

THE DAY OF THE DEAD EL DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

GRADES
PRE–3

BOB BARNER
TRANSLATED INTO SPANISH BY
TERESA MLAWER

About the Book

Follow two youngsters in this bilingual picture book as they celebrate their ancestors on this vibrant holiday.

The children offer marigolds, sugar skulls, and special bread, and make delicious foods. By spreading marigold petals, they guide the dead home to join the festivities. Finally, after singing and dancing, it's time for bed. Bob Barner's collages incorporate the traditional symbols of Day of the Dead. His poetic text is in both English and Spanish. An author's note provides additional information on the holiday.

SUGGESTED CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Language Arts

Sharing Cultures—Students can describe traditions from their own families related to how they honor loved ones who have passed on. They may share these in small groups or with the whole class. This can also be used as a prompt for descriptive writing, and their essays/stories can be illustrated and combined into a class book.

Art

Classroom Altar—Students can bring photos, flowers, or other mementos or tokens that remind them of deceased loved ones and create a Día de los Muertos altar. This is a great activity to do prior to Halloween. They can invite other classes to view their altar. See Online Resources on reverse side for links to photos of altars.

Illustrations—The illustrations in the book were inspired by the popular Mexican artist José Guadalupe Posada. Students can do research on the life of this artist and draw or paint their own versions of his famous *La Catrina* painting for a classroom art exhibit.

Mathematics

Timelines—Students can create a classroom timeline showing the development of Halloween or Día de los Muertos celebrations in the United States. They can also create a timeline showing important events in the life of Mexican artist José Guadalupe Posada.

History

Research—Students can use encyclopedias, books from their school or public library, or online resources to find information on the history of the Day of the Dead and its connection to the celebration of Halloween.

**BILINGUAL—
ENGLISH AND SPANISH!**

Online Resources

www.history.com/topics/halloween

Presents videos and other information about Halloween and the Day of the Dead, including a section on "Halloween Around the World."

<http://gomexico.about.com/od/festivalsholidays/ig/Day-of-the-Dead/>

Presents a photo gallery showing the arts and artifacts that are used for Día de los Muertos celebrations in Mexico.

www.azcentral.com/ent/dead/articles/dead-education.html

Presents a wealth of information, photos, articles, and art project ideas that can be used to extend the information presented in the book.

<http://tinyurl.com/2f64w9x>

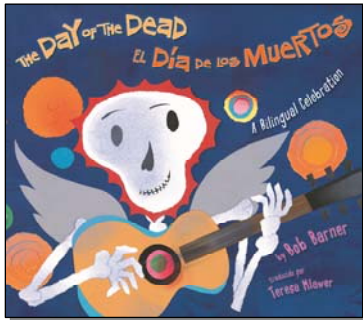
Presents an extensive array of *La Catrina* illustrations that can provide ideas for students' own work.

<http://mexicanfood.about.com/od/history/a/dayofthedeath.htm>

Presents information on Día de los Muertos celebrations and altars, and includes several recipes for special Day of the Dead foods.

About the Author/Illustrator

Bob Barner has written and illustrated more than twenty-five books, and his books have won various awards and honors, including the Parents' Choice Award and IRA Teachers' Choices. His books for Holiday House include *Big Is Big (and little, little)* and *Bug Safari*. He lives with his wife, Cathie, in San Francisco, California. For more about Bob Barner, visit his website at www.bobbarner.com.



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