

## GALE LESSON:

EXPLORE DAY OF THE DEAD WITH *GALE IN CONTEXT: MIDDLE SCHOOL* OR *GALE IN CONTEXT: HIGH SCHOOL*

---

**Goal:** Support learning about the history, traditions, and cultural significance surrounding Day of the Dead.

**Subject:** World History, Cultures

**Topic:** Day of the Dead

**Grade Levels:** Middle and High School

**Gale Resources:** *Gale In Context: Middle School*, *Gale In Context: High School*

**Activity Summary:** Students will utilize *Gale In Context: Middle School* or *Gale In Context: High School* to learn about Day of the Dead and answer questions. Students will then create an ofrenda (alter) based on their research and provided information.

**Outcomes:** Students will understand the background of Day of the Dead, and why it's important to those who celebrate it. Students will utilize their knowledge to create an ofrenda art piece that celebrates friends and family who have passed away.

### Materials:

- Computers with access to either *Gale In Context: Middle School* or *Gale In Context: High School*
- Crayons/Colored Pencils

### Procedure:

- Introduce *Gale In Context* to your learners. Ensure they know how to access through your library/classroom, and show them how to search and browse for information. (For tips on how to find Day of the Dead content, take a look at our tip sheet: <https://support.gale.com/doc/dayofthedead-ric-sric-tips>.)
- Distribute question and blank ofrenda worksheet.
- Prompt each student to present their ofrenda to the class and explain why they decorated it how they did.

# DAY OF THE DEAD AND OFRENDAS

Day of the Dead is a holiday celebrated in Mexico to honor loved ones who have passed away. This holiday is a happy one and people decorate and leave offerings for the dead.

Ofrendas (altars) are decorated to celebrate Day of the Dead, they honor those who've passed away and are an important tradition.

Answer the questions below either *Gale In Context: Middle School* or *Gale In Context: High School* to learn more about Day of the Dead and ofrendas, then create an ofrenda of your own!

---

1. Why do people celebrate Day of the Dead?
2. How is the ofrenda (alter) an important part of the celebration?
3. How do people decorate ofrendas? What makes them special for the dead?
4. What other traditions are a part of Day of the Dead?
5. Do you think it's important to remember and celebrate people who have passed away? Why or why not?

---

On the next page you will design your own ofrenda. It is important to know that different colors have different meanings during Day of the Dead. Use the information below to choose the best colors for your ofrenda.

Red: The color of blood, life, and family bonds

Orange: The color of the dead and of marigold flowers which symbolize death

Yellow: The color of the sun and unity, we are all the same under the sun!

Pink: The color of happiness

Purple: A color that shows grief, mourning and suffering

White: Represents hope and stands for purity

