



## The Altar

Having an ancestral altar in your home is a great way to honor and remember your ancestors. Would you like to create one? Yeah? Awesome! Let's get started. First, download and print the altar illustration. Then, create your very own altar using the instructions below!

**The Picture Frames:** Draw your ancestors within the picture frames. If you don't know who your ancestors are or what they looked like, that's okay! You can use your imagination! Or, you can draw a historical ancestor that you admire like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., or Harriet Tubman.

**1. Candles.** Each altar needs the elements of fire, earth, air, and water. Candles represent fire! The color white is the most commonly used for ancestral altars, but you may use pink also. White represents spirit and purity. Pink represents love. Color the candles and don't forget to light them with a bright orange flame. That's how you light the way for your ancestors to find you!

**2. Potted planter.** Plants and crystals represent the element of earth. What is your favorite plant? Draw it in the pot! Next, draw your very own crystal for the table!

**3. Flower offering.** Create a beautiful bouquet of flowers for your vase. Your ancestors will love it! But no roses, okay? Roses have thorns, and we want to give our ancestors the most gentle flowers we can.

**4. Libation offering.** You can offer your ancestors spirits like wine or rum to celebrate special occasions like birthdays, anniversaries, or holy days. Fill the bottle for them!

**5. Food offering.** Leaving food for your ancestors provides them with spiritual energy. If you know what foods your ancestors enjoyed, draw them. If not, draw a plate of your favorite foods!

**6. Incense.** The rising smoke from incense represents the element of air. When we light incense for our ancestors, it's a sweet-smelling invitation for them to join us. Create a plume of smoke for your ancestors!

**7. Water offering.** Ancestors love fresh water. Clean, clear water provides a way for the spirits of our ancestors to flow easily and clearly to us in order to communicate their wisdom and love. Fill the cup for them!

**8. Teacup.** Did your ancestors drink coffee or tea? Fill the cup for them! It's a special treat for them to enjoy.

**9. Table cloth.** Most ancestral altars are covered with a white cloth. However, if you wish to decorate your cloth, feel free to do so, just make sure to use light colors and not dark ones. Our ancestors have passed beyond the light of this world, so giving them white and bright colors makes it easier for them to find their way back to us.

There! You did it! Wasn't that fun? You're officially a member of the Aisha Asé Family!

Don't forget to ask your parents to help you share a picture of your altar on Instagram and Facebook using the hashtags #aishaart #aishaaséfamily #aishaandtheancestors #aishaaltar!

## ASÉ!

