

Name _____

Origins Uncovered

Directions: Read the passage below about the beginnings of Día de los Muertos. Highlight **five true facts** about where the holiday came from and how it began.



"The Roots of Day of the Dead"

The Day of the Dead, or *Día de los Muertos*, is a Mexican holiday that began long before Spanish explorers arrived. It traces back to the Aztec civilization, which honored the goddess Mictecacihuatl, known as the "Lady of the Dead." The Aztecs believed death was not an end but a new stage in life's great circle. When Spanish settlers arrived in the 1500s, they brought Catholic traditions like All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day. Over time, these two belief systems blended into the modern holiday we celebrate today.

Now, Día de los Muertos combines Indigenous and Catholic traditions, creating a festival filled with color, music, and memory. Families honor their ancestors with altars, candles, food, and flowers, continuing a centuries-old tradition that celebrates both life and death.