Art and Culture

80 ?

70 ÷ x = 10

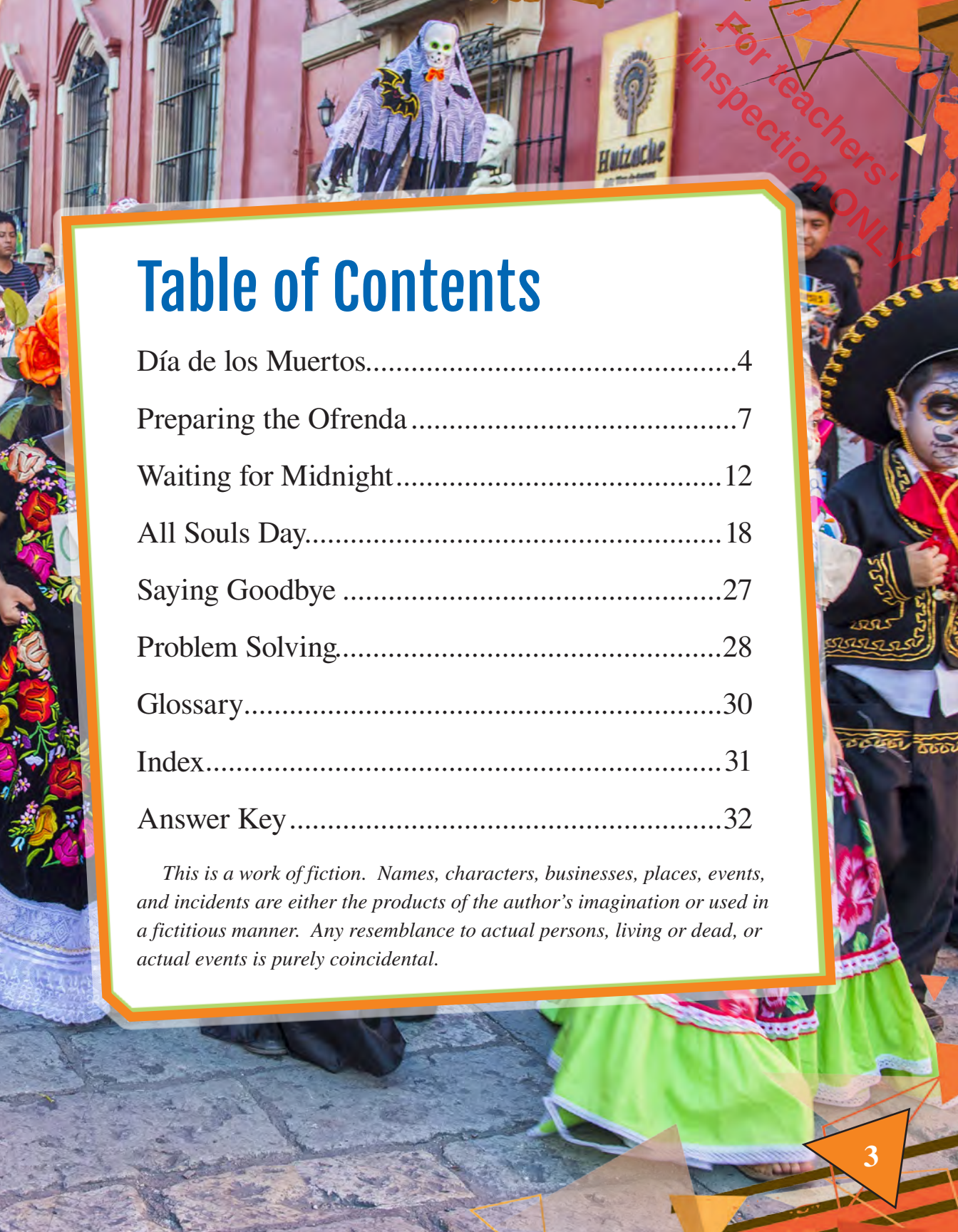
20 x

Día de los Muertos

Factors and Multiples



Elise Wallace



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Día de los Muertos

This is the story of my family, the Santos! We live in Los Angeles, California. Every November, we honor our **ancestors** who have died. We dress up. We paint our faces. We parade through the streets in remembrance of our loved ones. This is how we pay tribute to Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead.

Many people think that the holiday is the **Hispanic** version of Halloween. It's not. Say it with me, "Día de los Muertos is not Halloween!"

Día de los Muertos is a blend of **Aztec** rituals and **Catholic** beliefs. Unlike Halloween, this holiday honors the dead. It is a time of joy and warmth, not fear. We believe that death is not the end. The souls of our loved ones return to us, time and again.



People dress in costumes to celebrate the Day of the Dead in San Antonio, Texas.



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Chocolate skulls with colorful icing are used to decorate ofrendas and cemetery tombs.

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Preparing the Ofrenda

Día de los Muertos should be called *Days of the Dead*. In many places, festivities can last up to a week. However, most people observe the holiday on just two days: November 1st and 2nd.

This past year has been difficult. My grandma died just a few months ago. She was the life of our family. She was famous for her cooking. She brought us together with her delicious meals. Today, we prepare for her return.

There is still much to do. We are busy cleaning every nook and cranny of our home. The house must be perfect before we set up the **ofrenda**, or altar. Ofrendas are a big part of honoring our dead on Día de los Muertos.

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Ofrendas include many items. The way they are arranged can vary. Usually, they include food, water, and flowers. They also include candles and **incense**.

Our ofrenda has two levels. The top level represents heaven. The lower level **symbolizes** Earth. We will decorate our ofrenda with pictures of our loved ones and other items like incense, flowers, and sweet bread. But before we can place anything, I need to find the tablecloth. This will be the base of the ofrenda.

"Rosa, where is the tablecloth?" I call out. "I can't find it anywhere."

"Look harder, Carlos," my sister says. "I'm busy making the **mole** (MOH-lay)."

"OK, OK," I respond. I know my sister wants the mole to be just right. It was our grandma's special dish. She cooked it every holiday. It is a hard meal to recreate, and my sister isn't the best cook!



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LET'S EXPLORE MATH

Food is an important part of Día de los Muertos. Families often bake sweet bread called *pan de muerto*, or bread of the dead.

Mrs. Santo bakes 12 loaves of pan de muerto. She wants to place an equal number of loaves in bags. Find all the possible ways she can prepare the bags by finding the factors of 12. Identify the number of bags and the number of loaves in each bag.

