



EDUCATION @ MESA ARTS CENTER




DAY OF THE DEAD VOCABULARY

Word	Definition	Picture
Ofrenda	(Spanish for offering) It is a collection of objects placed on a ritual altar during the annual and traditionally Mexican Dia de Muertos celebration.	
Pan de Muerto	(Spanish for bread of the dead) Also called pan de los Muertos or dead bread in the US, it is a type of sweet roll traditionally baked in Mexico during the weeks leading up to the Dia de Muertos which is celebrated on Nov. 1 and 2.	
Abuelita	This is the diminutive form of abuela, similar to what “granny” is to grandmother. You use the diminutive to add “affection” and “tenderness”. When you say abuelita you mean “dearest grandma” in a very personal way.	



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Calaca	A colloquial Mexican Spanish name for skeleton, this is a figure of a skull or skeleton (usually human) commonly used for decoration during the Mexican Day of the Dead festival although they are made all year round.	
La Muerte	This means death in Spanish. Oftentimes La Muerte is personified, and can be interpreted as either a man or a woman.	
Cempazuchitl	This is the <i>Nahuatl</i> word for the yellow marigold, the traditional flower for Day of the Dead. It is thought to attract spirits home.	
Nahuatl	This refers to the people and language indigenous to southern Mexico and Central America, including the Aztecs. Varieties of this language are still spoken today by an estimated 1.5 million Nahuatl peoples.	