THE TRADITION OF MAKING ALTARS FOR Día de los Muertos

Día de los Muertos is a very old Mexican tradition when people take the time to remember family members and friends who have died. Today, it is traditionally celebrated on November 1st and 2nd. Because it is colorful and joyful, it is now celebrated by more and more people around the world.
It is believed that on Nov 1st & 2nd, the souls of family and friends that have passed away, come to visit us. To help guide their spirits, the tradition is to place trails of marigolds, or cempasúchil flowers (which have a very strong smell) to help guide them to our homes or to cemeteries.

In the days leading up to the holiday, a beautiful ALTAR, also referred to as an OFRENDA (offering), is created in people's homes. The altars are multi-leveled units that are carefully decorated and covered in gifts. It is lovingly decorated by all family members with pictures of the loved ones that are being remembered.

Gifts of water, flowers, candles, and much more may be placed on the altar. Each item has symbolic value like some of the deceased's favorite foods and other items to honor their memory or recall their habits.

El Teatro Campesino wants to encourages you and your families to join us in making an altar honoring a loved one at home. Follow our SHOEBOX OFRENDA PROJECT videos for a fun and creative way to celebrate Dia de los Muertos and continue learning about the tradition. Materials used will all be things found at home. Engage with us by posting photos on social media by using #ETCaltar2020 for a chance to win raffle prizes!

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Information adapted from MOMMY MAESTRA