

Name _____

Spirits, Not Scares

Directions: Read the short text below comparing **Día de los Muertos** and **Halloween**. Take brief notes comparing their **purpose**, **symbols**, and **tone** in two simple lists. Then, write one paragraph explaining how **Día de los Muertos** is different from **Halloween**, using **two pieces of evidence** from the reading.



"Two Holidays, Two Meanings"

At first glance, **Day of the Dead** and **Halloween** both include skeletons, costumes, and candles-but they come from very different traditions. Halloween began as an ancient Celtic festival called **Samhain**, marking the end of the harvest and the start of winter. It's now celebrated with spooky fun, costumes, and candy. The goal is often to **scare or entertain**.

Día de los Muertos, on the other hand, began in **Indigenous Mexico** as a way to honor loved ones who have passed away. Families create **altars**, decorate graves, and share stories and favorite foods to **welcome spirits home with joy**. While Halloween focuses on fright and mystery, the Day of the Dead celebrates **love, remembrance, and connection**.

Explain how Day of the Dead differs from Halloween. Include two examples from the passage to support your claim.
