



Rumble in the Jungle Birthday Party



(Ages 3-7)

Throw your own Rumble in the Jungle to
celebrate your child's birthday!

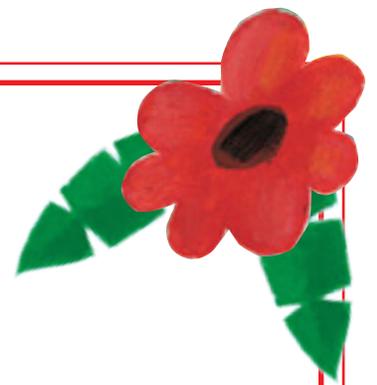
Invitations

Fill in the details on the invitation for your party and print the correct quantity.





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Decorations

- If the party will be outside, hang green paper streamers from trees or your swing set. If you are inside, you can hang the streamers from lights and the ceiling.
- Make a sign that says "Welcome to the Jungle" for your front door.
- Purchase several yards of animal print fabric to use as tablecloths. Use the picture book *Rumble in the Jungle* as the centerpiece.
- Rope off an area in your yard or living room for the "Jungle Petting Zoo." Add a homemade sign.
- Decorate your driveway with an animal "paw print" trail leading to your front door. Cut paw prints out of cardboard and tape them to your driveway, or draw them with chalk.



Favors and Prizes

Shop for small animal-themed novelty items, such as figures, noses, stickers, wind-up toys, and/or coloring books. And of course, give each party guest a box of animal crackers!

Welcome

- As children arrive, ask them to place their "wild animals" in the Jungle Petting Zoo.
- Jungle mural: While you wait for everyone to arrive, keep early guests busy with a jungle mural. Spread a large roll of white or brown paper (available at craft stores) on a floor, driveway, or tabletop. Leave a supply of markers, crayons, and/or colored pencils in the area. You can help get the creativity flowing by printing and gluing some of the illustrations from page six randomly on the paper.

Party Activities

Once everyone has arrived, get them in the mood to party by reading "There's a Rumble in the Jungle," the first poem of the book. Then choose any or all of the party activities below!

1. Chimpanzee – Read the Chimpanzee poem and then play **Monkey in the Middle**: Have the kids form a big circle with one child standing in the middle. The object of the game is for the kids to toss a ball (a beach ball works great) around the circle without letting the monkey (in the middle) intercept it. If the monkey catches the ball, then the person who threw it becomes the next monkey.
2. **Best Chimpanzee Contest**: Encourage the kids to make noises and act like monkeys. Enlist other adults to judge the competition. Award prizes for the funniest, loudest, silliest, most realistic, and squeakiest noises, so everyone gets a prize.

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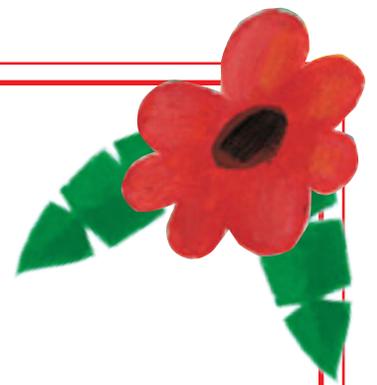


3. Read the Lion poem and then play **Catch the Lion by the Tail**: This is a variation of the classic "Duck, Duck, Goose" game. Have the kids sit in a circle on the floor. One player (the Lion) has a "tail" (a yellow piece of fabric with a knot on one end) tucked into his waistband or back pocket. The Lion goes around the circle tagging each player lightly on the back while saying "Lion." The Lion should then tag someone randomly and shout "Hyena!" The Lion must run around the circle and try to take Hyena's spot before being caught. If Hyena snatches Lion's tail, then Hyena becomes the Lion, and if not the Lion continues ruling the jungle.
4. Elephant – Read the Elephant poem and then go on **The Great Peanut Hunt**: Before the party, hide one bag of candy circus peanuts in your house or yard. At the party, get the kids to transform into elephants and have them look for the candy bag. Once it's found, the guests can share the candy.
5. Giraffe – After reading the Giraffe poem, let the children **Eat Like a Giraffe!** Using string, hang doughnuts (masquerading as leaves) from the limbs of a tree, your swing set, or a rope hung inside your house. Hang them at an appropriate height so kids can reach them with their mouths. Tell kids to keep their hands behind their backs and eat the hanging "leaves" from the trees – just like a giraffe!
6. **What Animal Am I?**: Print the illustrations on page six. Cut out each picture and glue them onto index cards. Have each child pick a card. Taking turns they should then try to act out the animal on their card (no talking, but animal sounds encouraged!) and have everyone else guess what animal they are.
7. **Snake, Crocodile, Gazelle**: Read the Snake, Crocodile, and Gazelle poems and then play this fun version of "Red Light, Green Light." Have the children line up in a large area (yard or playroom). Stand a good distance away from them. When you call "Snakes Go!" they must slither on the ground toward you. When you call "Snakes Stop!" they must stop wherever they are. When you call "Crocodiles Go!" they continue walking toward you while using their arms to open and snap shut their "mouths." When you call "Crocodiles Stop!" they stop. When you call "Gazelles Go!" they can run toward you until you say "Gazelles Stop!" Alternate between the animals until the kids have all reached the finish line. You can vary this game using any animals you want.
8. **Jungle Petting Zoo**: Give each child an opportunity to introduce the "wild pet" he or she brought to the party and let everyone have a chance to visit all of the animals.





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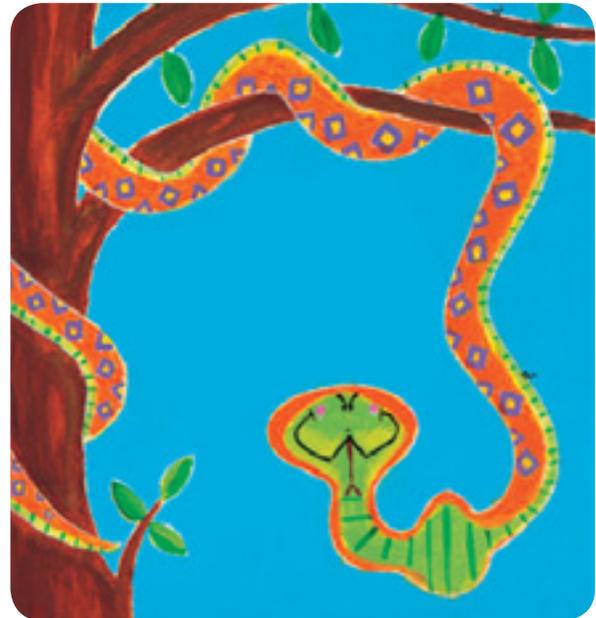
Time to Eat

When tummies start to rumble, it's time to eat! Serve a simple menu including Ape Smoothies made with bananas, Leopard Pizza (pepperoni pizza), animal crackers, and jungle punch (fruit punch).

Make this impressive, yet simple **Snake Cake**:

What you need:

- 2 tube or bundt cake pans
- 2 boxes cake mix
- 3 cans vanilla frosting
- Green food coloring
- 2 blue gumballs
- Red fruit by the foot
- Yellow round candies (such as M&M's® or NECCO Wafers®)

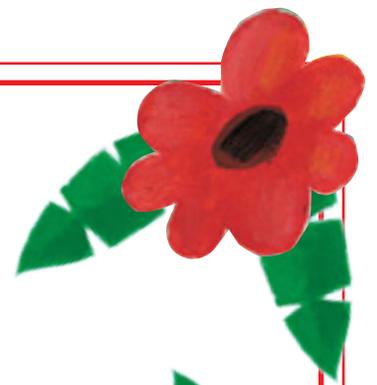


What you do:

1. Make two tube or bundt cakes following package instructions.
2. Scoop the frosting out of the cans and into a large bowl.
3. Add several drops of green food coloring and mix frosting until it is a nice green color.
4. Cut the cake rings in half and arrange them into a single, slithery snake pattern.
5. Use frosting to attach the pieces and then cover the whole cake with frosting.
6. Cut a piece of fruit by the foot into a tongue shape. Attach tongue and gumball eyes to the snake's head.
7. Decorate with yellow candies to create spots.



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More Cake and Cupcake Ideas

How to Make a Lion Cake

Using vanilla or chocolate cake mix, bake the cake in a lion-shaped pan according to package directions.

Make one batch of vanilla buttercream frosting and one batch of chocolate buttercream frosting.

Tint the vanilla frosting with a few drops of yellow food coloring. Ice the cake. Create a lion's face using the chocolate frosting or decorating gels.

Sugar Cookie Decorating

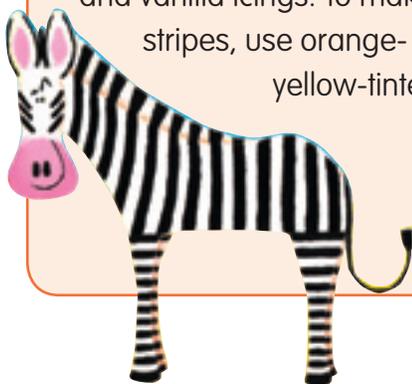
You'll need your favorite sugar cookie recipe or store-bought dough, animal-shaped cookie cutters, and an assortment of colorful icings.

When your guests arrive, set out the icing and give each child a cookie to decorate.



Animal Patterned Cupcakes

Using vanilla or chocolate cake mix, prepare cupcakes according to package directions. To decorate, create zebra stripes using chocolate and vanilla icings. To make tiger stripes, use orange- and yellow-tinted icings.



Plastic Animal Toppers

This decorating option takes the least amount of work. Ice the cupcakes in any color. You can ice them smooth or use a decorating tip to make a swirl of frosting. Place a new, clean plastic animal toy on the top of each cupcake. The children can take the toys home as party favors.

