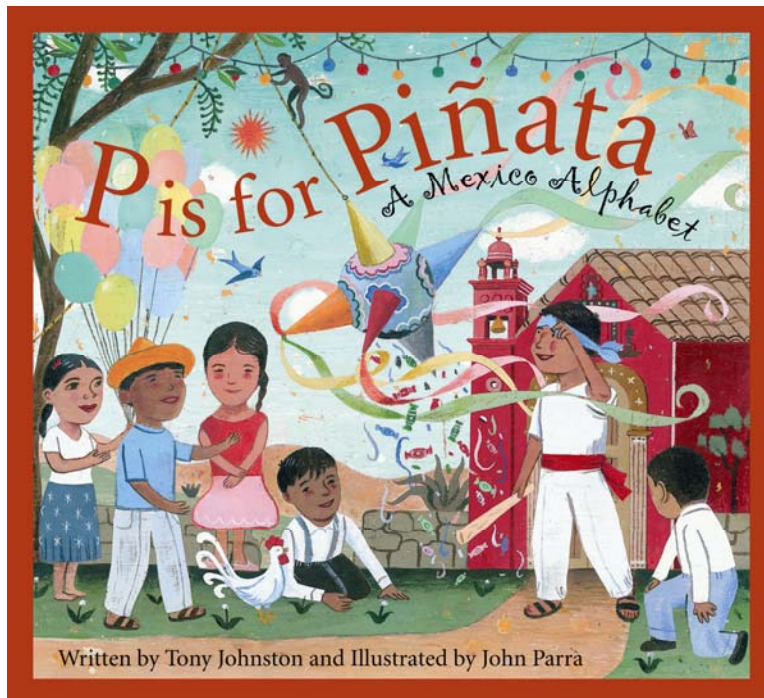


Teacher's Guide



P is for Piñata A Mexico Alphabet

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P is for Piñata

Famous Folks

Throughout *P is for Piñata* you will read about many famous, real, and fictional people who have helped to shape Mexico's history.

Place each of these people in the correct category below.

Tlaloc
Diego Rivera
Frida Kahlo

Benito Juárez
Amalia Hernandez
Lopez Mateos

Pakal
Francisco Toledo

Artists and Dancers

Rulers

Gods

Name your favorite person from the list above. _____

Explain _____

P is for Piñata

Mexico Crossword

The answers to this crossword can be found throughout the book *P is for Piñata*.

1. M _____
2. E _____
3. X _____
4. I _____
5. C _____
6. O _____

1. corn _____
2. Aztec rulers were called _____
3. City known for flowers _____
4. A type of lizard found in Mexico _____
5. Chocolate comes from the _____ plant
6. Mexico borders the Pacific _____

Write one other fact you know about Mexico.

P is for Piñata

Mexico's Geography

Throughout *P is for Piñata* you will learn many facts about Mexico. Let's focus on the geography of Mexico. Use a map of Mexico to help you find these answers.

1. Name the continent Mexico is part of _____
2. Name the country that borders Mexico to the north _____
3. Name the two countries that border Mexico on the south _____
4. How many states are there in Mexico? _____
5. Name the two bodies of water that border Mexico _____
6. Name the capital of Mexico _____
7. Name the continent south of Mexico _____
8. Name the river that separates Mexico and the United States _____
9. On which body of water is the state of Veracruz? _____
10. Name the state that extends the farthest south in Mexico _____



P is for Piñata

Zero is a Placeholder

The question is how do you represent the absence of a number? The answer is by using the placeholder zero. Who came up with the concept of zero? You can find the answer in *P is for Piñata*.

Round these numbers to the nearest hundred.

1. 587 _____

2. 109 _____

3. 1,228 _____

4. 76 _____

Round these numbers to the nearest 1,000

5. 5,499 _____

6. 1,750 _____

7. 2,606 _____

8. 8,501 _____

Round these numbers to the nearest 10,000

9. 43,799 _____

10. 94,678 _____

Write 3 rounding problems of your own. One for each category above.

1.

2.

3.

P is for Piñata

TIMELINE

Mexico has a long proud history. You will discover many important events in Mexico's history in *P is for Piñata*.

Place the following events in the correct order on the timeline.

- Ballet folklórico de México founded
- Maximilian rules Mexico
- Mexico hosts Olympics
- Tomb of Mayan king Pakal discovered
- Blessed lady appears to Juan Diego

1531

1864

1949

1952

1968

P is for Piñata

Adding and Subtracting in Spanish

Solve these math problems using the Spanish numbers below.

1- uno 2- dos 3- tres 4- cuatro 5- cinco

6- seis 7- siete 8- ocho 9- nueve 10- diez

SOLVE

1. tres + uno = _____

2. ocho + dos = _____

3. cinco + cinco = _____

4. dos + tres = _____

5. uno + siete = _____

6. nueve – cinco = _____

7. siete – uno = _____

8. ocho – cuatro = _____

9. seis – uno = _____

10. diez – dos = _____

P is for Piñata

Flowers, Flowers, Flowers

Xochimilico means place where the flowers grow. Read about this special place in *P is for Piñata*.

Put the flowers from the box below in alphabetical order.

rose	asters	daisy	peony
lily	sunflower	poppy	mum
	sedum		

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

P is for Piñata

Chocolate is Yummy!!



Do you love chocolate? Most people do! Are you curious about where chocolate comes from? Learn a little about the history of chocolate in *P is for Piñata*.

Put on your thinking cap and create a recipe on your own using chocolate. Be creative.

1. Write your recipe
2. Name your recipe
3. Draw a picture of your finished creation.

P is for Piñata

Make a Cornhusk Doll



Maize or corn plays a huge role in Mexican society. Discover its importance in the book *P is for Piñata*.

Try making a doll using the husks of ears of corn.

Materials

Cornhusks – 6 per doll (washed and dried)

Twine

Scissors

Dishpan of water

Directions

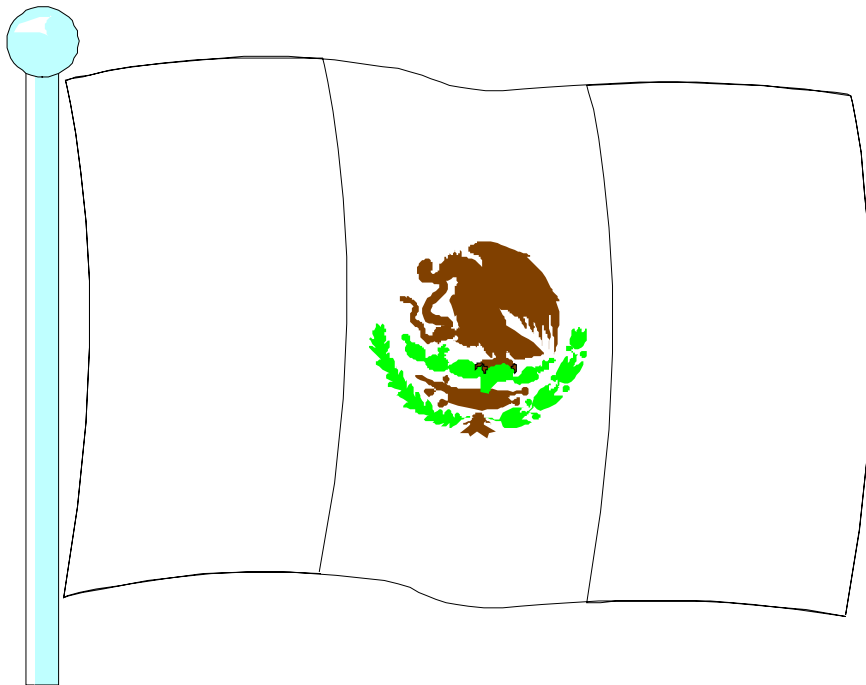
1. Soak cornhusks in water until they are pliable.
2. Trim four cornhusks to the same size and stack them. Tie on end with a piece of twine. Hold the tied end in one hand and pull each of the husks down like you were peeling a banana. The twine should end up on the inside.
3. Take another piece of twine and tie around the husks about one inch below the top. This is the head.
4. Take one long husk (that hasn't been trimmed) and carefully cut it into three long pieces. Braid these pieces together to form arms. Tie off the end of the arms to make hands. Slip the arms between the husks of the body. Use twine to tie off the body under the arms at about waist level.
5. Place the remaining husk around the back of the neck and bring it to the front. Wrap the ends around the waist and take to the back of the doll. Secure with twine.
Enjoy your creation.

P is for Piñata

Mexican Flag

Enjoy learning about our neighboring country of Mexico in the wonderful book *P is for Piñata*.

Find a picture of the Mexican flag and color this flag using the correct colors.



P is for Piñata

Yummy Fudge Recipe

Learn about Mexico's love for chocolate in *P is for Piñata*. Do you like chocolate? What is your favorite way to eat chocolate?

Follow this easy recipe to make your own yummy fudge.

Ingredients

1 can chocolate frosting
½ bag of semisweet chocolate chips
½ bag of peanut butter chips

Instructions

1. In a saucepan, over low heat, melt frosting, chocolate, and peanut butter chips. Stir until well mixed.
2. Pour into a buttered pan.
3. Let set in the refrigerator until hard.
4. Eat and enjoy!

Draw a picture of you eating your fudge!

P is for Piñata

Why Do People Leave Their Home Country? Immigration

The United States is a country of immigrants. Unless you are of Native American heritage, your ancestors left their homeland to move to the United States.

Make a list of reasons people might have wanted to leave their home country to live in the United States.

How do you think you would feel if your parents decided to leave the United States and move your family to a different country? _____

Explain

P is for Piñata

Make a Maraca



Music is heard everywhere throughout Mexico. Mexicans love music and dance. Read about their love for music in *P is for Piñata*.

Make your own simple maraca.

Materials

Clean empty soft drink can
Acrylic paint in bright colors
Paint brush
Dried beans or peas
Adhesive tape
Cardboard

Directions

1. Paint and decorate the can using Mexican symbols and bright colors.
(Make it look HAPPY)
2. Fill the can $\frac{1}{2}$ full with beans.
3. Cover the hole in the can with cardboard and tape it in place.
4. Play your maraca to the beat of Mexican music.

Write a rhythm pattern to go with your music. _____

P is for Piñata

Making Mighty Murals

A mural often tells the story of a time or place in history. Diego Rivera was a famous muralist in Mexico. Read about his work in *P is for Piñata*.

Choose an event in history and plan a mural showing the event.
Use this sheet to brainstorm your ideas for the mural.

Choose your favorite idea. Plan your mural.

The final mural should be on a long sheet of bulletin board paper.

Make sure you use all of the space on the paper to show your event. (Be careful NOT to place everything across the bottom of your sheet.)

Make your mural colorful and full of interesting scenes that tell a story of an event.

Write a brief description of the event you have portrayed.

Use a variety of media (crayons, markers, cut paper, magazine pictures, etc., to make your mural interesting.)

P is for Piñata

Everything is Possible in Peace

Peace is what we wish for the entire world. Is the world ever totally at peace? Probably not. There seems to always be a conflict somewhere in the world. In 1968 Mexico hosted the Olympic Games and used the motto—Everything is Possible in Peace.

Write a paragraph explaining the meaning of the motto.

Design a symbol and a motto you would like to see used at an Olympics.

P is for Piñata

The Poetry of Skeletons

Skeletons can be found everywhere in Mexico. Why do you think skeletons are popular as decoration? Find the answer to this in the book *P is for Piñata*.

Write two rhyming poems about skeletons. Each poem should have 4 lines. Write one poem using the rhyming pattern ABAB. In the second poem use the rhyming pattern AABB.



P is for Piñata



Seek and Find

Each of the answers to the questions below can be found when you read the book *P is for Piñata*. Use your best detective strategies to find the answers.

1. What material is used to make bricks in Mexico? _____
2. Who is the author of *P is for Piñata*? _____
3. Name the plant that gives us chocolate _____
4. What type of artist was Diego Rivera? _____
5. What is the name of the Mexican hairless dog? _____
6. Who is famous for their eyebrows? _____
7. What flows out of a volcano? _____
8. Maize is another name for _____
9. A prickly pear is a type of _____
10. What is a quetzal? _____

Make up a question of your own.

P is for Piñata

Can You Speak Spanish?

There are many Spanish words and phrases used throughout *P is for Piñata*. Each word or phrase has the English translation next to it.

Enjoy learning these Spanish words and phrases!

One- uno

Two- dos

Three- tres

Four- cuatro

Five- cinco

Six- seis

Seven- siete

Eight- ocho

Nine- nueve

Ten- diez

Good day- Buenos dias

Good night- Buenos noches

Thank you- Gracias

How are you- Como esta usted?

Fine- Muy bien

Goodbye- Adios

See you later- Hasta luego

Good afternoon- Buenos tardes

P is for Piñata

Paper Weaving

Mexican weavers were known for the unique patterns they wove into their material. Learn about these talented weavers in *P is for Piñata*.

Learn more about weaving and creating patterns as you try it on your own. Your weaving will be with paper rather than with cloth. Try to design a pattern of your own.

Directions

1. Fold a 12 X 18 piece of colored construction paper in half crosswise. This is the background color for your weaving.
2. Draw lines with a ruler one inch from the open edge of the paper, across the paper.
3. Start at the fold and cut on the lines. You can use scissors with different edges if you have them. (Cuts should be about 1 inch apart.)
4. Open paper.
5. Cut strips from other color papers to use for weaving. The strips should be about 1 inch wide but may vary.
6. Plan your design and then weave it carefully through the paper.

P is for Piñata

Answer Sheet

Famous Folks- artists- Amelia Hernandez, Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera, Francisco Toledo gods- Tlaloc
Rulers- Pakal, Benito Juárez, Lopez Mateos

Mexico Crossword- 1) maize 2) emperors 3) Xochimilco 4) iguana
5) cacao 6) Ocean

Mexico's Geography- 1) N. America 2) United States 3) Belize, Guatemala 4) 31 5) Pacific Ocean, Gulf of Mexico 6) Mexico City
7) South America 8) Rio Grande 9) Gulf of Mexico 10) Chiapas

Zero is a Placeholder- 1) 600 2) 100 3) 1,200 4) 100 5) 5,000
6) 2,000 7) 3,000 8) 9,000 9) 40,000 10) 90,000

Timeline- 1531- Blessed lady appears... 1864- Maximilian rules ...
1949- Tomb of Mayan king... 1952- Ballet Folklorico...
1968- Mexico hosts Olympics

Adding and Subtracting in Spanish- 1) cuatro 2) diez 3) diez 4) cinco
5) ocho 6) cuatro 7) seis 8) cuatro 9) cinco 10) ocho

Flowers, Flowers, Flowers- aster, daisy, lily, mum, peony, poppy, rose,
sedum, sunflower

Seek and Find- 1) adobe 2) Tony Johnston 3) cacao 4) muralist
5) esquince 6) Frida Kahlo 7) lava 8) corn 9) cactus 10) bird