Day of the Dead (Día de los Muertos)

Name: ..... **Date:** .....

Read the text. Look at the Spanish words in brown.



A day to remember

The Day of the Dead is on November 1 and 2. It is a big holiday in Mexico. Families remember the family members who died. They tell funny stories about them, and they laugh together.

el Día de los Muertos = the Day of the Dead · **la familia** = the family



Orange flowers

The flower of the Day of the Dead is the marigold. It is bright orange, and it has a strong smell. Its Spanish name is cempasúchil. The name comes from the Nahuatl language and means “twenty flowers”.

el cempasúchil = the marigold · **la flor** = the flower



Sugar skulls

Calaveras are skulls. For the holiday, people make small skulls from sugar in a mold. They decorate them with colored icing and shiny foil. Often, a name is on the forehead of the skull. Friends give the skulls as presents.

la calavera = the skull · **el azúcar** = the sugar



The island of Janitzio

Janitzio is a small island in a lake in Mexico. People go there by boat. On the night of November 1, families walk with candles. They stay near the graves of their family members all night. The island is full of light.

la isla = the island · **la vela** = the candle



The ofrenda

At home, the family makes an ofrenda. The word means “offering”. It is a table with photos of the family members who died. The family puts candles, flowers and the favorite food of each person on it. A glass of water is there too.

la ofrenda = the offering · **la foto** = the photo



Pan de muerto

Pan de muerto is a soft, sweet bread. Bakers make it in the weeks before the holiday. It is round, and it has pieces in the shape of bones on top. Families eat it together.

el pan = the bread · **dulce** = sweet



Papel picado

Papel picado is paper with pictures cut into it. Artists put 40 or 50 sheets of thin colored paper together and cut them with small chisels. People also fold the paper and cut it with small scissors. Birds, flowers and skeletons are common pictures.

el papel = the paper · **las tijeras** = the scissors



La Catrina

La Catrina is a famous skeleton lady with a big hat. The Mexican artist José Guadalupe Posada made the first picture of her more than 100 years ago. Today, many people dress like La Catrina for the holiday.

el esqueleto = the skeleton · **el sombrero** = the hat