

Mission worker Marilyn Hanger says she associates the star piñata with Christmas in Mexico. Allow at least four days to make the piñata from start to finish. The process is especially fun if several people work together to make one or more piñatas. You may want to organize a piñata-decorating party for the second step.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- newspapers (black and white and colored)
- plain newsprint or paper towels
- wallpaper paste or liquid starch (or homemade paste of flour and water)
- sheet cake pan
- very large balloon (one per piñata)
- heavy twine or nylon cord
- masking tape
- “X-Acto”-style knife and scissors
- thin, flexible 9-inch paper plates
- glue or transparent tape
- colored tissue paper or crepe paper
- curling ribbon (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1: (A) Tear or cut newspapers into strips roughly 3 x 6 inches, keeping colored strips separate. Also cut strips from plain newsprint or paper towels. **(B)** Mix wallpaper paste into cream-like consistency and pour into pan or, if using

liquid starch, pour starch into pan. **(C)** Blow up balloon as large as possible and knot securely. **(D)** Dip newspaper strips into paste or starch and begin covering balloon with strips of paper, alternating layers of black and white and colored strips so you’ll know it’s getting covered evenly. Do only three layers. Add a final layer of plain newsprint or paper towels. **(E)** Allow to dry thoroughly (hang outside in the sunshine if possible) for two to three days.

Step 2: (A) Tie twine or cord around

dried piñata form and make a hanging loop at the top, as shown in Figure A.

Fasten securely with masking tape. **(B)** Use knife to cut small flap near top, in which to inset candies and nuts. Puncture and remove balloon. Leave flap open as you decorate the piñata. **(C)**

Take five paper plates and make a cut halfway through each. With ruffled edge turned inward, form each into a cone and staple or tape, as shown in Figure B.

Use masking tape to secure four cones, evenly spaced, around the sides, and one on the bottom to look like Figure C.

(D) Fasten streamers of paper or curling ribbon to the tip of each cone. **(E)** Glue on several layers of colored crepe or tissue paper and add paper frills, stars, fringe, or other decorations. **(F)** Fill piñata with unshelled peanuts and fruit-flavored candies, tape flap securely shut, and cover tape with a paper decoration.

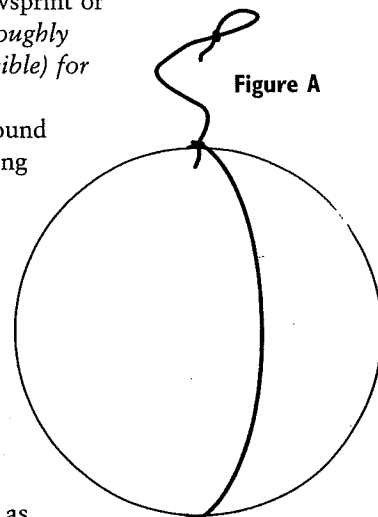


Figure A

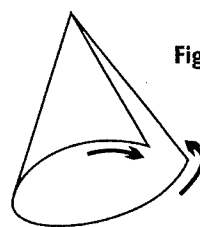


Figure B

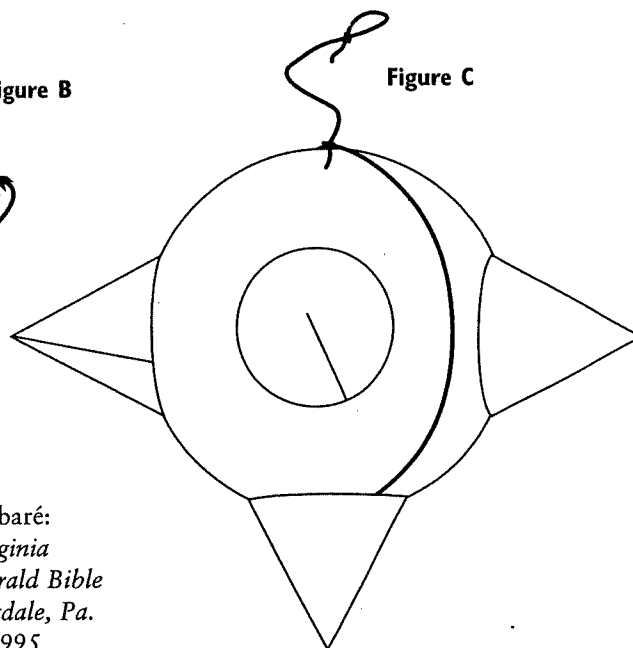


Figure C

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