

# Maria's Adventures

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## Story Building Activity

This book/kit represents the laser cut patch of Maria. Whenever someone sees Maria on your vest, totebag, or banner they will know that you have contributed to Maria's adventure. She is from Mexico. Included in this kit is an introduction about her life, culture, and clothing she wears. In addition, there are crafts, games, and recipes that will enhance your knowledge of her country and lifestyle.

Read Maria's story and take the laser cut patch of Maria on an adventure of your own. There are several pages of decorated stationary to write your adventures with Maria on. Don't forget to draw a picture of you and Maria. Pass your book around to your other friends so they can have fun with their own Maria patch as well. If you run out of pages to write

your stories on, you can always add more pages to the book or write on the back of the pages.

After you have completed your adventures with Maria you can **mail** or **email** copies of your stories to Patchwork Designs, Inc. and we will place these stories on Maria's web page it will be fun to see where Maria goes. We will not include full names on the website due to security issues. You will want to keep a laser cut Maria for yourself so you can remember the adventure you went on with her.

These kits books can be shared to write stories in but can only be copied for the activity sheets or puzzles not in full for distribution. I

Use these for Thinking Day events and other group projects.



**Maria**

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                      |      |
|----------------------|------|
| Maria's Story        | 2-3  |
| Recipes              | 4    |
| Games/puzzle         | 5-6  |
| Crafts               | 7    |
| Write your adventure | 8-20 |
| Ordering information | 21   |
| Shipping Chart       | 22   |

### COLLECT OTHER PATCHES OR BOOKS ABOUT MEXICO.

- *Historically Speaking Mexico patch and manual.*
- *The Mystery of the Broken Maracas. (bar and mystery patch)*



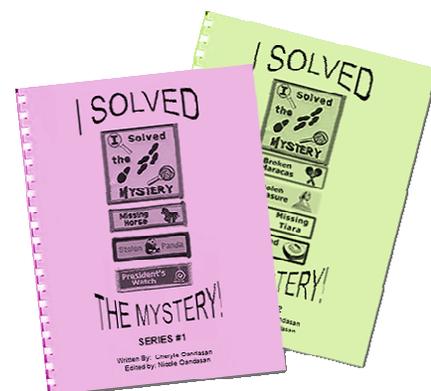
**Kara**



**Elizabeth**



**Yoshiko**

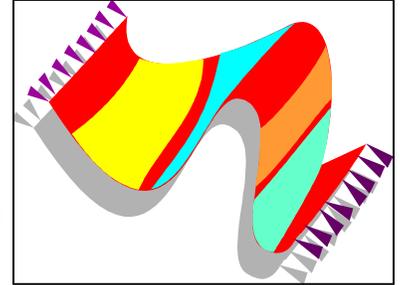


# Maria's Adventures



Hello, *Hola* (oh-lah), my name is Maria. I live near the capitol city of Mexico, Mexico City. In Mexico, we speak Spanish.

I live in a small home on the outside of the city and everyday I go with my family to the market. At the market we sell fruit and vegetables that we harvest from our garden and *ponchos*, *serapes* and *rebozas* that we make at home. We also make some of our clothes because we have a loom in our house.



Mama helps me braid my long hair everyday for school. I usually put flowers in my hair from the garden in front of our house before I walk to school. I pack my lunch everyday. We eat a lot of corn, beans, rice, fruit, and vegetables. *Empanaditas*, (em pah nah dee tahs) turnovers, are my favorite. I like the cheese ones the best.



Every year when *Cinco de Mayo* (seen-koh duh mai-oh), The fifth of May, occurs, my family travels into the city to watch the festivities. We watch the parades in the street and participate in folk dancing while listening to music. There are also parades for Christmas starting December 16<sup>th</sup> and the celebrations don't end until January 6<sup>th</sup>, then we give presents on *Dia de los Santos Reyes* (dee-ah duh loh-ss sahn-tohn-ss ray-ess).



My family also goes on a trip every other year to visit the Mayan ruins deep in the rainforest. We pack a large picnic and stay with relatives on the way. I always look forward to these trips to the city and the ruins because I get to spend time with my family and dress up in special clothing. On the way to the city and the ruins, I also get to eat *churros* (choo-rows), which are pieces of fried dough covered in cinnamon sugar. We also get to drink *chamurrado* (ch-ahm-poo-rah-doe), hot chocolate.

When it is someone's birthday, we all dress up and have a big celebration. I love to wear my brightly colored skirt that has the turquoise, white, and green stripes. My white blouse called a *camisa* (ka me sa). It has puffy sleeves that are tied at the bottom edges. My mama lets me wear my hair down with a pretty headband in my hair.

For my last birthday, I got a big rainbow colored *piñata* (pin-yah-tah) in the shape of a donkey. Everyone took a turn hitting it until little pieces of candy came out. After everyone took their share of the candy, we played music using tambourines, drums, *maracas* (mah-rah-kah-s), and flutes. While the music was playing, we danced around a *sombrero* and others played games with the *pon top* (pawn tahp) and tossed paper flowers.



Why don't you take me with you on an adventure and show me what your life is like? Use the following pages to write about our adventures together.

Extra information:

We have included crafts and recipes in this adventure book so you can create paper flowers, play a game, or create a recipe, from Maria's country.

For more fun representing Mexico check out the following programs we offer:

Historically Speaking Mexico Patch Program

I solved a Mystery of the Broken Maracas Patch Program—  
(series # 2)

# Recipes

## **Empanaditas**

2 packages of refrigerated pie crust circles  
1/2 cup of salsa  
1/2 pound of ground beef or turkey  
1 tablespoon of brown sugar  
1 egg  
2 tablespoons of milk  
1/4 cup of onion, chopped  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1/8 teaspoon of pepper  
1/4 cup of cottage cheese  
Circle cookie cutter or the bottom of glass  
(optional 2 teaspoons of raisins or 1/8 teaspoon of cinnamon)

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Cook the beef or turkey in a skillet over medium heat until brown. Drain if needed. Stir in onion, salsa, raisins, salt and pepper. Bring to a rapid boil and then let it simmer for ten minutes until it forms a paste like substance, remove from heat. Place in a mixing bowl.

Cut the pie crusts in approximately 3 inch circles with a glass or cookie cutter.

Place cottage cheese, brown sugar, and milk inside mixing bowl. Mix thoroughly. Begin spooning about a tablespoon of filling in the center of the pastry circle. Press the edge with a fork to seal the outside.

Separate egg. Using only the egg white, brush the top and edges of the pastry.

Place on an ungreased cooking sheet and bake until golden brown. About 15-20 minutes.

## **Easy Churros**

1 can of breadsticks (found in the dairy section)  
1 cup of sugar  
1 tablespoon of cinnamon  
Butter and pastry brush

Preheat oven according to the directions on the can. Pull the breadsticks out of the can and twist them. Place breadsticks on cooking sheet. Remove them from the oven when they are golden brown. In the meantime, mix sugar and cinnamon in a bowl. Melt butter in microwave or over low heat.

Slide the breadsticks onto waxed or parchment paper. While they are still warm brush them with butter and sprinkle them with cinnamon and sugar mixture.

Eat warm.

# Games

## Mexican Hat Dance

Sombrero  
Mexican music



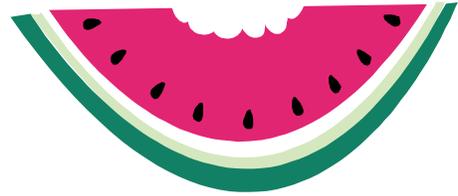
If you do not have a sombrero then you can use a wide brimmed hat.

Lay the hat in the center of the room. Have the participants form a circle around it. For large groups you may need to use more than one hat. Play a recording of the Mexican hat dance, if you have it. If not you can use any Mexican decent type music. Ask everyone to move clockwise around the hat. Don't forget to tell them to stomp their feet and clap their hands. Traditionally, when the dance is performed the participants try to touch the rim of the hat with their feet as they move around it.

## Cantaloupe and Watermelon or To The Viper

At least 5 players to play the game. Of course, the more the participants the longer the game will last.

Have two volunteers step forward to create an arch by holding hands and rising them over their heads. One of the volunteers is secretly named the cantaloupe while the other is the watermelon. The participants do not know which is which. The rest of the participants walk through the arched hands while the two volunteers chant the following song.



To the viper, to the viper, of the sea,  
Through here one child wishes to pass.  
Which one will it be?  
The one in the front or the one behind?  
The one in the front runs too fast,  
The one behind shall remain.

When the volunteers say the word remain the arch lowers and captures the player. The two volunteers ask the player if they wish to be the cantaloupe or the watermelon. The captured player then whispers their choice in their ear and they create a group behind the fruit they have chose. The volunteer that has the most players on their side at the end of the game is the winner.

Start the game again with choosing new volunteers to hold the arch.

Reference: Jumbo Book Of Games. Teacher Created Materials, Inc. Copyright 1999.

# Maria's Word Search

O O B Q T M S B E Q C V H Y P  
 H K R E B C A P T E U S C A C  
 C E R R A S A R L P I B A D I  
 N P N M U R Y E I N Z M N H N  
 O U I I E H B F A A U Z D T C  
 P S T S R R C P L S M E Y R O  
 A L O H A U S N I O E F S I D  
 U X E T R H O C U K W I X B E  
 Z C I D R B A B J F D E G Y M  
 J O A T A N I P M F C S R I A  
 N R E B O Z A M I A S T C S Y  
 Y T I C O C I X E M T A U V O  
 F R U T M A R A C A S Y J M S  
 H V O C J B Z R I I T A Q O V  
 S X Y N L K R Z M R D V H M G

Find the following words in the puzzle above. Some may be two or three words but they are found as one.

BIRTHDAY

CELEBRATION

FIESTA

HOLA

MEXICO CITY

PONCHO

SPANISH

CAMISA

CHURRO

FLOWERS

MARACAS

MUSIC

REBOZA

TAMBOURINE

CANDY

CINCO DE MAYO

FUN

MARIA

PINATA

SERAPE

# Crafts

## **Rebozo**

Cotton or 50/50 solid fabric in vibrant colors

6-8 inches wide per participant (use the 45 inch width of the fabric for the length)

scissors

pony beads (optional)

Purchase the amount of fabric needed to create serapes for everyone in the group. There are 36 inches in a yard, therefore you should be able to get at least 5 serapes a yard depending on the width of the rebozo.

Cut one inch wide fringes in the fabric. If the participants are old enough, let them fringe the bottom with scissors.

They should cut at least 1 1/2- 2 inch long strips at the end so they can knot the ends.

For an extra touch they can string a bead on the cut fringe. Tie a knot at the bottom of the fringe after you place the bead on.

Place the completed rebozo around your shoulders and let it cascade down the front of you.

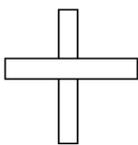
**God's Eye**- Children may receive God's eyes for special occasions, especially birthdays. The eye is begun at birth and the colors change on the God's eye every year until they are five.

Multi colored yarn (see examples of colors below)

popscicle sticks (2 per child)

scissors

glue



Cross the 2 sticks in the middle and secure them with glue. Begin wrapping the yarn around the center cross over and securing the two sticks together. Tie one end of the yarn at the center of the crossed sticks, so they remain secure. Build up the yarn in the center until it is completely secured and covered. This creates the eye.

Continue wrapping around the sticks from corner to corner until the sticks are almost completely covered. Glue the end of the yarn to the back of the design tucking the end under some of the weaving.

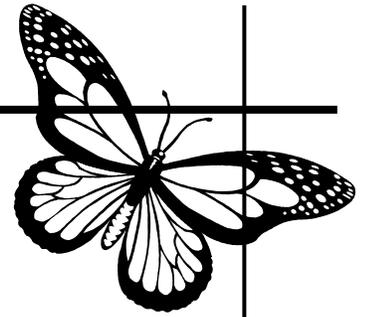
### **Examples of color choices:**

Blues and turquoise = the rain god

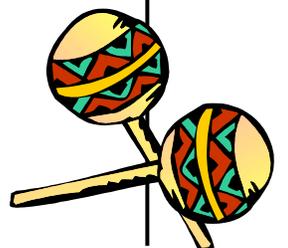
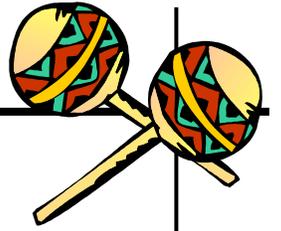
Shades of greens = the god of fertility

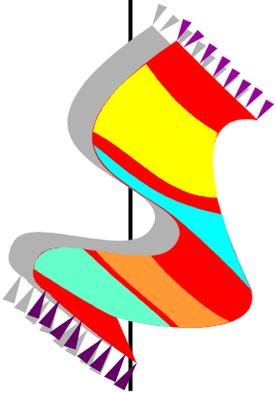
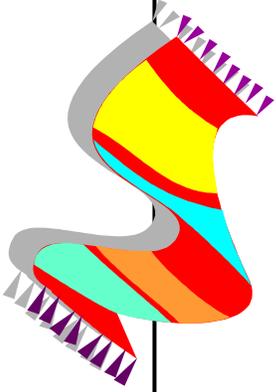
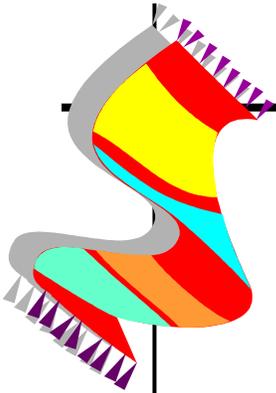
Yellow and gold = the sun god

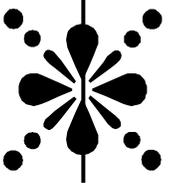
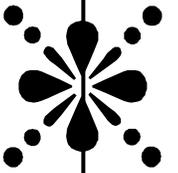
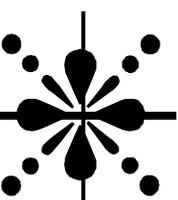


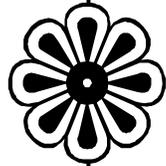
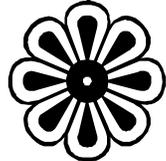
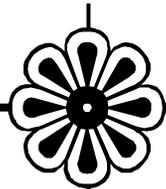


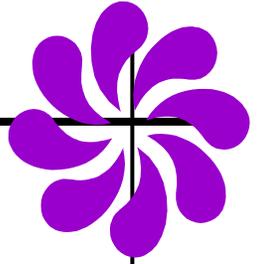


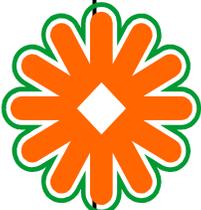
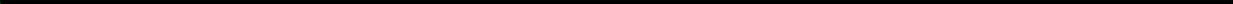
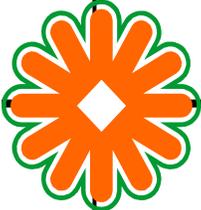




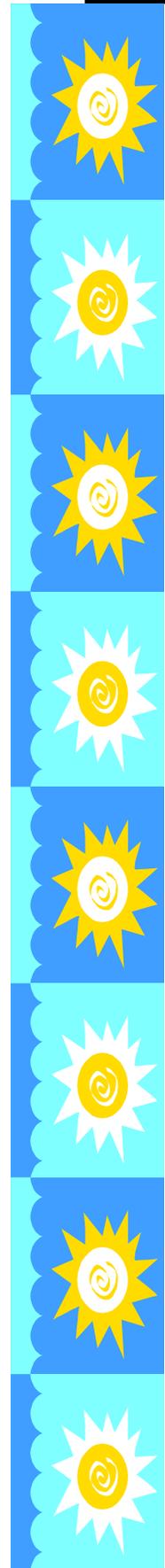


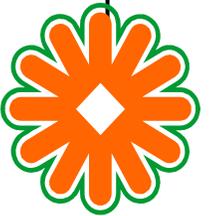
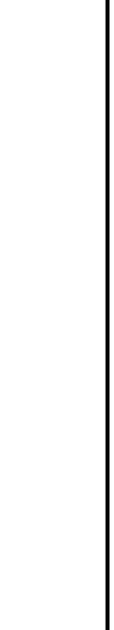
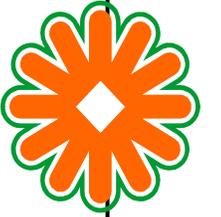
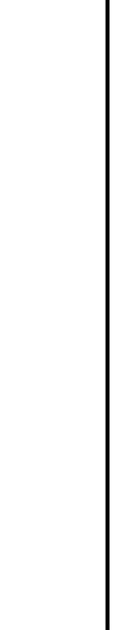
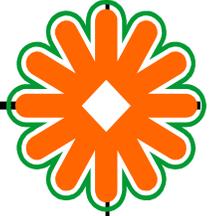
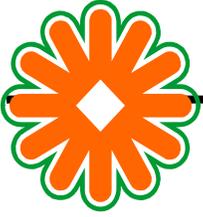


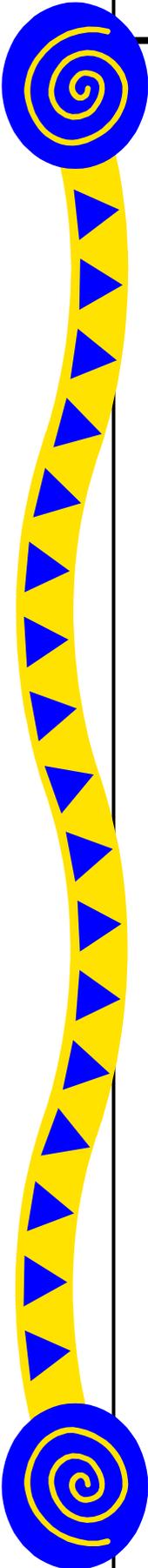












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| MEX-MAN  | Mexico Manual                         |          | \$6.00     | \$          |
| MYS-maracas  | I Solved a Mystery Bar-Broken Maracas |          | \$1.00     | \$          |
| MYS-Patch  | I solved a mystery Patch              |          | \$1.75     | \$          |
|  |                                       |          |            | \$          |
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Kits and manuals range from 30 to 62 pages in length (except the Patch Program Book, that is over 100). Therefore if you are ordering more than 2 kits or manuals, please use the above shipping chart.