

Spanish Class Celebration of Día de los Muertos homework: OFRENDA

Nombre _____

We will celebrate Día de los Muertos, a Latino holiday that takes place on November 1st and 2nd. You will create an ofrenda to celebrate the history and traditions of Día de los Muertos.

What is an ofrenda?

An ofrenda is a place of remembrance for families to honor their deceased relatives or loved ones. Ofrendas can be found in many Latino homes year-round and are decorated in a very special way for Día de los Muertos.

- **WIND** is represented by a moving object—banderitas con papel picado. Use some string and brightly colored tissue paper. You can cut geometric shapes into the banderitas by folding the tissue paper and cutting on the folded edges.
- **EARTH** offers something from the harvest. Include something to eat in your ofrenda.
- **WATER** is for the soul to quench its thirst after the long journey to reach the altar. Use a cup, bowl or other container for water.
- **FIRE** is represented by a candle—one lit candle represents a soul. An extra candle is usually placed for a forgotten soul.
- **SALT** represents purity, use a cup, bowl or other container for salt.

Items typically found in an ofrenda:

A **photograph** of your loved one who has passed

Cempasúchil, the marigold flowers

Calaveras de Azúcar, the decorated sugar skulls

Ofrendas (offerings), small artifacts or mementos representing your loved one who has passed—these could be items like a book or a watch, something significant that will fit in your shoebox display

[Source](#)

There are many resources to see examples of ofrendas including [this website](#).

Directions for making an ofrenda for DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

Nombre _____

1. Think of a family member or loved pet who has died. Reflect upon the favorite things they like doing. (For example, did your grandpa like playing cards? Did your great uncle like dancing or playing the guitar? Did your dog like to do tricks for the family?)
2. Take a **shoebox** and create a **background scene** of where this loved one liked to spend time. (Was it at home? In the kitchen? In a garden? At the beach? At work?)
Cover or paint the shoebox to make it look nice and neat.
3. Include a **picture** of the deceased as they were when they were alive. These pictures can be photos or drawings.
4. Place **artifacts** on the ofrenda to assist spirits in finding the correct house and family to visit during Day of the Dead. These items might consist of personal mementos familiar to the deceased such as jewelry, hair pins, handkerchiefs, etc.
5. Add a few favorite **foods and drinks** that the deceased liked to eat/drink (or draw a picture of the foods and drinks).
6. Put **water and** (separately) **salt** on the ofrenda for purification of the visiting souls.
7. Include **candle(s)** in the ofrenda (you may choose to bring in battery-operated candles or draw candles on paper and glue them to the ofrenda. Regular candles can be used, but will not be lit.)
8. Decorate: You may put finishing touches on the ofrenda with **papel picado**, an art form in which colorful tissue paper is folded and cut into patterns. The **cempasuchil** flower (marigold), **Calaveras de azúcar**, and **Pan de muerto** are popular decorations that can be made, drawn, or bought. These decorations can be attached to the shoebox.
9. Clearly label your ofrenda with **your name and teacher's name**.

Required items needed to make the ofrenda:

1. Art supplies such as: paper / tissue paper / string / markers / pencil / glue / scissors
2. Shoebox
3. Picture of deceased (photo or drawing)
4. Artifacts for the altar (jewelry, hairpieces, handkerchiefs, etc.)
5. Foods and drinks (or drawings of food items)
6. Salt and water
7. Candle(s) (or drawings of candles)
8. Decorations such as: Papel picado, cempasuchil flower, Calaveras de azúcar, and Pan de muerto

Expectations:

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EXCELLENT:

- ☐ An **Excellent** ofrenda is NEAT. The shoebox is painted or covered to make it neat.
- ☐ It CLEARLY DEPICTS a life scene of the person/pet honored (the audience can tell what that person/pet loved doing).
- ☐ The ofrenda contains **4 OR MORE** COLORFUL ARTIFACTS AND FOODS/DRINKS that the loved one enjoyed as well as **LOTS** OF OTHER TYPICAL THINGS that are included in an ofrenda (such as salt, water, candles).
- ☐ The BACKGROUND setting is well thought out and sets the scene of the location clearly.
- ☐ Each step is completed ON TIME.
- ☐ Your name and teacher's name is clearly labeled on your shoebox.

GOOD:

- ☐ A **Good** ofrenda is SOMEWHAT NEAT. The shoebox is painted or covered.
- ☐ It DEPICTS a life scene of the person/pet honored (it is somewhat clear to the audience what that person/pet loved doing).
- ☐ The ofrenda contains ONLY 2-3 COLORFUL ARTIFACTS AND FOODS/DRINKS that the loved one enjoyed as well as SOME TYPICAL THINGS that are included in an ofrenda (such as salt, water, candles).
- ☐ The BACKGROUND setting somewhat sets the scene of the location.
- ☐ Each step is completed ON TIME.
- ☐ Your name and teacher's name is labeled on your shoebox.

NEEDS IMPROVEMENT:

- ☐ A **Needs Improvement** ofrenda is MESSY. The shoebox may not be painted or covered.
- ☐ It MAY OR MAY NOT DEPICT a life scene of the person/pet honored (it is not very clear to the audience what that person/pet loved doing).
- ☐ The ofrenda contains ONLY 0-2 ARTIFACTS AND FOODS/DRINKS that the loved one enjoyed and possibly TYPICAL THINGS that are included in an ofrenda (such as salt, water, candles).
- ☐ The BACKGROUND setting is missing.
- ☐ Steps on the timeline might be completed LATE.
- ☐ Your name and teacher's name is not labeled on your shoebox.

Timeline:

You will create this ofrenda at home.

Nombre _____

Items are due on YOUR CLASS DAY. (Circle or highlight YOUR due dates)

I will check in with you at each step to confirm that you are keeping up with the timeline.

October 5 (Sanchez, Bradshaw), 9 (McDonald, McKay), 10 (Rhodes)	1. Come up with your special person/pet who you will honor - you will be asked to write this down in class on this date (no changes) 2. Begin to gather your required items and supplies needed
October 12 (Sanchez, Bradshaw), 16 (McDonald, McKay) no school, 17 (Rhodes)	1. You must have your <u>shoebox</u> by today 2. The <u>picture</u> of your remembered person / pet is printed / drawn 3. The <u>background</u> is finished and attached in the shoebox.
October 19 (Sanchez, Bradshaw), 23 (McDonald, McKay), 24 (Rhodes)	1. Your shoebox should be <u>painted / covered</u> by today 2. <u>Artifacts</u> collected and assembled into ofrenda 3. <u>Decorations</u> finished
October 26 (Sanchez, Bradshaw), 30 (McDonald, McKay), 31 (Rhodes)	1. Bring in your <u>completed shoebox ofrenda</u> - your completed project is DUE at the beginning of your class 2. Assure that it is labeled with your name and your teacher's name