicans of mixed ancestry
14. Mexico's tallest mountain is Pico de _____

Down

1. Month in which Día de los muertos is celebrated
2. 1910 uprising in Mexico
5. What "Día de los muertos" means in English
6. Country where Día de los muertos is celebrated
7. Last indigenous empire in Mexico
9. Mexico's capital and largest city
10. Country that ruled Mexico for 300 years
11. Elaborate altar prepared for Día de los muertos





Advanced Extension Activity

Día de los muertos is a Mexican holiday that celebrates and remembers their deceased loved ones. It is an important tradition through which families pass on their oral histories. Recalling stories of past family members helps keep these ancestors alive for future generations.

What are some of your family's traditions? Maybe there are stories that family members enjoy telling about the past. Maybe your family gathers at the same time each year to celebrate. Describe one of your family's current traditions or describe a tradition that you would like to start with your family.

Teacher Page

Answers:

1. Día de los muertos is usually celebrated on November 2.
2. Día de los muertos is Spanish for day of the dead.
3. The dead are honored on Día de los muertos.
4. Special candies and other treats are in the shape of skulls, skeletons, and other symbols of death.
5. The elaborate altar that many families prepare for the holiday is known as an *ofrenda*.
6. The altars are decorated with flowers, fruits, popular foods, sweets, and drinks.
7. The holiday reinforces the belief that death is part of life.
8. Families gather in churches, at cemeteries, and in homes to pray for and remember their deceased loved ones during this celebration.
9. The family in the photo is decorating the graves of deceased family members with flowers.
10. The capital and largest city of Mexico is Mexico City.
11. Mexico gained its independence from Spain in 1821.
12. a. Green: Hope
b. White: Unity
c. Red: The blood of Mexico's heroes

Crossword puzzle answers:

Across

3. Belize
4. Cuauhtémoc
8. Rio Grande
12. Pacific
13. Mestizos
14. Orizaba

Down

1. November
2. Mexican revolution
5. Day of the dead
6. Mexico
7. Aztec
9. Mexico City
10. Spain
11. Ofrenda