# Image result for pixar coco

**Hector**

**Dante**

**Miguel**

The new Pixar-Disney movie “Coco” tells the story of a boy, Miguel, who on the Mexican holiday called Día de los muertos (Day of the dead) crosses over from the land of the living into the spirit world. The movie centers on and highlights Mexican traditions of Día de los muertos and culture.

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| **What is Dia de los Muertos?**  Dia de los Muertos—the Day of the Dead—is a holiday celebrated on November 1st and November 2 nd . Although marked throughout Latin America, Dia de los Muertos is most strongly associated with Mexico, where the tradition originated.  Dia de los Muertos honors the dead with festivals and lively celebrations, a typically Latin American custom that combines indigenous Aztec ritual with Catholicism, brought to the region by Spanish conquistadores. (Dia de los Muertos is celebrated on All Saints Day and All Souls Day, minor holidays in the Catholic calendar.)  Assured that the dead would be insulted by mourning or sadness, Dia de los Muertos celebrates the lives of the deceased with food, drink, parties, and activities the dead enjoyed in life. Dia de los Muertos recognizes death as a natural part of the human experience, a continuum with birth, childhood, and growing up to become a contributing member of the community. On Dia de los Muertos, the dead are also a part of the community, awakened from their eternal sleep to share celebrations with their loved ones.  The most familiar symbol of Dia de los Muertos may be the calacas and calaveras (skeletons and skulls), which appear everywhere during the holiday: in candied sweets, as parade masks, as dolls. Calacas and calaveras are almost always portrayed as enjoying life, often in fancy clothes and entertaining situations.   * Family members often clean and decorate the graves of loved ones on Dia de los Muertos. * In addition to celebrations, the dead are honored on Dia de los Muertos with ofrendas—small, personal altars honoring one person. Ofrendas often have flowers, candles, food, drinks, photos, and personal mementos of the person being remembered. * Dia de los Muertos is actually Dias (plural) de los Muertos—the holiday is spread over two days. November 1 is Dia de los Inocentes, honoring children who have died. Graves are decorated with white orchids and baby's breath. November 2 is Dia de los Muertos, honoring adults, whose graves are decorated with bright orange marigolds. |

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| **Term/Part of Speech/ Definition Encyclopedic Entry**   * **Aztec** (Noun): people and culture native to Mexico and Central America. * **Catholicism** (Noun): type of Christian religion loyal to the Roman Catholic Church and the leader of that church, the Pope. * **Conquistador** (Noun): Spanish explorer or conqueror of Latin America in the 16th century. * **Dia de los Muertos** (Noun): (Day of the Dead) holiday honoring deceased family and friends, celebrated on November 1 and November 2 in Mexico and throughout Latin America. * **Holiday** (Noun): period of celebration or honor. * **Indigenous** (Adjective): characteristic to or of a specific place. * **Latin America** (Noun): South America, Central America, the Caribbean, and Mexico. * **Originate** (Verb): to begin or start. * **Ritual** (Noun): Series of customs or procedures for a ceremony, often religious. |

# Day of the Dead - Comprehension questions:

# What are Calacas and Calaveras?

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# What two days is Día de los muertos celebrated and why are there two days?

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1. What is the purpose of Día de los muertos?

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# What do people believe happens to the souls of deceased family members during Día de los muertos?

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# What do people do to celebrate Día de los muertos?

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# During the Film

***Directions:*** *While watching Coco list and explain the different Products, Practices, and Perspectives you see in the film.*

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| **Products**  What cultural items are used in a celebration? These can be tangible or intangible such as clothing, food, music, dances, poems, etc,. |  |
| **Practices**  What is the ritual or pattern of behavior? What are the people DOING? When are they doing it? |  |
| **Perspectives**  The reason WHY they are doing it. What is the history behind this event? What is the purpose of this tradition/event? |  |

# After Watching the Film

How did the film make you feel? What does it make you think about?

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How would different people view this film differently (dependent on gender, age, ethnic background, worldview, etc)?

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What comments are the directors trying to make about the culture of the characters in this story?

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Which character did you [admire, hate, love, pity] the most? Why?

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What part of the story told by the movie was the most powerful? Why?

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If you were writing the screenplay for this movie, would you have changed the ending?

Explain your answer.

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# Enrichment

Think about a story that you have heard that is specific to your culture (i.e. The Legend of Maui for Polynesians, the Loch Ness Monster for Scottish, or the New Jersey Devil for residents of New Jersey), write a brief summary (6-8 sentences minimum) telling the story. Be sure to include cultural specifics (i.e. religion, language, etc.)

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| **“Where You Are”**  **Lyrics** | **“We Know the Way”**  **Lyrics** |
| Moana, make way, make way! Moana, it's time you knew The village of Motunui is All you need  The dancers are practicing They dance to an ancient song (Who needs a new song? This old one's all we need)  This tradition is our mission And Moana, there's so much to do (make way!) Don't trip on the taro root That's all you need  We share everything we make (we make) We joke and we weave our baskets (aha!) The fishermen come back from the sea  I wanna see  Don't walk away Moana, stay on the ground now Our people will need a chief And there you are  There comes a day When you're gonna look around And realize happiness is Where you are  Consider the coconut (the what?) Consider its tree We use each part of the coconut That's all we need  We make… | Aue, aue We set a course to find A brand new island everywhere we roam Aue, aue We keep our island in our mind And when it's time to find home We know the way  Aue, aue We are explorers reading every sign We tell the stories of our elders in a never-ending chain  Aue, aue Te fenua, te malie Na heko hakilia We know the way  Image result for moana we know the way |