

TITLE: Maracas & Dance Party

OBJECTIVE: Making an instrument and then using it with a dance party. This can also be an end of program celebration activity since its full of fun!

TIME: 30 minutes

MATERIALS:

- Small container to be used as maraca. Film canister, plastic egg, etc.
- Beads, tiny rocks, pearls, etc. to be placed inside of container to make noise
- Washi tape or stickers to decorate maracas
- Optional: Tape or glue gun to seal container
- Speaker
- Device to play music
- Maraca coloring sheet

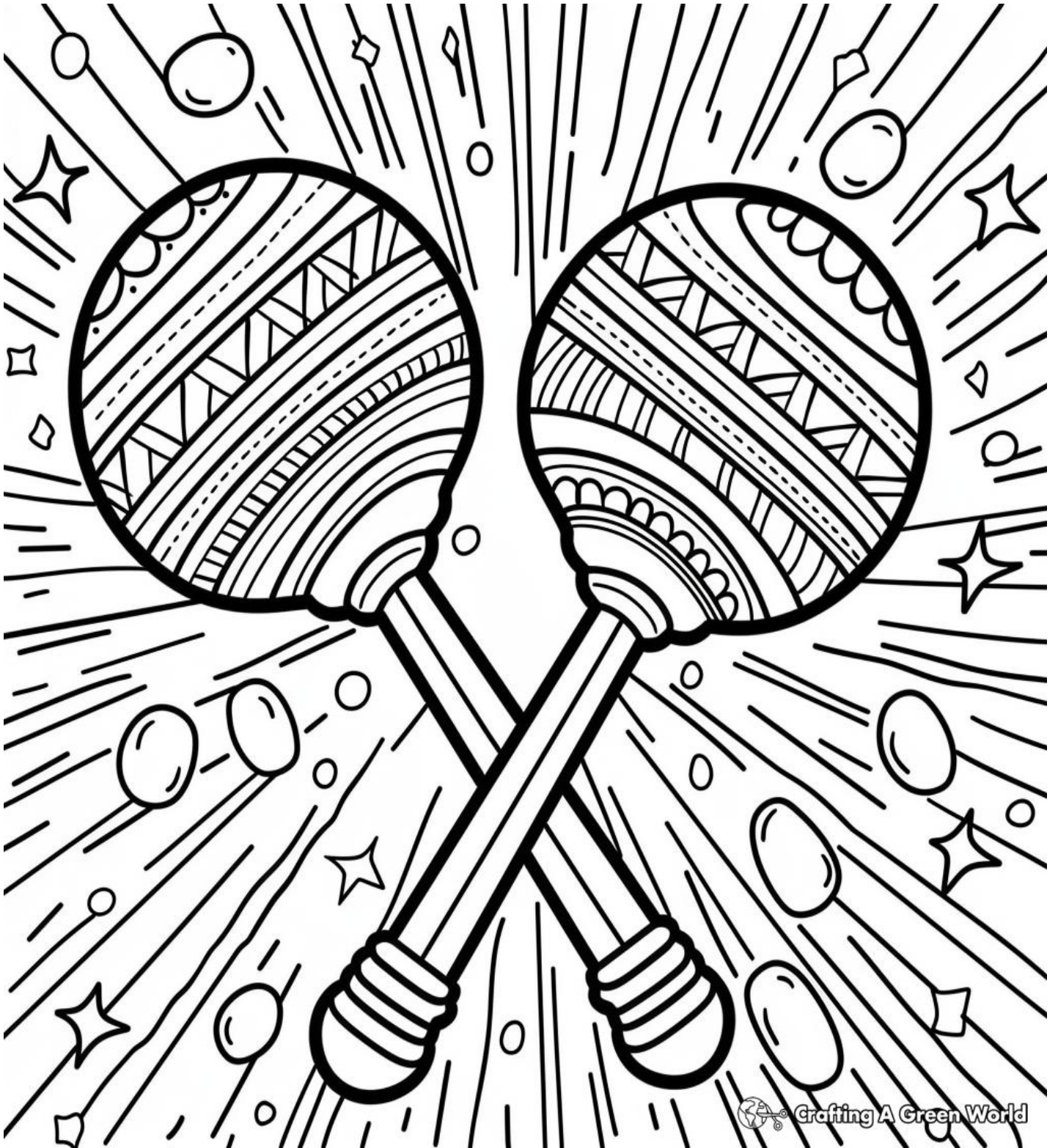


INSTRUCTIONS:

Pre-work – Have dance party music playlist ready for the dance party (suggestions below). Have all items needed to make maracas in containers so that girls can grab from when making. They could be placed at each table or have them lined up for girls to line up and take. If using a glue gun, have a separate station that an adult only will be at doing the gluing. Have a coloring or worksheet and coloring utensils at each table before girls come. Have them work on the sheet while everyone settles and you take attendance. Have extra materials being used out and organized.

1. **2 min.** - When ready, ask for 2 volunteers to read the promise and law.
2. **5 min** – Introduce today's activity and share a little history of the maraca: *The maraca is an ancient percussion instrument of pre-Columbian, indigenous origin. It is believed to have been invented independently across various regions of Latin America, the Caribbean, and West Africa. Today, maracas are a staple of Latin and Afro-Latin music (such as salsa, merengue, and cumbia), as well as orchestral pieces. While traditional gourd and wooden versions are still played, modern maracas are often mass-produced using materials like plastic, fiberglass, or leather.*
3. **15 min.** – Have each girl pick a container, fillings and decorating materials to make their maraca. Remind them that it shouldn't be too filled so that there's room for items to move around to make noise. They can test to see which sound they like most by filling it more or less. Have them place noise makers inside of container, close container (tape or hot glue if needed at this point), and decorate to your liking. Shake and make some music!
4. **15 min.** – Dance party time! Play songs that mention shaking and have maracas in the music.
 - a. Music styles: salsa, merengue, cumbia
 - b. Songs: Shake it off by Taylor Swift, Shake Rattle & Roll by Bill Haley and His Comets, Shake it by Metro Station, Shake Senora by Harry Belafonte, etc.

Discuss: What other instruments are in the songs we listened to? What are some reasons to celebrate today? What was your favorite Girl Scout memory?



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