



Close Reading: Identifying the Main Idea

DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS



Directions: Complete each of the following steps. Then, fill out the Main Idea chart on the next page.

- Underline the main idea in red.
- Underline supporting details in blue.
- Underline an interesting piece of information in purple.

Día de los Muertos

The Day of the Dead, or Día de los Muertos, is a festive holiday in honor of loved ones who have passed away.

Although celebrated throughout Latin America, Día de los Muertos is most strongly associated with Mexico, where the tradition originated. The first day of this celebration is called All Saints' Day, while the second day is referred to as All Souls' Day. This two-day holiday takes place from November 1st through November 2nd.

During this celebration, people decorate their homes by creating altars to represent the souls of relatives who have passed on. Ofrendas are used to adorn these altars. These offerings often include flowers, pictures, candles, incense, deceased relatives' favorite foods, toys, and pan de muerto. Many people decorate the graves of their relatives with marigold flowers. Families visit the cemetery on the evening of the 1st or 2nd of November to play music and be merry as they remember their loved ones.

The joyful and unique parts of Día de los Muertos make this a fun and jovial time of the year, as families remember and celebrate the lives of their departed loved ones.

Spanish/English Translation

día...day
muerto...dead
ofrenda...offering
pan...bread



Example of an ofrenda.

Name _____ Date _____

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Directions: Write the main idea of this passage in a complete sentence.
Then, record three supporting details

Main Idea



Supporting Detail #1

Supporting Detail #2

Supporting Detail #3
