



Culture Lesson- Día de Los Muertos, Level V

Please be extremely sensitive when teaching this topic. Make sure to keep it light, fun, and colorful. We want to relay a very important holiday in Mexico, but we don't want to upset children or parents. For those reasons, this topic needs to be handled very delicately.

Here are some pointers:

1. Make sure that the children know this is **PRETEND**
2. Point out the similarities to our own Halloween - costumes, candy...
3. **Do not** burn incense
4. **Do not** have them build altars for their own dead relatives
5. Send a copy of the story home with the families, so that they understand the holiday.

Lesson Plan

Before ever starting your class -

1. Familiarize yourself with the holiday.
2. If you can, watch "Scooby Doo and the Monster of Mexico", which you can rent from the video store. If you have time, it makes a great addition to your class!
3. Read and go over our little story.
4. Make the Día de los Muertos flores. (Some other ideas: candy skulls or ghost balloons.)
5. Visit <http://www.azcentral.com/ent/dead/teachers/> It is a great website and they actually have a "teacher's packet", which you can download.

Talk about the fact that we write stories about pretend things like dragons, the Loch Ness monster, and Bigfoot. The movie is about Scooby and the gang unraveling the mystery of the "Chupacabra."

Some ideas to point out in the video if you are lucky enough to have A.V. equipment: Review the idea of a plaza, mariachis, sombreros, similarities between Halloween and Día de los Muertos. Point out the bullfighting, the food, piñatas, Mexico City, and familiar Spanish vocabulary.

Bring in fun mariachi music and enjoy this topic!