

Global View - All Saints Day (C0158)

C: The Day of the Dead has arrived All Soul's Day and All Saint's Day!

A: Your neighbor is crazy. Why is he screaming that?

B: Because today is the first of November the Day of the Dead

A: Oh, that's right.

B: This is a very special day among many cultures around the world especially in Latin America

A: Seriously? I thought it was just like any other day, except for the fact that people visit the cemetery and remember their loved ones.

B: Well, that's just part of it. People across the world celebrate in different ways. In Mexico, for example, it's common to see people building private altars honoring the deceased using sugar skulls, preparing the favorite foods and beverages of the departed and visiting graves with these as gifts. In the Philippines, the tombs are cleaned or repainted, candles are lit and flowers are offered. Entire families camp out in cemeteries and sometimes spend a night or two near their relatives' tombs!

A: Whoa! That's scary! I don't know if I could do that!

B: Why? We should fear the living, not the dead.

Key Vocabulary

All Soul's
Day

November 2 observed
in some Christian
churches as the day of
the dead

among

Preposition

among

honor

*principle verb,
present progres-
sive*

confer honor on

the de-
parted

the people who have
passed away

Supplementary Vocabulary

pass
away

phrase

to die, to perish

burial

*common noun,
singular*

the act of burying, esp
the interment of a dead
body

wake

*common noun,
singular*

A watch over the body
of a deceased person be-
fore burial, sometimes
accompanied by festivi-
ty. Also called region-
ally viewing.

funeral
proces-
sion

*common noun,
singular*

A group of persons,
vehicles, or objects
moving along a casket
through the streets

cremate

verb

to burn up (something,
esp a corpse) and re-
duce to ash