**OFRENDAS: CELEBRATIONS OF OUR LOVED ONES**

*Día de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead) is a joyful celebration of the lives of our loved ones who have passed away. Many people in Mexico and beyond construct *ofrendas* (altars) to honor them for Day of the Dead. Below is a diagram of a traditional altar with the many types of objects and symbols you might find.

- **Candles** light the way for traveling spirits.
- A **cross** representing North, South, East, and West to help guide the spirits home.
- **Pan de muerto** (bread) reflects on the cycle of life and death.
- **Flores de cempasúchil** (marigold flowers) whose scent attracts the spirits to the altar.
- **Papel picado** (traditional paper banners) may adorn the altar and represent the union between life and death.
- **Sugar skulls** celebrate the sweetness of life.
- **Water** to satisfy their thirst.
- **Favorite food and drinks** to nourish the spirits.
- **Heaven**
- **Earth**
- **Underworld**

To learn more: https://tinyurl.com/DDMNatGeo
CREATE AN OFREnda

Draw and decorate an ofrenda using the space below. What food and personal items would you leave on the ofrenda? Does your family have similar traditions at home? Include as many items as you would like on the ofrenda.