

# Party Time

3rd - 6th Grade

## OBJECTIVE

To plan a party.

## MATERIALS

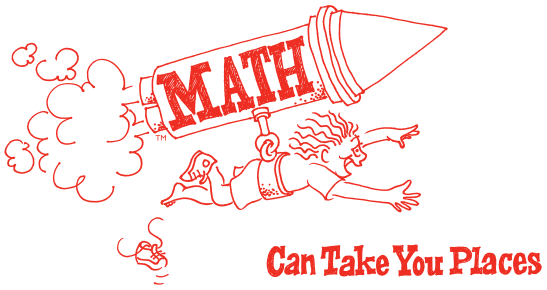
- Pencils and paper
- Construction paper
- Markers

## BEFORE YOU START

- You may want to save this activity until there is actually an event to plan, then use the students' input to help with planning.
- Write each of the five different parts of the party (games, desert, main food, party theme and music) on large construction paper so students can make their graphs. Have them posted around the room.
- To make the activity quicker and simpler, you may want to have the choices already narrowed down and written on each of the graphs.
- Provide catalogs or Internet access for students to use to be able to determine prices of items needed if you are asking the students to consider the prices for items.
- During the activity, be sure to emphasize the problem-solving process of making a reasonable plan and carrying it out. Try not to let the students get too bogged down in the details. Help them to keep the planning moving.

## HOW TO START

Say, "We are going to have a party. However, a lot of planning goes into big events. We are going to all work together to plan the different parts of the party." (If the students are actually planning for an event, offer them some specific details about the event.)



### FOCUS AREA

Problem Solving

### ACTIVITY TYPE

Budgeting

### MATH GOAL

To create graphs and to understand budgeting

### RECOMMENDED NUMBER OF STUDENTS

Five groups of three to six students up to 30 students

### TIME NEEDED

60 minutes

## STEPS

### Step 1

Allow students to brainstorm and list their top four choices for the following parts of the party: Games, dessert, main food, party theme and music. As they call out the ideas, write them at the bottom of that construction paper. Make sure that there is plenty of space above each name. You may want to limit the nomination time to ten minutes.

### Step 2

Once all of the nominations are in, have students put their heads down and raise their hands when you call out the choice they like most for each one. Use the marker to make a large dot for each student's vote, making a graph. For example, if eight students vote for a sports party, then draw eight dots above "sports party" on your construction paper. When all votes are in, talk with the students about which items in each category received the most votes.

### Step 3

Next, divide the students into five groups to form the committees responsible for planning the five areas. Tell the groups that they must come up with a step-by-step plan for how they are going to make their particular item happen. You can also give them a time limit or a pretend budget if you would like. Or, to make it more challenging, tell them that they need to spend as little money as possible. If you want the students to consider the costs, provide Internet access, flyers or catalogs to help them make their choices.

### Step 4

When the plans are completed, give each group a few minutes to present them to the class. Ask the listening students to offer suggestions on items they may have missed, etc. If you intend to actually use these suggestions, share with the class what the next steps in the process would be.

## WRAP UP

Say, "A class at another location is trying to plan a party, but they don't know what steps to take. Thinking about what we just did, what steps can we advise them to take?" Choose volunteers to share what they think would be the first step, second and so on so that the students summarize what they have learned about party planning.

## **OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES**

- Create a “Party Planning” book with the general steps in the front, the individual steps listed in different section and the helpful hints throughout. Let students illustrate.
- Allow the students to create invitations for the event.
- Research the careers related to event planning and share interesting information with the class.

## **WEB RESOURCES**

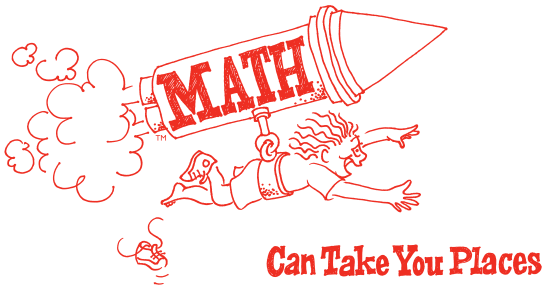
- Party food recipes for kids and more: [http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/Party/foods\\_des.html](http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/Party/foods_des.html)
- Party themes, supplies with prices and free catalog: [www.orientaltrading.com](http://www.orientaltrading.com)
- Simple party games: <http://www.kidsdomain.com/holiday/birthday/party.html>

## **SUGGESTED MATH CAN TAKE YOU PLACES CONNECTIONS**

From the *Math Can Take You Places Classroom Materials*, lesson plan “Away We Go” (Reasonableness), student video DVD, Episode 3: “Amazing Amusement” (Reasonableness)

## **LITERARY CONNECTIONS**

- *The Baby Sitter's Club Claudia's Big Party* by Ann M. Martin
- *You've Got Social Manners!: Party Pointers from A to Z for Kids of All Ages* by Louise Elerding



## Activity Cue Card

- Write each of the five different parts of the party (games, dessert, main food, party theme and music) on large construction paper and post them around the room.
- Let students make four nominations for what the main part of each of the different areas should be.
- Have students put their heads down and vote for their favorite choice for each part of the party.
- Divide the class into five groups and assign each group one part of the party to plan for (offer a budget if you choose).
- Allow each group to share their plan with the class and listen to feedback from the other students.
- Have a party!