



# Active Learning

By Melinda Bossenmeyer, Ed.D.

## PE & Classroom Party Games Cinco de Mayo

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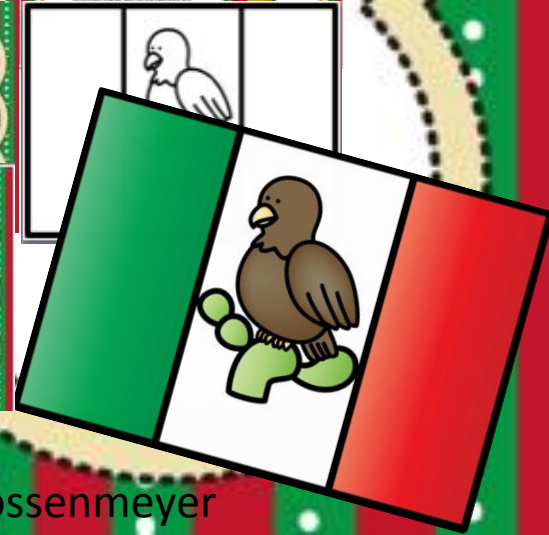


# Holiday Party Games

History, Food, Art, Active Games & PE Activities

## Cinco de Mayo

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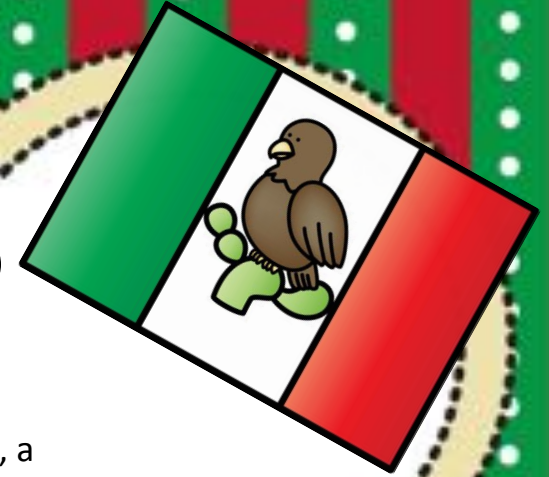
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# History of Cinco de Mayo



Cinco de Mayo is Spanish for the 5<sup>th</sup> of May, a celebration held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May recognizing the Battle of Puebla.

This battle commemorates the Mexican Army's unexpected victory over the French invasion forces at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862.

This holiday is celebrated in many of the states of the United States, although it is not a U.S. National Holiday.

Cinco de Mayo is sometimes mistaken to be Mexico's Independence Day (9/16/1810), but that celebration is on September 16<sup>th</sup>, and thought to be the most important National Holiday in Mexico.

Wikipedia





# Mariachi Music

Mariachi is a form of folk music from Mexico.

Mariachi began as a regional folk style originally played only with string instruments and musicians dressed in the white pants and shirts of peasant farmers.

Scan for Mariachi Music





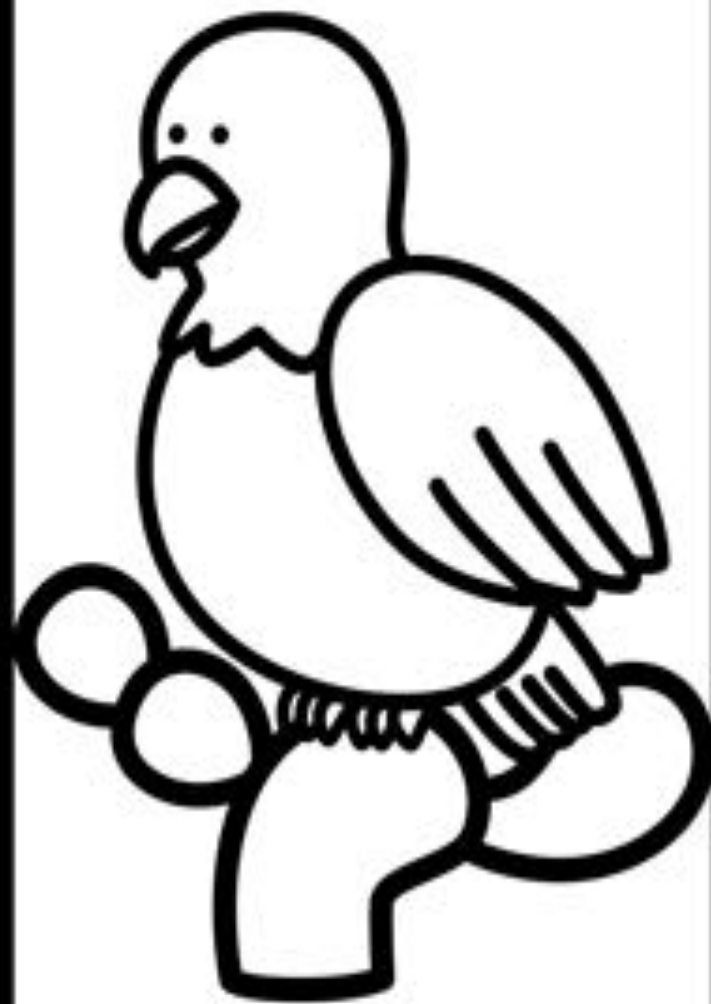
# Mexican Flag Dessert Cup



**Supplies:** Instant Jell-O, strawberry or cherry Instant Jell-O, lime, Whip cream, Clear plastic cups, Small plastic spoons.

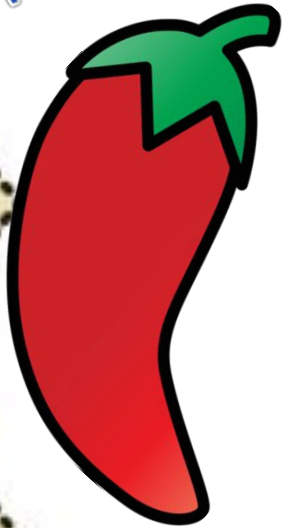
Directions:

1. Make the red and green Jell-O ahead of time.
2. Place two to three tablespoons of red Jell-O into the bottom of the clear plastic cup.
3. Cover the red Jell-O with a thin layer of whip cream.
4. Place two to three tablespoons of green Jell-O on top.
5. Chill. From SheKnows.com Blog





# Walking Tacos



Supplies: Chili, snack size Fritos bags.  
Optional: cheese, tomatoes and lettuce.  
Plastic spoons.

Walking tacos is a nice, simple party treat.  
To make walking tacos, you get snack size bags  
of Fritos, open the bag and add chili with beans.  
Add lettuce, tomatoes and cheese to taste.

Remember to bring spoons to eat the walking  
tacos.

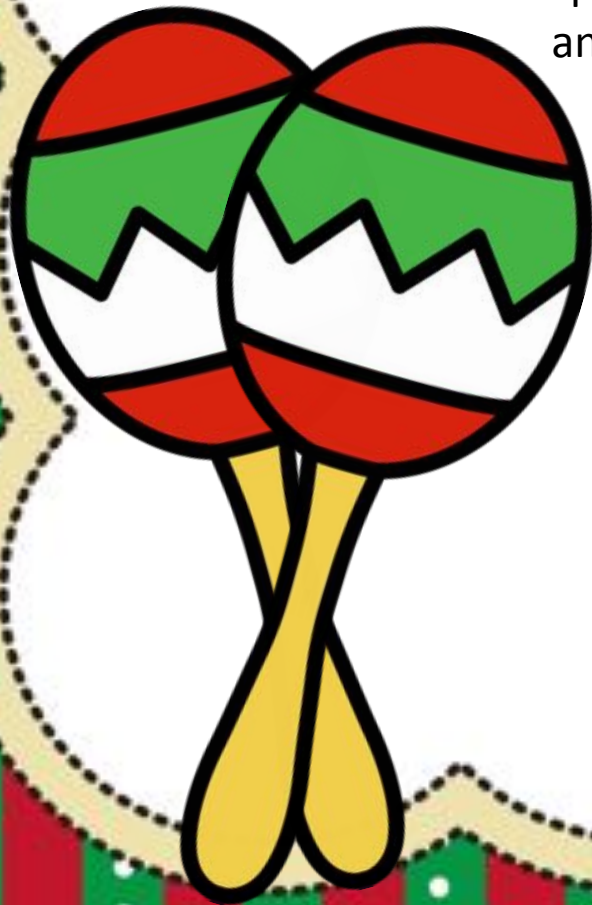


# Make your own Maracas

Supplies: Plastic Easter Eggs, plastic spoons, rice or beans, masking tape and markers.

Each student needs 2 spoons, some masking tape, a plastic Easter Egg, markers and some rice or beans.

1. Fill an egg 1/3 of the way with rice or beans.
2. Close the Easter Egg.
3. Put the spoon around the egg and tape the spoons and egg closed with the masking tape.
4. Decorate the egg.
5. Shake the maracas to music.





# Mexican Hat Dance



The Mexican hat dance is a traditional Mexican Dance. It is best to make it simple for children. Scan the QR code below to observe how to do the Mexican Hat Dance with young children. This is an example of a first grade class.

## Basic Steps

1. Hop on one foot and land on the other.
2. Switch feet
3. Add arm movements when students have the feet movements down.
4. Teach students how to join arms and swing.
5. You may find it easier to have students in a circle instead of lines. Boys turn to swing the girl behind them. Girls step forward to the boy in front of them.

# Avion : Hopscotch



**Equipment:** Chalk for drawing hopscotch court and a small stone or bean bag for a marker.

**Players needed:** 2 or more

**Court:** You have to draw ten squares and a circle to form an airplane shape. That is why the game is called *Avión*.

The game of hopscotch is played throughout Mexico.

1. After you draw the airplane, the first player throws a stone or bean bag (marker) into the first square.
2. Then she/he hops in all of the hopscotch squares to the circle and hops back and picks up the marker.
3. The second player throws the marker in the second square. She/he hops in all the squares to the circle. Then he hops back and picks up his/her marker.
4. Game continues to 10. First person to 10 wins.



# Stealing the Sombrero



**Equipment:** Mexican Hat for each student (see Sombrero to decorate in this kit). Masking tape.

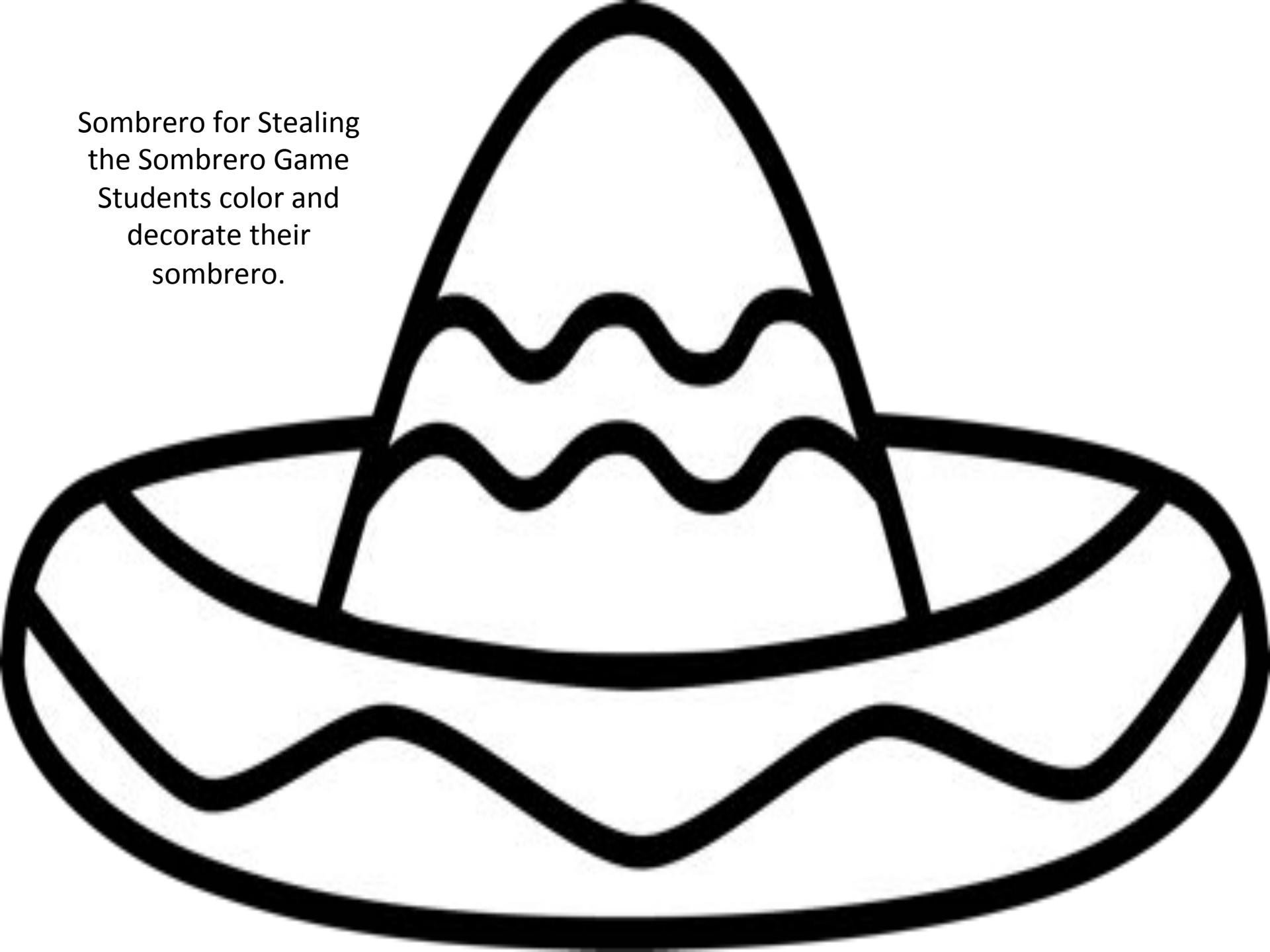
**Court:** ½ a basketball court or large circle.

**Object:** Stay in the game without getting your sombrero taken.

1. Attach a sombrero to each child's back with tape.
2. When the music starts each child tries to steal another person's sombrero without losing their own.
3. Start and stop play with music. When the music starts, children are free to go and steal other's sombreros. When the music stops, they must stand outside the circle and wait.
3. When a child steals a sombrero he/she drops it on the ground and the child who lost their sombrero must pick it up and go outside the circle and do 5 exercises then he/she may return to the game.
4. Children get tired easily, so keep the games short.

*Play Mexican Music for Fun.*

Sombrero for Stealing  
the Sombrero Game  
Students color and  
decorate their  
sombrero.







# Mexican Balloon Pop

For groups of no more than 15 children each.

Equipment: Each child has a balloon tied to a string tied around the ankle.

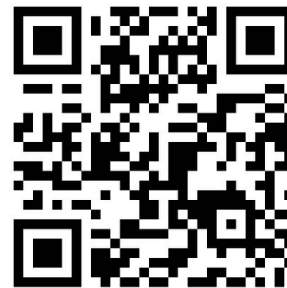
Court: Confined area like  $\frac{1}{2}$  a basketball court.

When the music starts, players run around in the court and try to step on another child's balloon and pop it.

This a fast paced game like "Steal the Sombrero". Have students run around trying to pop each others balloon for 4 minutes and then stop the music and let everyone take a rest.

If your balloon is popped you are out.

*Scan the QR code for a video on how to play the game.*



The logo for Peaceful Playgrounds, featuring the words "Peaceful Playgrounds" in a blue, stylized font with a white outline, set against a white background with a blue border.

# Hot Chili Peppers Contest

Equipment: Long Rope for each group of 8 children.

Jump rope is very popular in Mexico. Hot Chili Peppers is jumping as the rope is turned faster and faster.

Count the number of times that each person jumps when the rope is turned fast. The person with the most jumps wins.

Use the enclosed certificate for the winner/s.





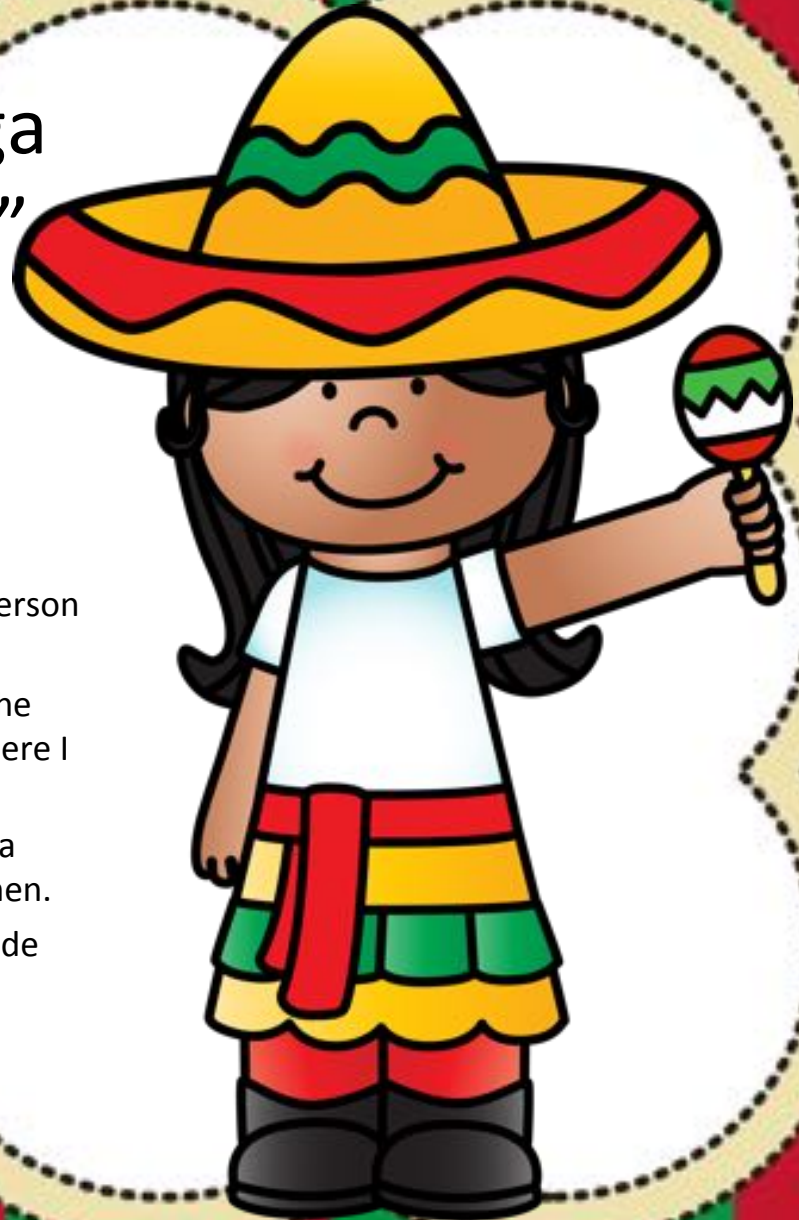
# La Gallinita Ciega “The Blind Hen”

**Equipment:** Blindfold

**Players:** 3 or more

**Court:** Play in a circle.

1. One child is the La Gallinita Ciega (“the blind hen”). His/her eyes are covered. Spin the person around 3 times.
2. All students must stay inside the circle and the hen listens for children. Children can say, “here I am. You can’t catch me.”
3. The hen listens and tries to tag someone. If a person gets tagged, they are the new blind hen.
4. You may want to select 2 blind hens and divide the class in half in two different circles.



# Piedra, Papel o Tijeras : Rock, Paper, Scissors

**Equipment:** none

**Players:** 2 or 3

Children use their hands to make

1. Open hand = paper (covers a rock)
2. Fist = rock (rock breaks scissors)
3. 2 fingers = scissors (cuts paper)

Children start with their hands behind their back. On the count of three, each child brings a hand to the front and shows either a rock, paper or scissors.

Paper covers a rock, so paper wins.  
A rock breaks scissors, so rock wins.  
Scissors will cut paper, so scissors wins.

Scan the QR code to see the game demonstrated





## MEXICO

TO ASSEMBLE DOLLS

1. RECHISE THIS PAPER FROM PACKAGE
2. CUT OUT ALL PIECES CAREFULLY
3. FOLD BACK TABS MARKED "TO BE BACK"

This country is our next door neighbor to the South. The Mexicans have many colorful costumes and graceful native dances.



*Kellogg's* KRUMBLER



# Cinco de Mayo Contest Winner

This Certifies that

\_\_\_\_\_  
(name)

Was a winner of the Cinco de Mayo Game

On \_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
School Teacher





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