

Name _____

Origins Uncovered Answer Key

Five Key Facts

1. The holiday began long before Spanish explorers arrived.
2. It traces back to the Aztec civilization.
3. The Aztecs honored the goddess Mictecacihuatl, the "Lady of the Dead."
4. Spanish settlers influenced the holiday with All Saints' and All Souls' Day.
5. Día de los Muertos combines Indigenous and Catholic traditions.

Teacher's Guide

- **Skill Focus:** Fact identification, reading comprehension, and cultural history awareness.
- **Differentiation Tips:**
 - For younger learners, provide a list of sentences for them to mark as "Fact" or "Not a Fact."
 - For higher grades, ask students to cite where they found each fact in the passage.
- **Engagement Ideas:**
 - Create a classroom "Fact Wall" where students post interesting details about different world festivals.
 - Encourage students to use highlighters or sticky notes to track new information learned about cultural blending.
- **Extension Activities:**
 - Have students write a paragraph comparing Día de los Muertos to another remembrance tradition (like Japan's Obon or Memorial Day in the U.S.).
 - Challenge students to research one additional Aztec or Indigenous influence on modern celebrations.