

# perfect Mexican party games

## JUMPING BEANS

This is a good fiesta party game for the younger kids and gets them to use up a lot of energy. Explain that a Mexican jumping bean has a type of caterpillar pupa inside and that when it gets warm, the caterpillar starts to twitch and fidget which makes the beans jump. Put on some Mexican music and get the kids to jump about like the beans but when the music stops, everyone has to stand very still. Any 'bean' caught twitching is out and can then be your helper in spotting the next twitching bean.



## PASS THE SOMBRERO

A bit like 'pass the parcel' but instead the kids have to pass a sombrero. Sit the kids in a circle, put on some Mexican music and get the kids to pass round the sombrero. Each time it is passed to them, they have to place it on their head for a second. When the music stops, the kid wearing the sombrero is out of the game or he has to do a dance in the middle of the circle.

## LIMBO

The older kids especially love this game. All you need is a stick and two poles to balance it on, or you could get two people to hold it. Start with the stick about eye height and each child takes it in turn to cross under the stick without knocking it down or touching it. They have to do this facing forwards so it will involve bending their body backwards a little. Each round, you place the stick a little lower so it becomes harder and harder. Have some music going at the same time and the kids clapping so you get the rhythm going. Tip: For smaller kids, they could just crawl under the stick.

## MEXICAN KICKBALL

This is a traditional game played in Mexican villages and is a great fiesta party outdoor game for teams and large groups of kids. The aim of the game is for each team member to kick a ball (no hands!) around an obstacle course and the first team where all members fully complete the course is the winner. Set the obstacle course to reflect the age of the kids. It could involve going round logs, tables and chairs, up a slide, around a tree, through a tunnel, jumping over a low net, through a paddling pool and so on. Tip: Give each team a coloured badge or sash to wear in red, green or white.

## SPANISH WORD GAME

Give each child a list of Spanish words - they should all have the same. The aim of the game is for the kids to guess the meaning of each word and whoever guesses the most correctly is the winner. Tip: Try not to make the words too difficult and pick ones that have some sort of link to English words.

## PINATA

A piñata is the ultimate in Mexican fiesta party games. Hand a piñata and let the kids have all the fun in the world hitting it until the sweets come crashing out.