

MEXICAN CELEBRATION CRAFTS:

Paper Flowers: There are instructions for making tissue paper flowers in the manual on page 162. To change them up a bit:

Decorative edges: Besides just rounding the edges in step 3, try making points, fringing, etc. to give the flowers a different look.

Jumbo flowers: Use whole sheets of tissue—we layered 8 sheets of 20”X26” paper.

Circle flowers: Try making the flowers by layering 4” tissue circles—cut them yourself or buy them pre-cut from Oriental Trading Co.

Mini flowers: Cut 3 pieces of crepe paper streamers 3” long. Layer and accordion fold—use twist tie instead of a pipe cleaner.

Papel Picado: *Papel picado* means “punched paper” in Spanish. Mexican craftsmen create delicate tissue paper banners using knives, hammers, chisels and scissors. Authentic *papel picado* can be very intricate and lacy. Kids can make simpler versions using scissors and tissue paper or even construction paper. Hung on a line, these make a great room decoration. Simple instructions can be found at:

- PBS Kids: pbskids.org/zoom/activities/do/papelpicado.html
- Pinatas.com: http://www.pinatas.com/Mexican_Pinata_Crafts_s/638.htm (they also have other Mexican craft Ideas)
- Walmart.com: instoresnow.walmart.com/article.aspx?id=60664

Ojo de Días: There are numerous places to find instructions for this traditional craft, both in craft/activity books and on-line. Two of these are:

- *Hispanic-American Crafts Kids Can Do!* (Fay Robinson, Enslow Publishers, 2006, ISBN 0-7660-2459-8).
- DLTK Kids: http://www.dltk-kids.com/world/mexico/ojo_de_dios.htm

Piñatas: There are many sources for making papier maché piñatas, (just Google “how to make a piñata”), but I chose to avoid the mess and the drying time by offering these two ideas:

- Personal-size chili pepper piñatas—instructions can be found at Family Fun.com: <http://familyfun.go.com/crafts/mini-pinatas-668588/>
- Lunch Bag piñata—instructions are attached

Food: I don’t have cooking facilities at my library, but found a couple no-cook recipes that kids could concoct:

- Sangrias (no alcohol)—find the recipe at: http://www.dltk-kids.com/world/mexico/nonalcoholic_sangria_recipe.htm
- Un-fried ice cream: Each child gets a firm scoop of ice cream (I suggest you freeze individual ice cream balls ahead of time. Each child also gets a bag or bowl of crushed cereal—try Cinnamon Toast Crunch or Frosted Flakes—something sweet and crunchy. Roll the ice cream in the crushed cereal to coat; put it in a dish and top with chocolate sauce, whipped cream and a cherry.