



Here are two simple Mexican treats to make. Be sure to have an adult helper when you use a knife or the stove.

QUESADILLAS

INGREDIENTS

six 8-inch tortillas
12-oz. can of refried beans
8-oz. can of kernel corn
½ cup salsa (drained)
2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
cooking oil
2 tomatoes, cut into small cubes
1 avocado, cut into small cubes
1 teaspoon chili powder
1 teaspoon cumin
juice of 1 lime

DIRECTIONS

1. In a small saucepan, warm the beans, corn, and salsa.
2. Put about ½ cup of the bean mixture in the middle of each tortilla. Sprinkle ½ cup of cheese on top of the bean mixture. Fold the tortilla in half.
3. Fry the tortillas in a little cooking oil over low heat, turning them a few times until both sides are brown and the cheese is melted.
4. In a small bowl, mix the tomato, avocado, chili powder, cumin, and lime juice.
5. Top each quesadilla with a small amount of the tomato mixture. Serve with rice.

Piñata Party

Here's how to make a piñata. The main ingredient is papier-mâché, which is made from newspaper strips and glue.

MATERIALS

- large balloon or beach ball
- old newspapers
- white school glue
- string
- thin cardboard
- scissors
- masking tape
- poster paint or markers
- streamers made from different colors of tissue paper or crepe paper
- goodies to put in the piñata (individually wrapped candies and small toys)

DIRECTIONS

1. Lay the newspapers on your work surface.
2. Blow up the balloon and tie a knot at the end.
3. Tear newspaper strips about one inch wide and six inches long. (Don't cut them. Tearing helps them lie flat.)
4. Pour some glue into a plastic container you can throw away afterward.
5. Dip a newspaper strip into the glue, wipe off the extra glue by running the strip between two fingers, and lay the strip on the balloon. Cover the balloon completely, except for a small opening at the top, which you will use to fill the piñata.
6. Let the first layer dry, and add two more layers, letting each dry after you add it.
7. Wrap the balloon with string to give it more strength. Then add two more layers of papier-mâché. When the last layer is dry, use the hole on top to burst the balloon with a pin, and remove it.
8. Decide what animal you want your piñata to be. Use the cardboard and masking tape to add legs, ears, tail, wings, or whatever you want to the round shape. Build up the shape with more papier-mâché.
9. When you have the shape you want and it is dry, fill the piñata with goodies. Then cover the hole with papier-mâché.
10. Paint the piñata with bright colors and decorate it with small wads of tissue paper or with crepe paper streamers cut to make a fringe.
11. Have an adult hang the piñata from the ceiling. Blindfold one person at a time and give each person a chance at swatting the piñata with a broom handle. When the piñata is broken, everyone gathers up some goodies.

