

BUILD AN OFRENDA ACTIVITY PACK

CUT • PLACE • BUILD • REMEMBER • REFLECT



LARGE PRINTABLE PHOTOS + STUDENT ALTAR BASE

Ancestor photos, candles, flowers, food and meaningful offerings

DayoftheDeadArt.com | Teacher Resources



How to Build Your Ofrenda

Student directions and respectful classroom use

WHAT IS AN OFRENDA?

An ofrenda is an altar of remembrance created for Día de los Muertos. Families may include photographs, candles, marigolds, favorite foods, water and personal objects to remember and honor people who have died. Ofrendas vary by family, place and tradition.

STUDENT ACTIVITY

- Choose the cutout images you want to include.
- Carefully cut around each photograph and offering.
- Place the large altar base on your desk or glue it to construction paper/poster board.
- Arrange photographs first, then add candles, flowers, food, water and other offerings.
- Move pieces until the altar feels balanced. Glue only when you are happy with the layout.
- Add one personal drawing or written memory if your teacher asks for it.

CLASSROOM RESPECT

- Students may use the fictional sample portraits or bring a family photo only if they choose.
- Never require a student to share private information about a death or loss.
- Treat religious and family traditions respectfully; there is no single required arrangement.

Large Blank Ofrenda Base

Cut out or use as your assembly background



PLACE PHOTOGRAPHS ON TOP • ADD OFFERINGS ACROSS THE LEVELS

Ancestor Photographs

Cut out the large framed fictional family photographs

CUT AROUND EACH OBJECT • LEAVE A SMALL WHITE BORDER



Candles + Marigolds

Cut out the light and flower offerings

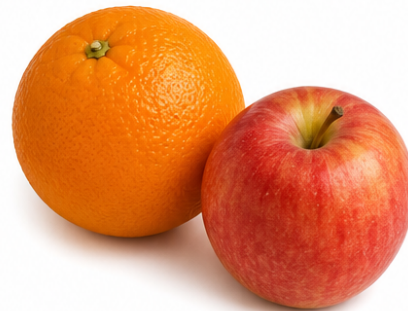
CUT AROUND EACH OBJECT • LEAVE A SMALL WHITE BORDER



Food + Favorite Treats

Choose foods that can represent care, memory and welcome

CUT AROUND EACH OBJECT • LEAVE A SMALL WHITE BORDER

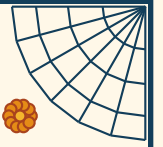
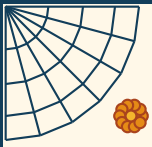


Water + Salt + Offerings

Add traditional and personal objects

CUT AROUND EACH OBJECT • LEAVE A SMALL WHITE BORDER





Add Your Own Photograph

Optional personal photo frames - draw or attach a copy

OPTIONAL: USE A PHOTOCOPY - DO NOT CUT AN ORIGINAL FAMILY PHOTO

PHOTO / DRAWING

Place a photocopy or draw a memory

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PHOTO / DRAWING

Place a photocopy or draw a memory



Create a Personal Offering

Draw, write or cut out something meaningful

These cards can represent a favorite object, activity, place, song, pet or memory.

FAVORITE OBJECT



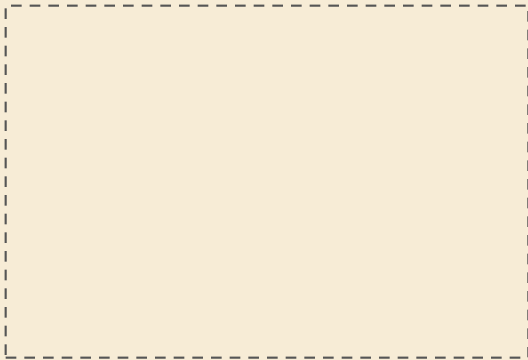
CUT AROUND THE OUTER BOX

FAVORITE ACTIVITY



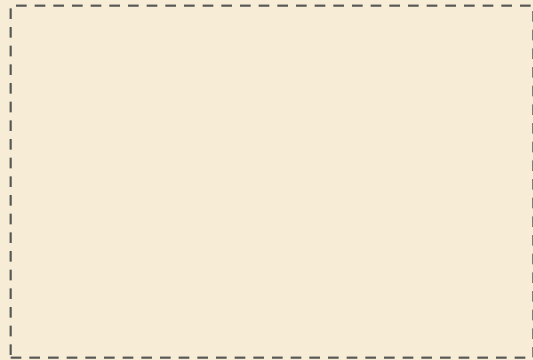
CUT AROUND THE OUTER BOX

SPECIAL PLACE



CUT AROUND THE OUTER BOX

MEMORY OR MESSAGE



CUT AROUND THE OUTER BOX

Plan Before You Glue

Use this page to test your arrangement

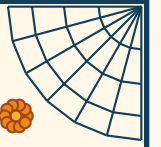
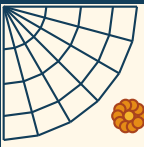
Sketch where you will place each kind of item on your ofrenda.

TOP: PHOTOGRAPH / MEMORY

MIDDLE: CANDLES / FLOWERS

LOWER: FOOD / WATER / OFFERINGS

Use pencil first. Your final arrangement can be different.



Ofrenda Reflection

Complete after assembling your altar

1. Which three items did you choose for your ofrenda, and why?

2. How do photographs help an ofrenda communicate remembrance?

3. What can marigolds, candles, food and water represent in the tradition?

4. What personal offering did you add or imagine?

5. What is one respectful fact you learned about Día de los Muertos?

