

Bring It Home: Create Your Own Pinata!

Extend the culture and traditions of Mexico to your home

Creating Pinata's is a fun and festive way for friends and family to engage in a popular Mexican form of entertainment. A piñata is traditionally made of clay or cardboard and decorated with colorful paper, which is a technique called papier-mâché. Although piñatas have quite a long and global history, they are now most common at parties and celebrations, particularly in Mexico. With help from an adult, you can make your own paper-mâché paste!

Materials:

½ cup multipurpose flour
3 tbsp sugar
2 cups cold water
2 cups boiling water
Bowl for mixing
Balloons
Colorful tissue paper

Get Started:

1. In a bowl mix multipurpose flour and cold water.
2. Add the 2 cups of boiling water.
3. Stir continuously to avoid any lumps from being formed.
4. Bring it to a boil and remove from the heat.
5. Stir in the sugar and mix well. The mixture thickens as it cools.

OR

Create a simple paste by adding a small amount of water to your regular school glue.

6. Blow up and tie-closed a balloon.
7. Using your paste, paint the balloon with the paste.
8. Place colorful strips of tissue paper over the sticky paste.
9. Once you've covered your entire balloon with strips of colorful paper, and the glue has dried, you've created a handmade *piñata*!



Continued on the next page >

Resources for Learning More about Mexico:

Books:

The Piñata Maker / El Piñatero, By George Ancona

La Mujer Que Brillaba Aún Más Que el Sol / The Woman Who Outshone the Sun
By Rosalma Zubizarreta, Harriet Rohmer, David Schechter

México Mio / My Mexico, By Tony Johnston and F. John Sierra

Look What Came from Mexico, By Miles Harvey

Mexico: The Land, By Bobbie Kalman

En Mi Familia / In My Family, By Carmen Lomas Garza

La Mariposa / The Butterfly, By Francisco Jimen

Website:

<http://www.elbalero.gob.mx/kids/explora/html/home.html>

Explore many aspects of Mexican culture and history.



The Boeing Company is the Lead Supporter of Cultural Programs at Chicago Children's Museum.

