

Spirits, Not Scares Answer Key

Sample Response

Día de los Muertos is very different from Halloween because its purpose is to celebrate life, not fear death. While Halloween focuses on scaring people for fun, the Day of the Dead honors ancestors with joy and remembrance. The passage explains that families build altars and decorate graves to welcome spirits, showing love rather than fear. It also notes that Halloween is about spooky fun, while Día de los Muertos connects families across generations.

Teacher's Guide

- **Skill Focus:** Compare and contrast, evidence-based writing, cultural understanding.
- **Differentiation Tips:**
 - Provide sentence frames such as "Both holidays include ____, but only Día de los Muertos ____."
 - Allow struggling writers to list their evidence before forming sentences.
 - Encourage advanced students to add a third comparison category (e.g., "Origins" or "Attitude toward Death").
- **Engagement Ideas:**
 - Display photos (without gore) showing both celebrations and let students identify visible differences in tone or color.
 - Use sticky notes for a class "Venn Wall" where students post facts under "Same" or "Different."
- **Extension Activities:**
 - Have students write a mini opinion piece on why people sometimes confuse the two holidays.
 - Connect the activity to a discussion on how cultures express respect for the dead differently around the world.