LET'S BUILD A PINATA WITH THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MEXICAN ART
Let’s Make a Piñata!

A piñata is a container/vessel often made of papier-mâché, pottery, or cloth; it is brightly decorated with vibrant paper, and filled with small toys, fruit and candy, and then broken as part of a ceremony or celebration. Piñatas are commonly associated with Mexico. The idea of breaking a vessel filled with treats came to Europe in the 14th century, where the name, from the Italian pignatta, was introduced. The Spanish brought the European tradition to Mexico, although there were similar traditions in Pre Cuahtémoc times, such as the Aztecs’ honoring the birthday of the god Huītzilōpōchtli in mid-December. According to local records, the Mexican piñata tradition began in the town of Acolman, just north of Mexico City, where piñatas were introduced for catechism purposes as well as to co-opt the Huītzilōpōchtli ceremony. Today, the piñata is still part of Mexican culture, the cultures of other countries in Latin America, as well as the United States, but it has mostly lost its religious character.
WHAT MATERIALS DO YOU NEED FOR THIS PROJECT

BALLOON, NEWSPAPER, COLORFUL STEAMERS/CREPE PAPER, COLORFUL CONSTRUCTION PAPER, SCISSORS, GLUE, TAPE, 1 CUP OF FLOUR, MIXING BOWL, SPOONFUL OF SUGAR, 1 CUP OF HOT WATER.
LET’S MAKE A PINATA!

**STEP 1**
BEGIN BY MAKING PAPIER MACHE MIX BY ADDING 1 CUP OF FLOUR AND 1 CUP OF HOT WATER INTO A MIXING BOWL. MIX UNTIL YOU GET RID OF SOME OF THE CLUMPS. ADD A SPOONFUL OF SUGAR AND CONTINUE MIXING UNTIL IT IS COMPLETELY SMOOTH AND YOU HAVE A PANCAKE LIKE CONSISTENCY.
LET'S MAKE A PINATA!

STEP 2
INFLATE AND TIE YOUR BALLOON.

STEP 3
CUT NEWSPAPER INTO STRIPS.
LET'S MAKE A PINATA!

STEP 4
APPLY THE PAPER MACHÉ ONTO THE BALLOON BY DIPPING THE STRIPS INTO THE PASTE AND RUNNING IT THROUGH YOUR PINCHED FINGERS.
STEP 5

CONTINUE APPLYING PAPIER MACHE COVERED STRIPS ONTO THE BALLOON UNTIL YOU HAVE AT LEAST 4–6 LAYERS.
LET’S MAKE A PIÑATA!

STEP 6
ROLE CONSTRUCTION PAPER INTO CONES. ADD THE CONES ONTO THE PIÑATA USING MASKING TAPE.
LET’S MAKE A PINATA!

**Step 7**

Cut strips of crepe paper and stack them in multiple layers to cut fringes.
LET’S MAKE A PINATA!

STEP 8
CUT 2 HOLES TO PULL THE STRING THROUGH
LET'S MAKE A PIÑATA!

STEP 9
ADD GLUE TO STRIPS OF CREPE PAPER/STREAMER PAPER AND BEGIN APPLYING AROUND THE CONES. CONTINUE APPLYING UNTIL THE PIÑATA IS FULLY COVERED.
LET'S MAKE A PINATA!

STEP 10
POP AND REMOVE THE BALLOON. FILL THE INSIDE WITH CANDY AND ENJOY.