

Beyond the Day of the Dead



Objective:

It will be known and analyzed if the tradition of the Day of the Dead has undergone changes taking into account that it is transmitted from generation to generation.

This tradition is known worldwide and it is the most celebrated by Mexicans, therefore it was decided to get to know how it is celebrated through the realization of a survey, and it was applied to 1000 people in different counties of Mexico, of which only 16% of them do not celebrate on these days in any way.

Hypothesis:

If Mexico has changed throughout time, as people's thinking; then, does one of the traditions with most history, such as the Day of the Dead, change as well?

Introduction:

The Day of the Dead is a Mexican tradition celebrated on the 1st and 2nd of November when the deceased are commemorated. The beginnings of this tradition go back to the prehispanic communities that lived in Mexico. It was believed, dying was the beginning of a journey towards the underworld, known as the Mictlán. This kingdom was separated by different levels that each traveler, depending on the life that he had led, should head to one of such levels.

The first big change on the tradition happened after the arrival of the Spanish; since the expansion of Christianity, and whit it, the breaking of culture and traditions begins. The evangelization also found a big resistance from the indigenous people, and as a result, a combination of different cultures and beliefs.

Images of the graph "People that celebrate Day of the Dead" obtained from:
 1. <https://goo.gl/0XN7ae> 2. <https://goo.gl/zAXTWp> 3. <https://goo.gl/ogfEKT>
 Images of the graph "What is placed in an offering?" obtained from:
 1. <https://goo.gl/39g6T3> 2. <https://goo.gl/H1LxQc> 3. <https://goo.gl/7rahYd>
 4. <https://goo.gl/ZzvzL1> 5. <https://goo.gl/Tza2Nf> 6. <https://goo.gl/GbJLJA>
 7. <https://goo.gl/u8B7Gi> 8. <https://goo.gl/SuWkG4> 9. <https://goo.gl/xrmbF8>
 10. <https://goo.gl/ZBBXFq>
 Images of the graph "How do people celebrate Day of the Dead?" obtained from:
 1. <https://goo.gl/6Ye7AU> 2. <https://goo.gl/nL8EHa> 3. <https://goo.gl/esxabn>
 4. <https://goo.gl/RPE5Ca>



People keep their traditions placing what their beloved deceased enjoyed the most on altars, such as food and beverages accompanied with decorations as candles, flowers, candies, among other things.



According to the survey, people from Mexico City commemorate Day of the Dead in many ways: setting altars, visiting the cemetery, and even visiting towns by new generations of youngsters where a particular festivity is celebrated.

The Day of the Dead has many characterized symbolic elements, the most popular is the "Pan de Muerto", which consists of a sweet or salty bread with dough strips on top that represent the "bones". This peculiar bread is displayed on the offerings.

An offering is a fundamental element in the set of the Mexican traditions for the Day of the Dead, which consists of installing altars at home, in honor of the deceased of the family.

Each one of these altars varies depending on the quantity of objects or on the complexity of its design, but all of them have the same purpose.

On the offering, a path of marigold flowers is done, and it is considered to guide the soul so it may arrive with their relatives. Many of the things that are set on the offering have a meaning.

The light of the candles means faith, their flame is the guide for the visiting soul to find its way.

The sugar skulls represent the presence of death.

The photographs symbolize the memory of the deceased to whom the offering is dedicated.

The bread inside the altar is a fraternal offering.

The water pretends to relief the tiredness and thirst of the deceased.

The salt symbolizes a purifying element. Besides, it helps the soul to not to get corrupted in any of its trips.

Food is the representation of that, the deceased enjoyed the most, and the alcoholic drinks are placed with the purpose that the visitor remembers some happy moments during his lifetime.

Nowdays mega offerings are dedicated to a main theme. There are usually arranged in crowded places by people. The purpose is to commemorate and increase the interest of new generations for the tradition. Also, traditional legends are read, such as the one of La Llorona.



Conclusion:

Despite changes in modern time, the Day of the Dead and its tradition continue; they are still relevant in the life of the Mexican population. Although the celebrations have changed, they remain regardless the passing by of the years.

When these dates come, it is painful to remember our loved ones who are no longer with us, and moreover, if the person has just passed away.

Looking at a picture of our ancestors can recall the traditions that persist in our hearts, so we believe that we are responsible for teaching our future kids how to preserve them.

Images used obtained from:
 1. <https://goo.gl/tu1Qq6> 2. <https://goo.gl/Vqnc1a> 3. <https://goo.gl/goq8GL>
 4. <https://goo.gl/vTYXCG> 5. <https://goo.gl/wj5oKX> 6. <https://goo.gl/ug2SsH>
 7. <https://goo.gl/JqCQsd> 8. <https://goo.gl/dcTxUt> 9. <https://goo.gl/vR7ixP>
 Background of the poster obtained in: <https://goo.gl/gLGDlr>

Sources consulted:
 1. Jiménez, J. (2017). Importancia del Día de Muertos. Recovered in November 21, 2018, from Tlanestli Website: <http://tlanestli.blogspot.com>
 2. Origoni, Y. (2015). Día de los muertos: su historia y simbolismo. Recovered in November 21, 2018, from Universia Website: <https://goo.gl/ZnQh53>
 3. Ortiz, M. (2018). El Día de Muertos en México es mucho más de lo que la gente cree. Recovered in November 21, 2018, from Xataka México Website: <https://www.xataka.com.mx>