

The week before this meeting send a note home inviting Mothers if you want as this makes a great Mother – daughter night. Also be sure to tell the girls to come dressed as princesses.

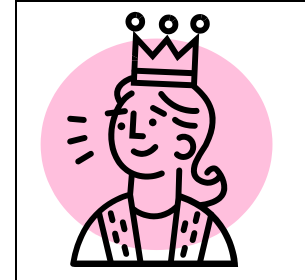
Gathering Activity:

Print off the castle picture and have the girls color while you are waiting on everyone to arrive.

Opening

Activity 1:

Talk about how birthdays are celebrated in different countries.

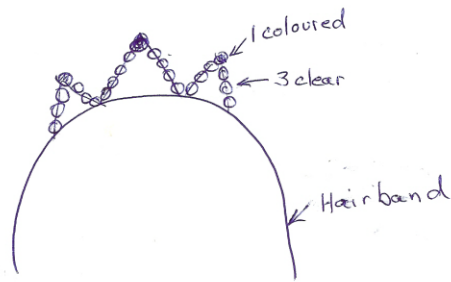


Craft: Tiaras

You'll need for each tiara: Narrow plastic hair band, 20 clear crystal beads, 3 colored crystal beads, 1 sliver craft stem

Wrap end of stem about 4in. From center of hair band. Put on 3 clear beads, 1 coloured bead, then 3 more clear beads, wrap around hair band about 2 in. from center.

Put 4 clear beads, 1 coloured bead and 4 clear beads wrap around hair band . 3 clear beads, 1 coloured bead 3 clear.



Activity 2: Lunch

A cup cake with a birthday candle in it for each Spark and some special Princess Punch. Be sure to sing Happy Birthday.

Song:

Thorn Rosa (found in Sing a Song for Sparks and Brownies)

Closing:

Birthday traditions form around the world.

Russia

Children have a birthday party but instead of a birthday cake, a birthday pie is traditional. A birthday greeting is carved into the crust.

At children's parties, a popular game involves a clothesline with prizes are hung from it and each guest gets to cut down a prize to take home.

Brazil

In Brazil birthday candies are given which are shaped like fruit and vegetables. Their houses are decorated with paper flowers and instead of a birthday spanking and a "pinch to grow an inch", Brazilians pull on children's earlobes for each year of their birthday.

Africa

In various African nations they hold initiation ceremonies for groups of children instead of birthdays. When children reach a certain designated age, they learn the laws, beliefs, customs, songs and dances of their tribes.

Israel

In Israel on your birthday you wear a crown made from leaves or flowers and sit in a chair of honor. Guests dance around the chair singing. The parents lift the chair while the child sits in it (similar to what you may have seen at a Jewish wedding). While a child is sitting in the chair their parents raise and lower it a number of times corresponding to the child's age, plus one for good luck.

China

In China everyone celebrates their birthday on New Year even if it is not the official date of their birthday. They turn another year older on this day.

They believe that when a baby is born that he or she is already one year old..

England

The English celebrate birthdays with a Fortune Telling Cake. Small, symbolic objects are baked right into the cake, your fortune is revealed depending on which token you get in your slice.

Egypt

In Egypt people love having really large birthday parties with lots of friends and family. There are usually two different birthday cakes served. One has candles and one does not.

They decorate their homes with garlands of paper that look like chains of snowflakes.

