

# Sugar Skulls

Dia de los Muertos (DEE-ah deh los moo-AIR-tohs) or "Day of the Dead" is a celebration of life and spirit shared each autumn in Mexico. This festival celebrates life by honoring ancestors and friends who are no longer physically on this planet, yet are still very much alive in our hearts. The festival is celebrated November 1-2: the first, All Saints Day, is devoted to children, and the second, All Souls Day, is devoted to adults.



Families clean and decorate the graves of their loved ones. Marigolds and candles are placed around the grave to guide the spirits back to their resting-places.

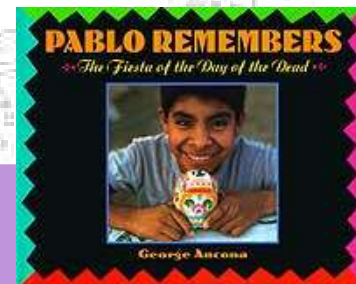
Funny skeletons known as "calacas" are everywhere. Decorated sugar skulls are exchanged as gifts, symbolizing life, and are personalized with a person's name.



**José Guadalupe Posada** was born in the state of Aguascalientes, Mexico. In his early life he worked as a teacher of lithography and in 1887, he moved to Mexico City where he became a newspaper illustrator. He was known as the artist for the people.

His graphic work is well recognized and he often dealt with political, social and moral themes. Posada's "calaveras" (skeletons) represented here are images

often associated with the the Day of the Dead, but their original intent was more satirical. "La Catrina or the Female Dandy was originally intended to poke fun at the upper class rich people, during the autocratic rule of Porfirio Diaz, when many were people were poor.



Learn more about the Day of the Dead:

Pablo is honoring his grandmother who died recently. The book shows all the traditional food, the celebration and the meaning behind it all. The book has many pictures and is an accurate description of Day of the Dead in Mexico, by George Ancona