

Introduction:

This activity is designed to get you thinking about children's culture abroad, especially how it is and isn't like children's culture in the United States. As a group you must gather information about popular children's themes and images to decide the way you will plan and decorate for a child's birthday celebration. More importantly, you need to be able to plan a birthday party that is not only realistic for a kid of the culture in question, but also allows you to talk about what you are learning about that culture. In other words, this activity asks you to think symbolically as well as literally.

Materials:

A phone or camera to take pictures, materials for note taking (pen/pencil, notepad, or phone/tablet), artifacts or photos to act as a visual aid to your presentation.

Instructions:

After your group gathers information and designs your party, you will give a presentation that answers the following questions:

1. What is the party's theme? Why did you choose it?
2. What food will you serve? Will there be a birthday cake? How did you decide?
3. About how much will your food budget be? Be specific.
4. What games will be played?
5. What other traditional activities will be included?
6. What books will the child receive as a gift?
7. What toys will the child receive as a gift?
8. What clothes will the child receive as a gift?
9. What games will the child receive as a gift?
10. How does this party's theme speak to the host culture more broadly?

Note: Your presentation should also include visual aids. These can either be photos or artifacts that you collect as you do your research.

Evaluation

This is about gathering information through observation, connections, creativity, and deductive reasoning. Originality is valued here. Points will be assigned as a reflection of both the product and process of your birthday party planning.