Día de muertos



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What is *Día de Muertos*?

Día de Muertos is a Mexican tradition that honors and remembers loved ones who have died.



It is a time to remember and celebrate their lives!

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Where did *Día de Muertos* come from?

Some of its traditions have roots in ancient cultures in Mexico.



Many indigenous cultures honored and remembered the dead long before the Spaniards arrived.

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Ancient Traditions

- The **Teotihuacans** were people who lived about 2,000 years ago, before the Aztecs
- They lived in central Mexico
- They honored their dead and buried them with objects for their journey after death



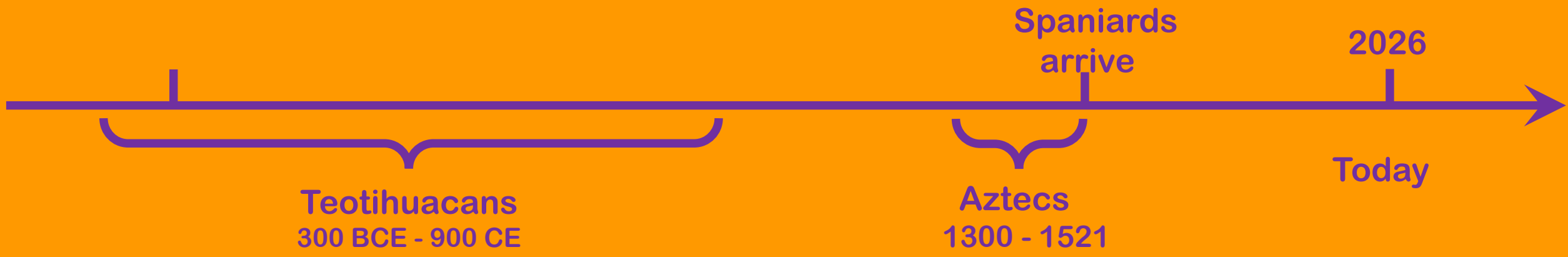


Teotihuacán



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From the Teotihuacans to the Aztecs



- The Aztecs flourished centuries after Teotihuacans and lived in the same region
- Like earlier cultures, they also honored the dead

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What did the Aztecs believe about death?

Have you heard where people go after they die?

For the Aztecs, where people went after death did not depend on whether they had been “good” or “bad.” It depended mainly on how they died:



Tlalocan



Tonatiuhichan



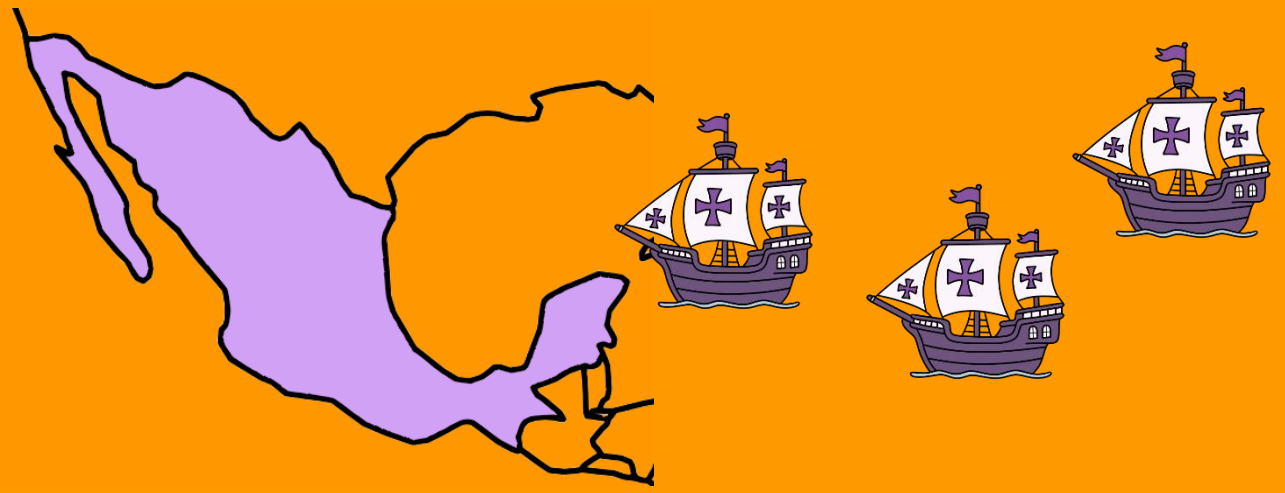
Chichihualcuauhco



Mictlán

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1521: The Spaniards Arrive



The Spaniards brought new traditions and new beliefs about death.

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Catholic Traditions



- The Spaniards were Catholic
- They brought their religious traditions to Mexico.
- One of these traditions was:

  All Souls' Day on November 2:
  A day to remember and pray for people who have died.

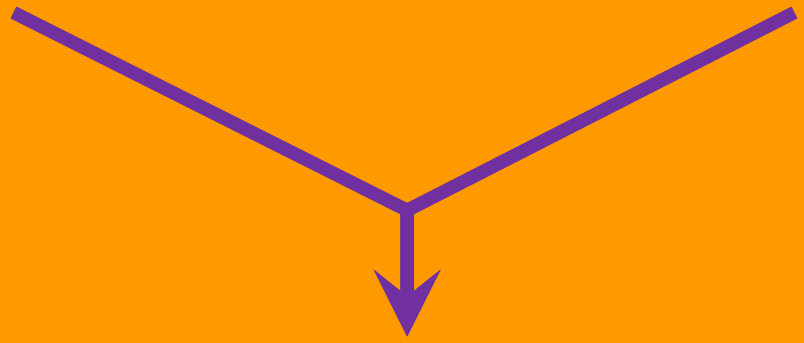
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The Two Cultures Meet

New traditions developed over time

Indigenous celebration

Catholic traditions



Día de Muertos

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Día de Muertos Today in Mexico

Families remember and honor loved ones in different ways:



At church



At the cemetery



At home

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At Church

Some families attend Mass, a Catholic religious service.

Here they remember and pray for loved ones who have died.



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At the Cemetery



Some families visit the cemetery and clean and decorate the tomb with flowers.

They may gather there to remember and celebrate the life of their loved one. Some families even bring music.

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At Home: El Altar de Muertos



Families create an Altar de Muertos to welcome loved ones who have died.

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Who is Coming?



Photographs

show the person we are remembering

Personal objects

remind us of the person and their life

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Finding the Way Home



Path of flowers

to guide the souls home

Candles

to light the way

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Welcoming Them Home



Food and water

to help the souls rest,
feel loved, and refresh
themselves after their journey.



Copal

to purify the space

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What Else Is on the Altar de Muertos?



Papel picado,
colorful cut-paper decorations

Calaveras,
decorated skulls



Cross,
a Catholic symbol

Pan de Muerto,
traditional bread

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Halloween and Día de Muertos





Halloween

Día de muertos

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