NAME: ___________________________ DATE: __________________

READING: Mexico’s Day of the Dead

Vocabulary Preview

• Match the words on the left with the meanings on the right.

1. pumpkin  E.  a large, round orange fruit
   __________    
2. costume  B.  to ask for candy during Halloween
   __________    
3. trick-or-treat (v.)  C.  a place where dead people are buried
   __________    
4. celebrate (v.)  D.  being done in the same way for a long time
   __________    
5. traditional  E.  a large, round orange fruit
   __________    
6. skull  F.  the soul or ghost of a dead person
   __________    
7. cemetery  G.  a set of clothes (especially worn at Halloween)
   __________    
8. spirit  H.  to remember a special day with other people
   __________    

• Use the above words to complete the sentences. Use plural forms and past tense if necessary.

1. My grandfather prefers to do things in __________ ways.
2. Last week, I __________ my son’s birthday. He is three years old.
3. Steven wore a very scary __________ to the Halloween party.
4. Your __________ protects your brain.
5. Most kids love to __________ at Halloween and get lots of candy.
6. Many people like to cut scary faces in Halloween __________
7. Do you believe that we can talk to the __________ of dead people?
8. Many __________ are located in or near churchyards.

• Choose any two of the above words and write your own sentences.

1. __________________________________________________________________________
2. __________________________________________________________________________
Mexico’s Day of the Dead

Halloween comes every year on October 31, and with it comes candy, pumpkins, costumes, and trick-or-treating. Many people in central and southern Mexico, however, celebrate another traditional, special day just a few days later on November 1 and November 2. It’s called, the “Day of the Dead.” Children make candy skulls and eat them, and women bake ‘Day of the Dead’ bread. People light candles, prepare flowers, and people visit cemeteries at night, to be close to the spirits of friends and family members who have died. Mexicans bring gifts such as food and drinks for the souls of the dead, and even toys for dead children. Church bells ring all night, and most people don’t leave until the morning. For people who live in other countries, all of this may sound a little scary. However, the ‘Day of the Dead’ is a time for Mexicans to remember their loved ones by telling stories about them to each other and to their children. For many people in Mexico, the ‘Day of the Dead’ is a way to celebrate life.
Halloween (1)____ every year on October 31, and with it comes candy, pumpkins, costumes, and trick-or-treating. Many people (2)____ central and southern Mexico, however, celebrate another traditional, special day just a few days later (3)____ November 1 and November 2. It’s called, the “Day of the Dead.” Children make candy skulls and (4)____ them, and women bake ‘Day of the Dead’ bread. People light candles, prepare flowers, and people (5)____ cemeteries (6)____ night, to be close to the spirits of friends and family members who have (7)____. Mexicans bring gifts such as food and drinks (8)____ the souls of the dead, and even toys for dead children. Church bells ring all night, and most people (9)____ leave until the morning. For people who live in other countries, all of this may sound a little (10)____. However, the ‘Day of the Dead’ is a time for Mexicans to remember (11)____ loved ones by telling stories about (12)____ to each other and to their children. For many people in Mexico, the ‘Day of the Dead’ is a way to celebrate life.

1. (A) coming  (B) came  (C) comes
2. (A) in  (B) at  (C) on
3. (A) at  (B) on  (C) in
4. (A) ate  (B) eating  (C) eat
5. (A) visits  (B) visit  (C) visiting
6. (A) in  (B) at  (C) on
7. (A) dead  (B) dies  (C) died
8. (A) with  (B) by  (C) for
9. (A) don’t  (B) aren’t  (C) weren’t
10. (A) scares  (B) scary  (C) scare
11. (A) they’re  (B) their  (C) there
12. (A) them  (B) they  (C) their
READING: Mexico’s Day of the Dead

How Much Do You Understand?

- **According to the article, write ‘T’ (True) or ‘F’ (False) next to each statement.**
  1. _____ The article is about Halloween in Mexico.
  2. _____ Everyone in Mexico celebrates the Day of the Dead.
  3. _____ Food is an important part of the celebration.
  4. _____ Most people leave the cemeteries in the morning.
  5. _____ The Day of the Dead is a very scary time for most Mexicans.
  6. _____ Kids listen to stories about people who have died.

Discuss

- **Discuss the following questions with your classmates.**
  1. How are Halloween and the Day of the Dead similar / different?
  2. Does Mexico’s Day of the Dead sound scary to you? Why? / Why not?
  3. Do you think it’s a good idea to remember people who have died?
     Why? / Why not?

Write

- **Choose one of the above discussion questions. Write a short paragraph to answer it.**

_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________

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Lesson “Mexico’s Day of the Dead”

Grammar Focus Mixed (includes Present Perfect)

Vocabulary 179 words
A1 words-71% / A2 words-17% / B1 words-4% / B2 words-1%

AWL Words in this text: traditional
Vocabulary Analysis by: vocabkitchen.com

Level Elementary to Pre-Intermediate (CEFR A2)

ANSWER KEY Page 1

• Vocabulary Preview

1. E 1. traditional
2. G 2. celebrated
3. B 3. costume
4. H 4. skull
5. D 5. trick-or-treat
6. A 6. pumpkins
7. C 7. spirits
8. F 8. cemeteries

My Notes

ANSWER KEY Page 3

• Grammar (Article)

1. C 7. C
2. A 8. C
3. B 9. A
5. A 11. B
6. B 12. A

ANSWER KEY Page 4

• How Much Do You Understand?

1. F (It is about Mexico’s Day of the Dead.)
2. F (Many people in central and southern Mexico, not everyone.)
3. T
4. T
5. F (People in other countries may think it’s scary.)
6. T

Article Sources

• https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Day_of_the_Dead#Europe
• http://www.huffingtonpost.com/donna-henes/day-of-the-dead_b_8441198.html
• https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bY9CdisU67Q (Day of the Dead Traditions in Mexico)