

Name: _____ Date: _____ Hour: _____

"Mexico: A Death In the Desert" Film Guide

1. Prior to his death, Matias had crossed the U.S./Mexico border several times. Why did he cross the border? How long did Matias typically stay in the United States?
2. Why does Matias's wife say that migrants return home to their village each year?
3. What did the money Matias earned while working in the United States pay for?
4. Describe Matias's journey from Oaxaca into the United States. How did he get from Oaxaca to the Arizona border? What dangers did he face along the way?
5. Matias's uncle, Bertoldo, describes border crossing in earlier years. Do you think that increased border security has deterred immigrants?
6. Who does increased border enforcement benefit? Why do you think Operation Gatekeeper was founded the year after NAFTA (the North American Free Trade Agreement) was enacted?
7. Describe the journey from Border Patrol Agent Mike Walsh's perspective. In what ways does his narrative differ from the narrative of Matias's wife and mother?

8. Why do you think people cross the border despite the dangers involved? Do you think you would cross the border if you were in Matias's situation? Why or why not? What would you do?