



October

Family History Ideas

DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

What is Día de los Muertos?

In English, it is called the Day of the Dead and is celebrated in Mexico and some parts of Central America. It is a celebration of the lives of those who have passed on and is held on November 1st and 2nd.

During the month of October, we are going to celebrate the lives of our ancestors! Start by doing a little research:

- Make a list of your closest relatives who have passed away
- Write down both their birth date and their death date
- Find your favorite picture of each of them

An “ofrenda” is traditionally used in Mexican culture to provide a welcome spot for the souls of the loved ones to visit. It is also a great way to show special respect and love to those ancestors who have passed on.

Take the information you’ve collected and print the pictures you found to make a small “ofrenda” for your ancestors on either a sheet of paper or poster board that you can bring to the Ward Activity on October 23rd!



Story Time!

If a life sketch has been written about your deceased ancestors, print it out and give it a read! If one hasn’t yet been written, let’s write one!

A life sketch is a document typically put together by a family member of the deceased person. Stories are collected and combined into one single document that contains all the highlights of a person’s life from birth to death.

Some examples would be:

- Where did they grow up?
- Are there any stories about their youth that are particularly interesting or funny?
- What did they do for schooling?
- How did they meet their spouse if they were married?
- What did they do for a career?
- Were there any special moments in their life that deserve to be remembered forever?

You can gather this information from aunts and uncles and brothers and sisters who may know the story. Combine those into a single document and upload it to the memories tab of your deceased relative on Family Search!



The Power of Flowers



In the Mexican tradition, marigolds carry a special power to attract the souls of loved ones who have passed on. If possible, gather a few marigolds and use them to decorate your home during the month of October.

If you live close to the cemetery where a loved one was laid to rest, maybe stop by and leave a marigold on their gravesite!

Request a Patriarchal Blessing

The church allows members to request the patriarchal blessings of a deceased direct-line family member. Go to the following site and fill out the information to request a copy of a close loved one’s blessing and learn more about the guide that was blessing their life!

<https://pb.churchofjesuschrist.org/pbrequest/home/family>