

TITLE: Paper Bag Piñata

OBJECTIVE: To teach girls about this cross-continental celebration as well as showing them how to be resourceful and make their own piñata for their own celebrations.

TIME: 45-60 minutes

MATERIALS:

- Paper bag
- Streamer paper and/ or tissue paper
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- String
- Goodies for inside
(stickers, little toys, bouncy balls, candy, etc.)



INSTRUCTIONS:

Pre-work – Have all items of the craft separated so that girls can grab what they need. This can be in a “buffet” style on a separate table or in containers to be placed on each table.

1. **5 min.** – When ready, ask for 2 volunteers to read the promise and law.
2. **5 min.** Ask girls if they know what a piñata is and then share the history: The piñata has a rich, centuries-long history that stretches across multiple continents. It originated in ancient China as a ritual for prosperity, evolved into a European religious tradition during Lent, and was transformed in Mexico into the vibrant, star-shaped and animal-shaped cultural icon used today.
3. **30 min** – Have girls each get a bag and open it up. Fill each bag with goodies and glue it shut by folding over the top. On the folded part, punch 2 holes a little far from each other and place the string through. Tie the string so that it can be hung when finished. Have girls pick streamers or tissue paper to start decorating their piñata. There is no wrong way to decorate a piñata. If they want to make a traditional fringe decoration, have them cut the fringe in the strips they’re using and start gluing the strips from the BOTTOM UP so that it layers one on top of the other. You can add strands hanging from the bottom/ side, add stickers, gems, etc. or even draw on it to look however you want. They can then take it home and hang it up to break open. This can be done by hitting it open, tearing it open, adding a string to the bottom to pull open or however you like.

Discuss: How many of you have ever broken a piñata? What is the coolest piñata shape you’ve ever seen? What other celebrations can piñatas be used for?

