

Make your own piñata



INSTRUCTOR GUIDE

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George Mason University, Fall 2007*

SYMBOLS



Note to the Instructor



Instructor talking point



Point to the MS Power Point Presentation



Use or show materials



Show the Piñata model



Ask for questions



Check your time

PURPOSE

To teach students how to create a simple Piñata and motivate them to explore the integration of non-traditional games in their parties planning.

TARGET AUDIENCE AND TRAINER

The course is open to students from 10 years up to 99 years old who know how to use a scissor and are interested on craft activities. The trainer is a person who masters the piñata process, knows the general origins of the piñata and know how to play the piñata game.

OBJECTIVES

Trainees will be able to

- Explain the origins of the Piñata, different types and game
- Explain the three main steps to create a simple piñata
- Create their own piñata from scratch
- Present their own piñata model to other trainees
- Provide feedback on others trainees piñatas

CLASS STRUCTURE

The class is organized for one hour of instruction and includes the following sections:

| Section | Duration | Purpose |
|------------------------------------|------------|--|
| Introduction | 5 minutes | Introduce instructor, participants and agenda |
| Motivation | 5 minutes | Gain participants interest. Introduce briefly the history of the piñatas, the different types and how to play the game |
| Sample demonstration | 10 minutes | Show the model that the participants are going to create, list of materials and the general steps |
| Make your own piñata: Step by Step | 30 minutes | Distribute the materials and guide the participants through the process of making their own piñatas |
| The Piñatas Show | 5 minutes | Show different piñatas created during the workshop |
| Feedback & Conclusion | 5 minutes | Motivate participants to make different kind of piñatas |

MATERIALS

- Plain paper gift bag
- Tissue paper
- Scissors
- Glue (stick and bottle)
- White Cardboard (2 pieces)
- Markers or Water paints
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Piñata design

TRAINER SUPPORT

- Piñata_Presentation.ppt: MS Power Point to be used during the class
- Piñata_Instructor_Guide.pdf: This guide used as reference for the instructor



Before starting the class, make sure that you have:

- ✓ All the materials you will need to create the piñata (see list above)
- ✓ The MS Power Point presentation that contains the instructions on how to create the piñata.
- ✓ Bag with materials for each group

Introduction

The introduction section is very important. You must gain the students attention and create a nice atmosphere so students can fill comfortable. The Power Point presentation is on Slide 1.

1. Start introducing yourself and tell the students

- Your name and how you like to be called
- How many times you have thought the class
- That you are glad to be the instructor and offer your help at any time during the instruction



If you do not know the students, start by asking their names and if they have made a piñata before



Go to slide #2 in the Power point presentation



Share the agenda with the students and clearly explain the purpose of the class.



00:05

Motivation

The objective is to gain the attention of the participants by briefly introducing the history of the piñata, the different types and how to play the game



Go to slide #3 in the Power point presentation



Piñata Origins



"It is thought that Marco Polo brought the idea of the piñata from China to Europe around XII century. In his multiple voyages, he saw the Chinese people using figures that they decorated with different colors. These figures were used to greet to the new year. The Chinese people hit the figures with a stick and once broken, seeds spilled forth. Piñatas were used in Italy and later in Spain. Around 16th century Spain missionaries used them as a way to attract people to the Catholicism. The piñata became very popular in México during the Las Posadas, a special fest during Christmas time and it's very popular in birthday parties. Nowadays, Piñatas are known in almost all the countries around the World ¹

Types of piñatas



"Piñatas were originally built using clay pot. They were decorated using colored paper. Today, most of the piñatas are made of balloons and paper. There are a lot of variations but their idea is the same. A colorful figured filled with candies and little surprises"



If you have samples of different kind of Piñatas is a good moment to show them to the audience

¹ See References for more information



Go to slide #4 in the Power point presentation



The game



"The Piñata is usually the last activity in a birthday party. In Latin America, kids get very excited when they go to the party because they want to get a lot of candies.

usually the Piñata hangs from a tree or two people hold it. The participants take turns and, starting from the youngest to the oldest they try to hit the Piñata with a stick. usually sticks are decorated with the same colors of the piñata. Smaller kids usually do not get blindfolded but the older ones do. While a kid is hitting the piñata the other kids usually give him directions ("up", "Down", "Behind"). To make it more challenging, the piñata usually must be swung up and down. Kids are allowed to hit the piñata two to three times, depending on how many kids want to play.

Another way to play the game, it's by pulling down ribbons that are attached to the Piñatas bottom and one of the ribbons will tear up the Piñata. This game is played with smaller kids or when people think using a stick is too dangerous"



Now, it's a good time to share your own experiences regarding the Piñata. Ask your audience to share their own experiences as well.



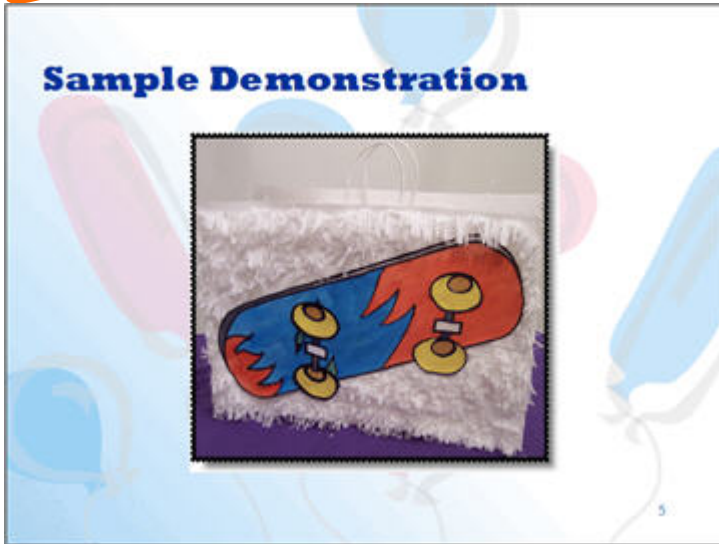
00:10

Sample demonstration

The audience now is getting more exciting about the Piñata. Now it's time to introduce the sample.



Go to slide #5 in the Power Point presentation



Talk about the characteristics of the piñata. Show that it is built using a paper gift bag, and it's decorated with Tissue paper. Show both sides of the Piñata. Let them know that the design and shape of the Piñata can be changed.



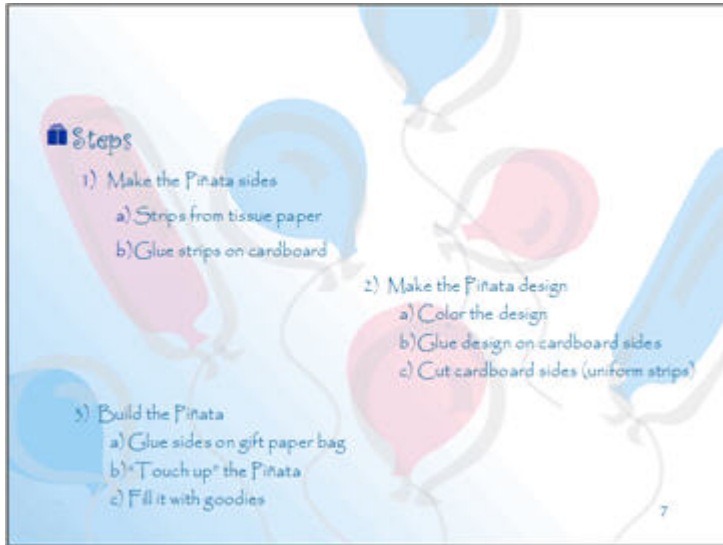
Go to slide #6 in the Power Point presentation

Show and list all the materials needed to build the piñata





Go to slide #7 in the Power Point presentation



Mention the three steps that are needed to build the piñata. Explain that making a piñata can be messy and that they need room, and air to dry it up.

1) Make the Piñata sides



"There are basically three steps to build a simple piñata. The first step is to make the Piñata sides. What do we need? We will need strips of tissue paper. The best way to do it is using a ruler, and cutting long strips. Depending on the piñata size, then it's the number of long strips you will need. The width of the strips is approximately 2 inches. Once have long strips, we will need to make small cuts (about 1/4 inch wide) one next to other in the long strip, leaving about 1/2 inch in the top of the strip."



Show a long strip with the small cuts



"Once we do have all the strips, the next step is to glue them on the cardboard, so we are going to have the piñata sides"



Show a long strip with the small cuts and how to glue it on the cardboards

2) Make the Piñata design



"Now that we have the two sides ready, we are going to let them dry and we are going to color the design. You can use markers, water paints or any other technique. The most important thing is that the piñata must have a design and color. Once the design is ready, glue it to one side of the piñata. You can use different designs for each side or the same one for both. Just personalize it!" Once you are done gluing the design, you must cut the sides of the cardboard so it will look nicer.



Show the piñata with its designs

3) Build the Piñata



"The final step is to glue both cardboard sides to the gift bag. Just take one side, put glue on the bag side and press the side to the bag side. Do the same with the other side. Allow to dry. Once the sides are glued on the bag then use your hands to ruffle the strips to give them some body. The final step is to fill the piñata with your candies and surprises and wait for the party and have fun"



Show the piñata and show how to give volume to the strips.




Ask for question regarding the process



00:20

Make your own Piñata: Step by Step

The audience now is getting more excited about the Piñata. Now it's time to give them the materials and allow them to choose their design. They will work in **pairs**

 Some students will do their piñata very fast without taking too much care about the details. Other students, on the other hand, will be very meticulous and will try to create the best piñata they can. An estimated time has been given to each of the steps for participants working in pairs. Provide feedback to each pair, as needed.



Go to slide #8 in the Power Point presentation



Join in pairs and I will provide you with the materials. Start cutting the strips. You will have 5-10 minutes to do this.



Go to slide #9 in the Power Point presentation



"Now that you're done with the strips, start gluing the strips on the cardboard. You will have 5-10 minutes to do this."



Go to slide #10 in the Power Point presentation



"Let's leave the cardboard for a while and we will do our second step: The Design. You will have 5 minutes to color it"





Go to slide #11 in the Power Point presentation



"Once the design has been painted, it is time to glue it to the piñata sides



Go to slide #12 in the Power Point presentation



"Once you have glued the design, cut off the sides of the cardboards so there are not strips hanging from the side"





Go to slide #13 in the Power Point presentation



"We have reached our last step and we have 5-10 minutes to finish the piñata. We need to glue both cardboard sides to the paper bag"



Go to slide #14 in the Power Point presentation



"Make sure the design is glued so we can give our final touch to the piñata. We will give volume to the strips by ruffling them a bit."



Go to slide #15 in the Power Point presentation




"We now have made our first piñata. We can fill it with candies and surprises and give it as a gift or use it in our next party"



00:50

The Piñata Show

The participants now are perhaps tired or they have gotten excited about their first piñata. It's now time to get all together and presents different piñatas.

 It will be a good idea to provide wipes if there is not a bathroom available so the participants can clean their hands. Make sure that people who did not finish their piñata can concentrate on the show.



Go to slide #16 in the Power Point presentation



"We have had a good time together. You have worked hard and now it's time to see what you have created."



Ask for some volunteers to present their piñatas. If there are no volunteers select 3-5 piñatas to show. Provide feedback according to the three steps explained above: quality of the strips, sides with design, piñata.



00:55

Feedback & Conclusion

The course is now over. You have reached the end of the session and it is now time to summarize what you have done.



Go to slide #17 in the Power Point presentation



"We have seen the great job you have done. I hope you will continue making your own piñatas. Remember that piñatas can be made of different materials and you can use stickers, plates, and ribbons, to decorate them. You can use them in any kind of party. Simply, select the appropriate design for your event. The key element is your imagination and, as in any other activity, have fun"



Ask the trainees to mention the different steps to build the piñata
Ask them to create another piñata using different shape form (circle, heart, diamond, etc.)



01:00

References

Images used on the MS Presentation were taken from:

1. www.inside-mexico.com (Slide 3)
2. www.pepperspollywogs.com (Slide 4)
3. www.gamersblogs.com (Slide 16)
4. Own pictures

More information regarding the Piñatas, its history, types and game rules can be found at:

- www.mexconnect.com/mex/travel/wdevlin/wdpinatahistory.html
- www.party-oz.com/pinatas/
- www.laprensa-sandiego.org/archieve/february06-04/pinata.htm
- www.inside-mexico.com/pinata.htm
- www.spanishtown.ca/familystory3.htm

Synopsis

According to Medsker and Holdsworth, Behavioral Modeling provides the opportunity to the audience, in a given learning process, to practice the key behaviors. In order to do this, it is necessary that the instruction can be structured in a sequence of critical steps and presented visually so learners can imitate, practice, analyze and receive positive feedback.

Because the piñata use soft skills and it is much easier to see a model and repeat the process with guidance, the Behavioral Modeling strategy was selected. As described on page 50 of Medsker and Holdsworth, the Behavioral modeling methodology has six components. Four of them were applied on this instructional guide and, it is expected that trainees will continue mastering the new skill:

| Component | Description | Reference in the Instructional Guide |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Prescribed Critical Steps/Behaviors | Identify critical steps that expert practitioners use when making a piñata | The process of creating the piñata was analyzed and the steps were grouped in three main steps. These steps are presented during the instruction in the section Sample Demonstration , see Slide 07. |
| Credible Model | Provide a video model of the critical steps | A videotape is not provided, instead the instructor demonstrates all the steps during the Sample Demonstration , see Slide 07 |
| Skill Practice Exercises | Provide rehearsal and practice of the critical steps | During the section Make your own piñata: Step by Step , trainees have the opportunity to create their own piñata. Furthermore the <i>Student_Instructional_Guide.pdf</i> document provide them with guidance to be able to do the three tasks in their own. |

| Component | Description | Reference in the Instructional Guide |
|--|---|---|
| Specific Feedback and Social Reinforcement | Provide feedback and positively reinforcement to the trainees | During The Piñata Show , trainees are invited to present their products and the instructor provides feedback to the job they did. |
| Transfer Strategies | Increase the difficulty and reality of the skill practice to provide better transfer to the workplace | The students are invited to explore more alternatives to create other kind the piñatas during the Feedback and Conclusion session. It is expected that they will continue mastering their skills either by their own or through a different course. |
| On-the-job Reinforcement | Provide training to trainee's supervisors in same skills, instruction methodology and reinforcement | The course has been designed to be given to independent individuals, not under a formal education environment. Therefore this component has not been implemented in this instructional material. However, the same guide can be used for example in a Piñata factory to train new employees. In this case, this component may be included on the guide. |