



Celebrations of Life and Death

Remind students that there are many different traditions surrounding life and death from all over the world. It is important to learn about other peoples' lives and cultures' and observing traditions surrounding death can tell us a lot about the lives of other people.

Instruct students to conduct further research on either the celebrations associated with Día de los Muertos or a death practice or tradition from a different culture. Then, have students share their traditions with each other to learn more about their peers' different death and celebration of life customs.

Ask students to draw a picture that relates to the tradition or practice they researched. If students chose to further their study of Día de los Muertos, have them consider creating an ofrenda for a loved one or for something they have lost that they want to remember. Ideas include pets, childhood toys, other items that hold sentimental value.

Have students share their art or projects with the class or small groups. Hold a class discussion.

- Ask: Does learning about different cultural celebrations of life and death impact your own beliefs, traditions, or thoughts about death? Why or why not? *Answers will vary.*

Alternative activity, have students choose a family member to interview about their family's customs regarding death and the celebration of life. Have them take notes or record the interview. Then, have students compare their interviews in pairs or small groups.

- Ask: How are your family's customs regarding death and the celebration of life similar to and different from the customs and traditions associated with Día de los Muertos? *Answers will vary.*



Success Criteria ✓

- Students will explore cultural beliefs and traditions about life and death.

Approx. Time ⌚

- 30 – 60 minutes

Materials ✍️

- Art supplies
- Internet access
- [The Death Issue, Volume 2.5](#), or
- [The Journal: Día de los Muertos](#)