



Día de los Muertos Day of the Dead



OFRENDA

Spanish word for offering. For Día de los Muertos, it is used to mean an altar holding ritual objects for the holiday.

RITUAL OBJECTS

Objects used on the ofrenda symbolize the essential life elements: water, wind, fire and earth.



Fotos/Photographs

Add pictures of family, friends, and even pets who have died and personal items that remind you of your loved ones.



Velas/Candles

Symbolizes the element of fire. The candle illuminates the path guiding souls to the altar.



Cempasúchil/Marigolds

The flower symbolizes the earth. The strong scent and bright color are believed to be an attraction to the spirits of the deceased.



Pan de Muertos/Bread of the dead

Symbolizes the element of earth. This is nourishment for the dead on their journey.



Papel Picado/Cut paper

Tissue paper cut-outs are a traditional decoration used throughout the year, but during Día de los Muertos, it represents the element of the wind and also signifies the fragility of life.



Agua/Water

The element of water is essential for our loved ones to quench their thirst after their journey or sometimes the deceased's favorite drink can be used.



Calaveras/Sugar Skulls

The skull is used not as a morbid symbol but rather as a whimsical reminder of the cycle of life, which is why they are brightly decorated.



Copal/Incense

Copal is a sacred incense used to represent the transformation from the physical to the supernatural.

An ofrenda is a beautiful expression of love to commemorate those who hold a special place in our hearts and it can be simple or elaborate. There is not one right way to make your ofrenda; these are items people commonly use, along with favorite foods and special items of people they are honoring.

