

Dragons Love Tacos

Main
Street
Theater

^{ALL}
Theater for Youth
Study Guide

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WHO IS ADAM RUBIN?

Adam doesn't talk about where he was born, but he does share that he went to school in St. Louis, Missouri. Before he wrote children's books, he worked at an ad agency. One of the ads that he made was for McDonald's Happy Meals!

He began to write children's books because the illustrator that he most often works with, Daniel Salmieri, asked him if he would like to work together. After the success of **Dragons Love Tacos**, he was able to quit his ad job and become a full-time writer. He now lives in Barcelona, Spain.



WHO IS DANIEL SALMIERI?

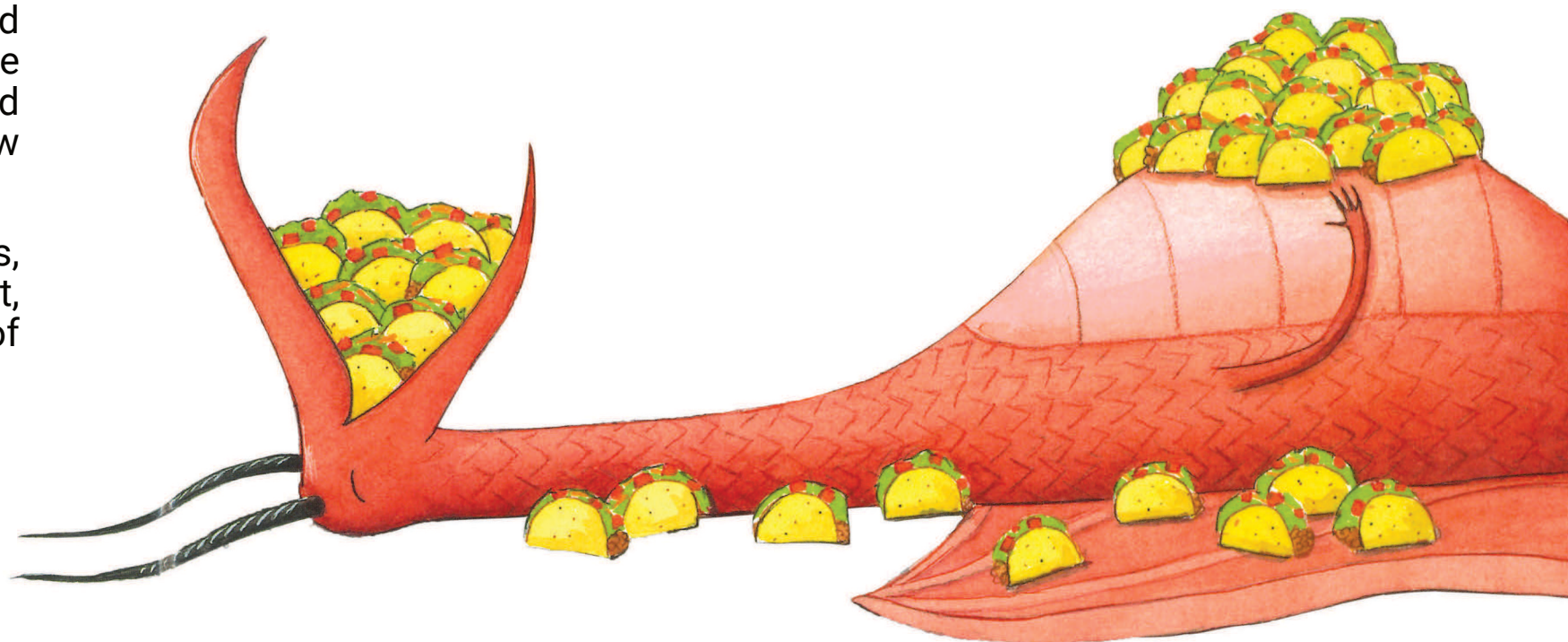
Daniel was born in and still lives in Brooklyn, New York. He always loved drawing and when he was a child he drew ninja turtles, fighting jets and his favorite basketball team, the New York Knicks.

Besides illustrating picture books, Daniel also illustrates theater art, album covers and portraits of people's dogs.

BEFORE YOU SEE THE PLAY...

Read the book out loud with your class. After reading it straight through once, turn through the pages and point out:

- Teach your students how to recognize a title and author's name on a book. In this case, the author is also the illustrator.
- Discuss how the pictures help to tell the story by showing the dragon's expressions and moods.
- Ask the children how it made them feel when the dragons had spicy salsa.
- This book introduces talk of tomatoes and lettuce which could lead to a talk about healthy eating.
- Talk about how you think the actors may recreate the dragons and discuss the act of costume and make-up in theater.



HOW SHOULD I PREPARE MY STUDENTS FOR A TRIP TO THE THEATER?

Being in a live performance is very different than seeing a movie in a movie theater or at home. The setting is much quieter and noises created by viewers can interrupt the show and distract the performers. Remember, that real people are on stage and they deserve your respect while they perform.

Here are some basic guidelines and rules to attending live theater:

- No talking. Even whispers can be quite loud in a quiet room.
- If you have a cell phone, it must be turned off AND put away during the show. The light can distract performers.
- Keep bags, feet and bodies out of the aisles. Sometimes actors walk through them during shows.
- Do not put your feet on the chairs in front of you or sit on your feet in the seats.
- No food or drinks are allowed in the theater.
- Cover your mouth for yawns, coughs or other noises.
- If you think something is funny, feel free to laugh. The actors are energized by interaction from the audience.
- Don't stand up or switch seats during the performance.
- Use the restroom and get comfortable before the show starts.

Going to the theater will be a new experience for many students. It provides the perfect opportunity to expand their vocabulary, and their understanding of some words that they might already know. Many of these words can also be used to talk about film and television as well.

Actor/Actress – a person who acts (performs) on stage, in movies or television.

Director – a person who supervises the actors, crew and other staff for a production.

Stage – a raised floor or platform, typically in a theater where actors, entertainers or speakers perform.

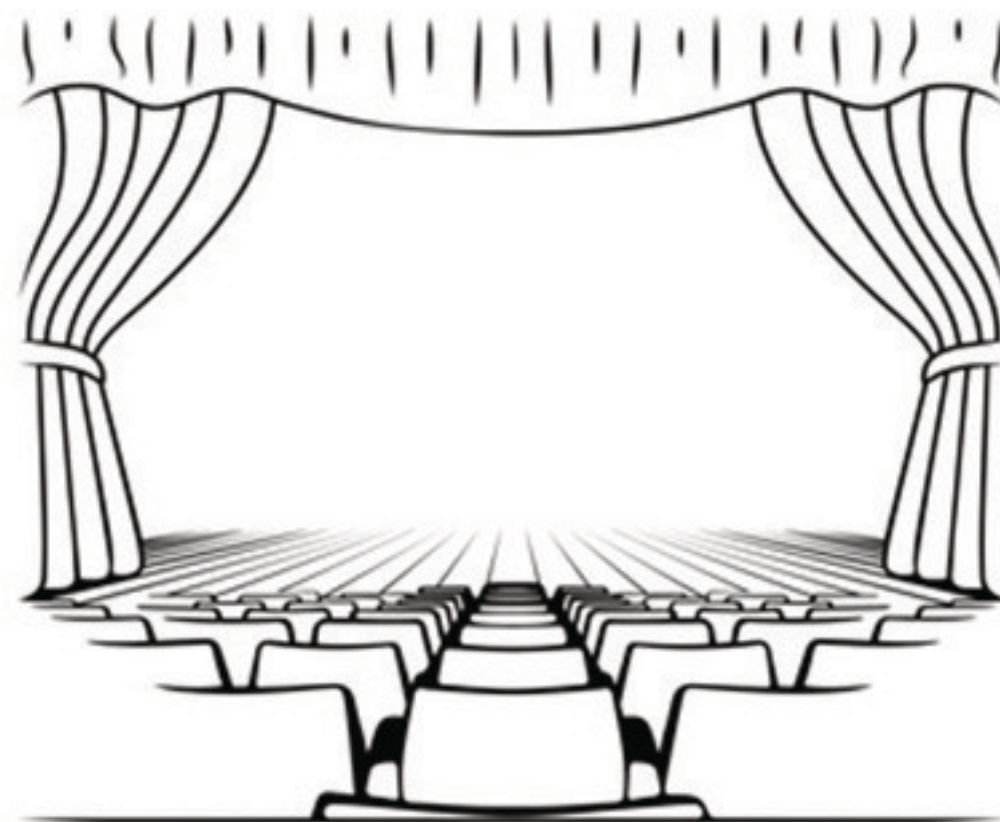
Set – the scenery, furniture, etc., used in a play, film or television show.

Backdrop – a painted cloth hung at the back of a theater stage as scenery.

Sound Effects – a sound other than speech or sound made artificially for use in a play, movie, or other broadcast production.

House – the part of the theater where the audience sits.

Wings – the spaces to the sides of the stage that allows actors waiting for their cue to enter the set.



Can you label these things on this drawing?

- Wings
- House
- Curtain
- Stage

BEFORE READING THE BOOK HAVE STUDENTS LOOK FOR:

- The colors of the dinosaurs.
- What they like on their tacos.
- What transportation is needed to haul the tacos?
- How many dragons are on a page?
- How many people are in the book?

AFTER READING THE BOOK, STUDENTS CAN TALK ABOUT:

- What happens when a dragon eats spicy food?
- What makes the taco spicy?
- Why do dragons like tacos?
- Do dragons like parties?
- What kind of parties do they like?

The students can answer these questions aloud, or it can be used as another writing assignment.

PLAY VS. BOOK

- What are some of the things that were the **SAME** about the book and play.
- What are some of the things that were **DIFFERENT** about the book and play?
- Why do you think that the changes were made for the play?
- Is there something that you would've done different if you had created the play?
- Did the characters look how you expected them to after reading the book?
- Did the set look like you pictured it?

WRITE YOUR OWN STORY ABOUT A DRAGON!

Don't forget to include:

- The size of the dragon.
- The color of the dragon.
- Does he have wings? A long neck? Scales? Armor?
- Is yours a friendly dragon?
- What is their favorite food?
- Where do they live?

Be creative and have fun with your story. Can you draw the dragon too?

[illegible]

IT'S A SMALL WORLD...

Make your students global citizens with this lesson that has them learn about the different cultures of the world.

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to learn more about their cultural backgrounds as well as the cultural backgrounds of others, will be more exposed to different nationalities, cultures, and customs, and become more globally aware.

Introduction

Introduce students to the lesson by having them listen to *It's a Small World*.

Ask them what the song means to them. Talk about the lyrics as a class, you can display these on the board or listen to the song with lyrics.

Instruction

Ask students about their cultural backgrounds.

Using a globe or map, point to the countries represented by the students in your classroom.

Guided Practice

Ask your students to share something about their culture.

Remind the students to treat all cultures with respect.

Independent Work

Ask students to choose a coloring page from Color the World about a culture to which they don't belong and would like to learn more about.

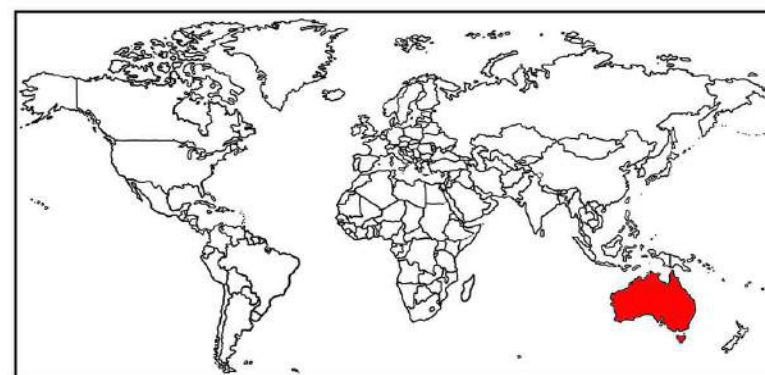
Once they are done, they will be asked to present it to the class. They will read the description on the coloring page and compare it to their own culture. For example, a student might choose the coloring page about the traditional Korean dance, buchaechum, and compare it to the dancing she does in her culture.

Enrichment: For advanced students, you can have them research in the library and have them choose a different country or culture they would like to do research on. Have them write a brief compare and contrast essay on the culture they chose and their own culture.

Assessment

Ask the students what they have learned today and to share any fun facts that interested them.

Listen to *It's a Small World* again. Ask the students what the song means to them now.



Australia
Capital : Canberra

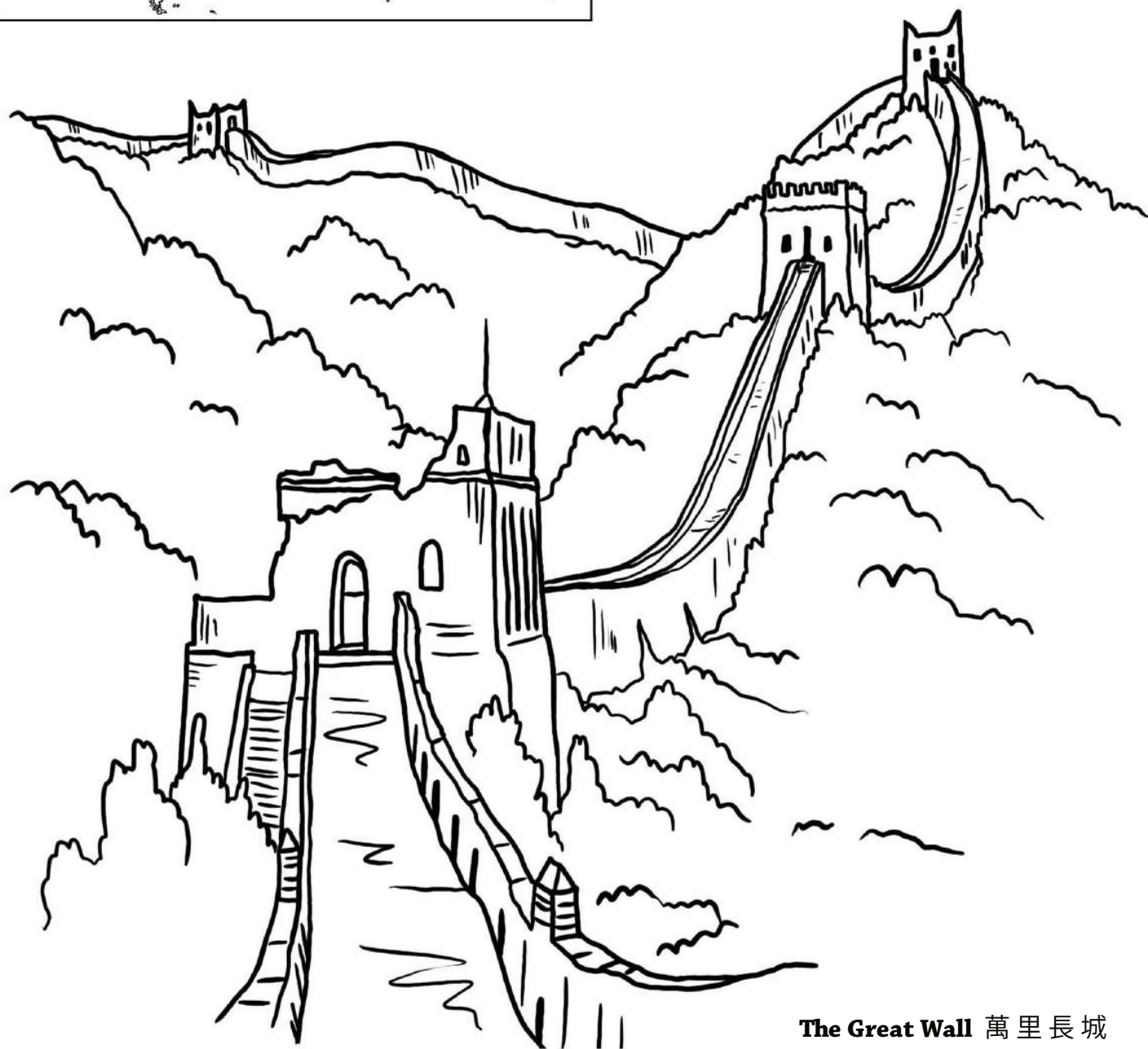


Uluru / Ayers Rock

This sandstone formation is located in the center of Australia and stands about 1,141 feet tall. Its two names reflect a long history with the people of the country, from the indigenous Pitjantjatjara people to British explorers.

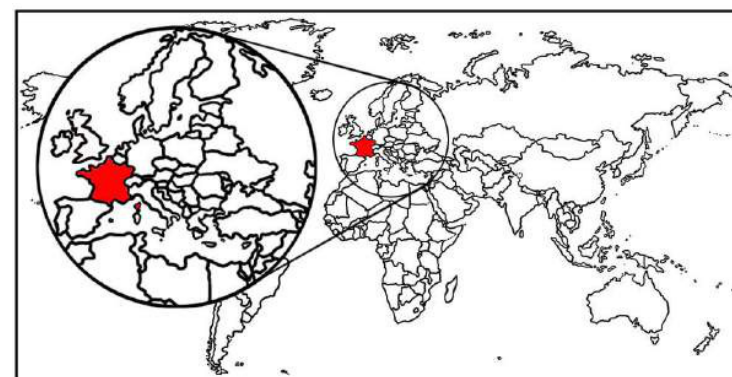


China
Capital : Beijing

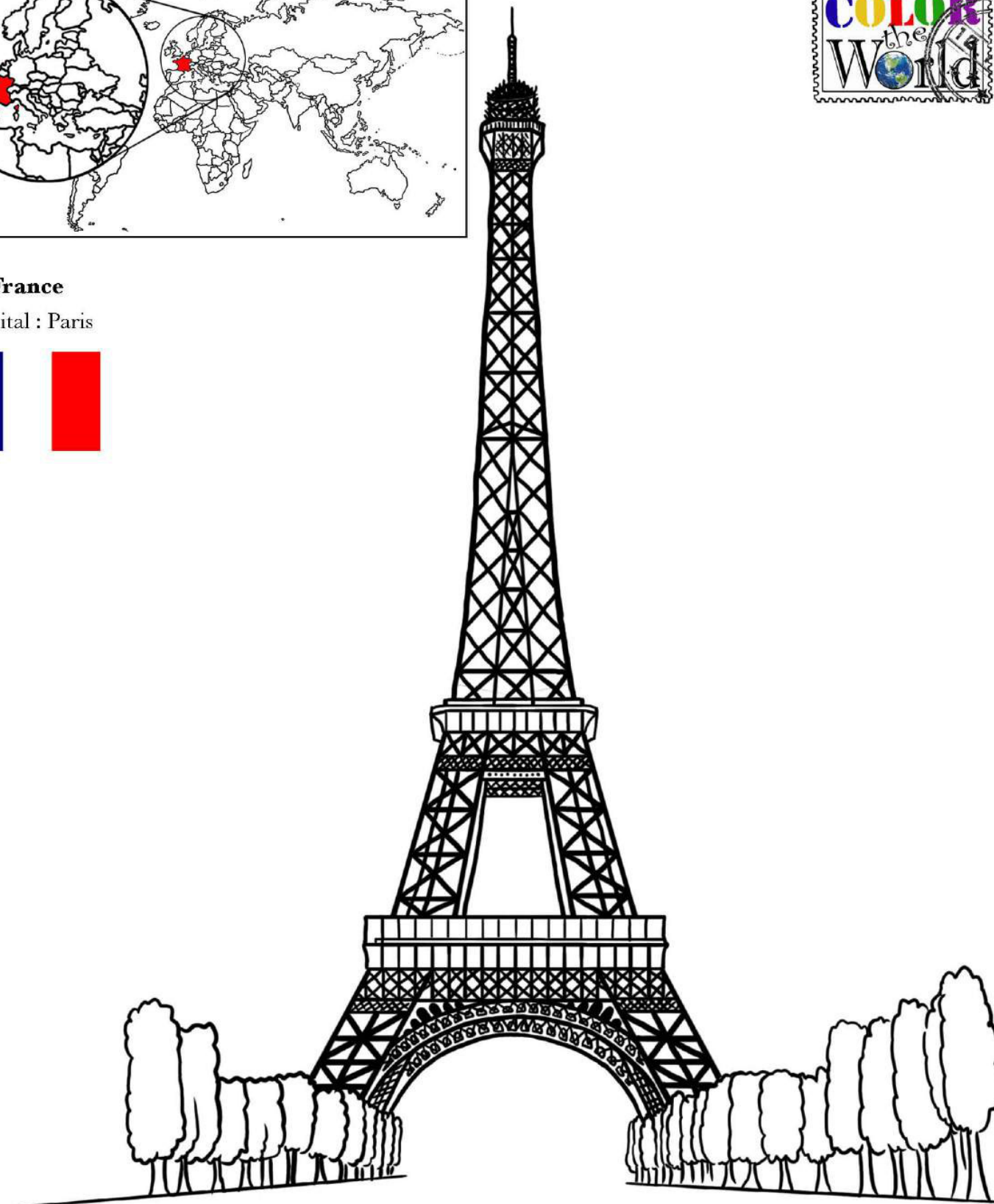
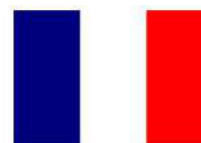


The Great Wall 萬里長城

Walls were put up for defense in feudal China. The first emperor, Qin Shi Huang, built a famous one that was the first version of the Great Wall. Over a thousand years after him the Ming Dynasty widened and built the 4,000 miles of wall that exist today.



France
Capital : Paris



La Tour Eiffel

The Eiffel Tower was completed in 1889 for the Paris Exposition and named for its engineer, Gustave Eiffel.

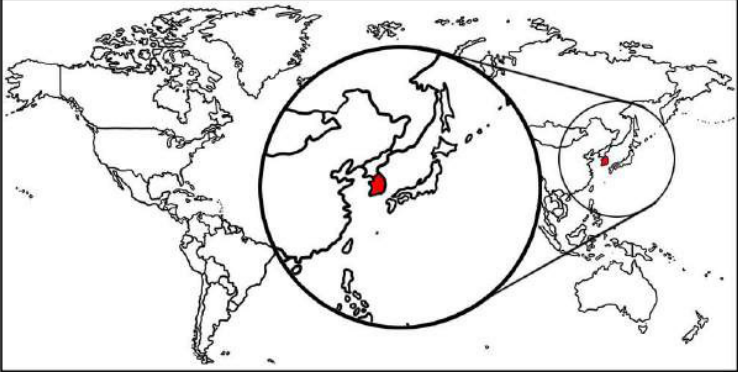


Italy
Capital : Rome



Venice

Venice is made up of more than 100 tiny islands connected by bridges. Its famous gondolas are known for transporting people on leisurely, romantic trips through the city's waterways.



South Korea
Capital : Seoul



Buchaechum is a fan dance of Korea, usually danced by groups of women who wear traditional clothing, called hanbok. Their dresses and fans are brightly colored and show off their fluid movements and formations.



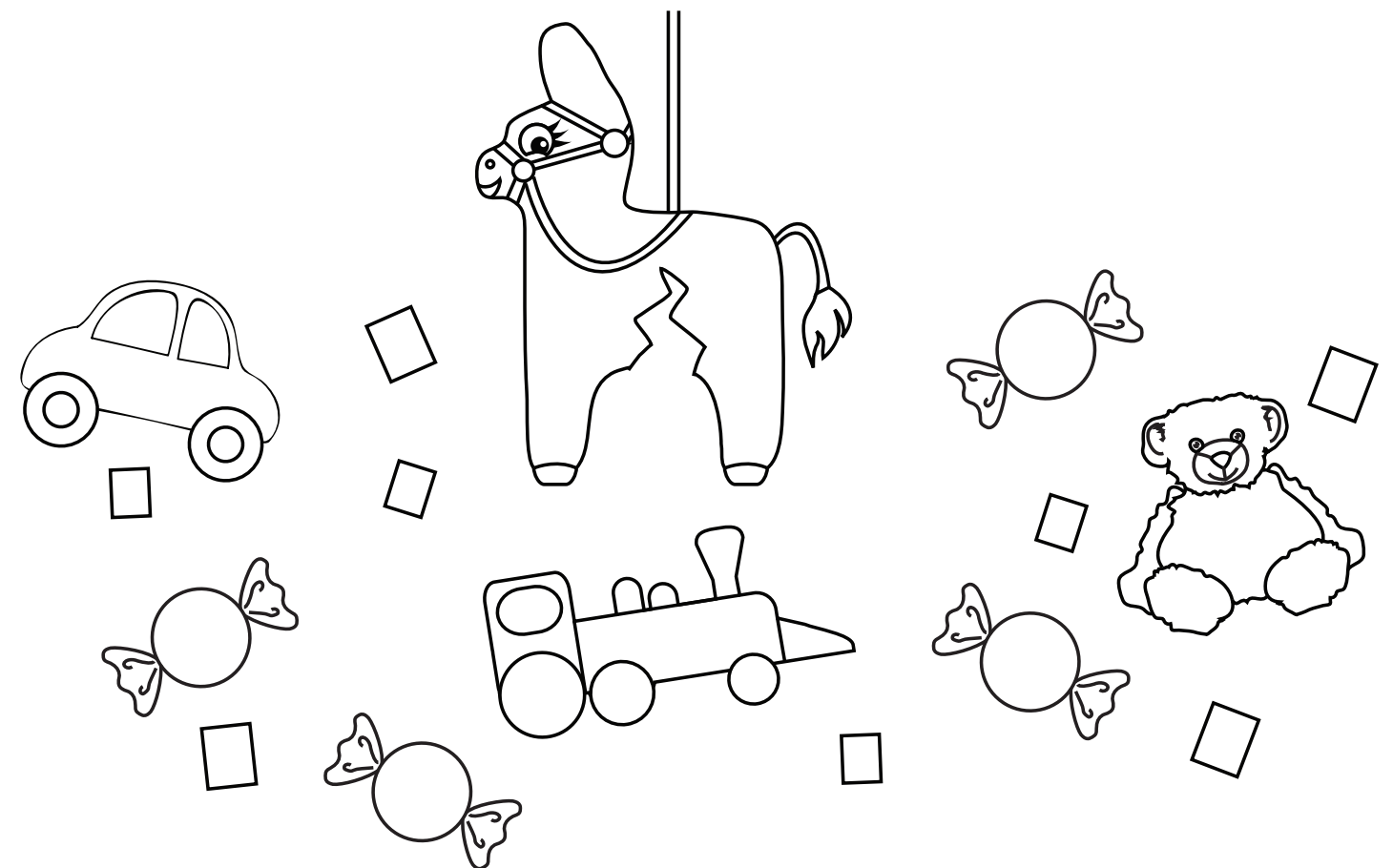
WHAT IS A FIESTA?

Festivals in Mexico, both religious, national and local are celebrated with parades, dancing and music. Civic Mexican festivals are often celebrated with fireworks, in particular those related to events like the foundation of the city or the promulgation of the constitution. The religious holidays are also celebrated by street processions, called posadas, which intend to commemorate the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. Carnival is celebrated in February and March, with processions, masquerades and street parties. Religious as well as civic holidays are celebrated with a festive family dinner.

P IS FOR PIÑATA

A piñata is made of cardboard and paper and is filled with candy or toys. A piñata can be made in almost any shape you like, from animals to cartoon characters. Kids take turns trying to break the piñata open with a bat or stick. When it opens up, all the treats come out! You might see a piñata at a birthday party or on other holidays like Mexican Independence Day.

There are treasures falling from the piñata! Color the candy blue, the toys green, and the confetti red.



HISTORY OF TACOS

A taco is a traditional Mexican food. It is made from a tortilla that is rolled or folded around a filling. The tortilla is usually made of maize (corn). It can be hard or soft. Some tortillas are made from flour. Most tacos are made with a beef filling. Other tacos are filled with chicken, pork or fish. Cheese, lettuce, guacamole, or pico de gallo can also be put on a taco. Sometimes, a taco is made with salsa or spicy Tapatio sauce.



MAKE A PAPER PLATE TACO!

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Scissors
- Plain white paper plate
- Crayons (or paint)
- Green, red, yellow or orange construction paper
- Glue stick or school glue

DIRECTIONS:

1. Color one side of the paper plate to look like a taco shell. Fold the plate in half.
2. Cut the construction paper.
 - Green into strips to look like lettuce.
 - Orange into squares or rectangles to look like chunks of cheese.
 - Red into circles or half circles to look like tomatoes.
3. Glue the pieces into the inside of the paper plate. Make sure to look at it folded to see how the pieces extend from the top.
4. Have fun!



MAKE A DRAGON MASK!

This project is fun because colors, materials and overall design can be changed or enriched to make each child's mask unique!

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Scissors
- Pencil to trace the pattern
- Foam (or construction paper) in multiple colors
- String or yarn to tie the mask
- Glue or tape to adhere the pieces together



DIRECTIONS:

1. Print out copies of the mask template on thick paper if possible
 2. Have the students cut out all of the shapes. Have a sample prepared so they can understand which shape will be each part of the mask.
 3. Students will glue the pieces together and give the mask sometime to dry. This would be a great time to read a dragon book!
 4. When the mask is dry, punch a hole on each side near where the student's ears would be.
 5. Tie strings through both holes and then tie around the student's head.
 6. Have fun!
- Allow students to use different colors on their mask
 - After they have the basic parts of the mask together, allow them to add more flames, bows or other decorations.
 - Encourage students to make their mask unique to them. Maybe they will have extra horns, or crazy whiskers.
 - Have the students play as the dragons. They can even create mini-plays, or read pages from the book as a dragon.



SOMBRERO ART

A Mexican sombrero is an iconic cultural symbol that is often used in traditional celebrations and folkloric festivities. It typically has a very wide brim that provides protection from the sun and has a high pointed crown. It can be made of straw or felt, and comes in different colors, patterns and embellishments.

By using dried beans and corn, foods that are prevalent in Mexican cuisine, your child will create a three-dimensional model of a sombrero. Manipulating and gluing these small items on to paper is a great workout for youngsters' fine motor skills. It also works on expanding your child's attention span and focus.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Paper plate
- Small paper bowl
- Glue
- Assorted dried beans
- Dried corn

DIRECTIONS:

1. Help your child glue a paper bowl upside down onto the paper plate and let it dry.
2. Show your child how to pour a dot of glue onto a bean and position it onto the bowl. Press down for a few seconds to let the glue set. Don't use too much glue, otherwise the beans will tend to slide around on the bowl.



3. Have your child cover the entire bowl, working in small sections at a time. Once that part is complete, your child can glue other types of beans onto the "rim" of the hat and incorporate some corn kernels, as well. Encourage him to be creative and make fun patterns using the dried beans and corn.

4. At this stage, the hat is almost finished, but there is a little more work to do. Right now, the hat has a flat crown; to make it look more like a Mexican sombrero, ask your child to add additional layers of beads all the way around the crown. Make sure that each layer gets progressively narrower, creating a pointy shape.

5. ¡Que bueno! Use the new sombrero to add a little flair around the house for Cinco de Mayo.

Suggestion: For a simpler and quicker alternative to this project, simply help your child draw a picture of a sombrero on a paper plate and have her decorate it by gluing on assorted beans and corn! It will still give your younger child's fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, patience and creativity a good workout!



LEARN ABOUT FOOD: SALSA

Dragons do not like spicy salsa! It makes them roar with fire.

Most kids know what salsa looks like and tastes like. Many won't know about the ingredients used to make salsa. Here are some fun problems that you can solve with your students.

1. What makes salsa red or green? Did you know that there are such a thing as tomatillos?

- A tomatillo is not a tomato, even though some people call it a husk tomato.
- The husk is a paper covering similar to the layer around an ear of corn.
- Tomatillos are actually a fruit!



2. What makes the flavor of spice in salsa? Peppers! There are all different kinds of peppers. The kind most often used in salsa is called a jalapeno.

- Fresh jalapenos have a thick skin and very spicy seeds.
- Jalapenos are often pickled to make them less spicy and to make them tart. This how they are often served with nachos.



Other fun questions about these items:

- What is the difference between a fruit and a vegetable?
- Where do we get most tomatillos and jalapenos from?
- Can you think of any other food besides a taco that salsa would taste good on?

COUNTING TACOS!

Have fun counting tacos! The possibilities are endless. Here are some questions to get started.



How many tacos are on the top row? _____

Which row has the largest sized tacos? _____

If the dragon ate all three rows of tacos, how many would he eat? _____

If the dragon took the entire top row of tacos, but then gave away as many as are on the bottom row, how many would he have left? _____

If the dragon ate the top two rows of tacos, how many did he eat? _____

If there are 5 dragons and they want to split the tacos evenly, how many will each get to eat? _____

MAKE SALSA SLIME!

Slime is a fun sensory activity to play with. Students will love texture. It's a great opportunity to explain the science of the process as well as to introduce new vocabulary such as sticky, squishy, viscous and stretchy. The measuring of the ingredients will help to extend math knowledge and introduce measurement quantities.

For more fun, save glass jars or plastic containers so that each student will have their own slime. Have them design a label for their container. What will they name their "brand" of salsa slime?

INGREDIENTS:

- ½ cup clear school glue
- Food coloring
- 1 tbsp saline solution (must contain sodium borate or boric acid)
- ½ tsp baking soda
- Craft foam (red, green and white)
- Glitter (red and green)
- ½ cup of water
- Rubber spatula
- Bowl
- Scissors
- Measuring spoons

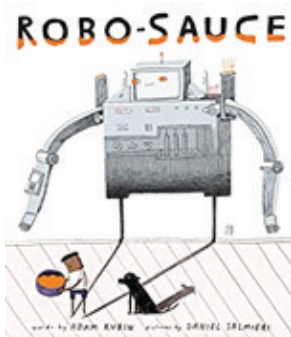


HOW TO MAKE SALSA SLIME:

1. Measure out 1/2 cup of clear school glue into a bowl.
2. Stir in 1/2 cup of warm water.
3. Add a few drops of red food coloring and as much red and green glitter as you would like and mix well.
4. Add 1/2 tsp of baking soda and stir.
5. Have your students cut skinny strips of craft foam into tiny little rectangles. These will be the tomatoes, peppers and onions. Sprinkle them into the mixture and stir. You can always fold in more foam squares later to make it chunkier.
6. Here is where your slime comes together.
 - Add 1 tbsp of saline solution or contact lens solution. It must contain Sodium Borate and/or Boric Acid, or you will end up with a massive slime fail. Stir the mixture well and it will start to stick more to the spatula and separate from the sides of the bowl.
 - If your slime is still pretty sticky, you can add a few more drops of saline solution.

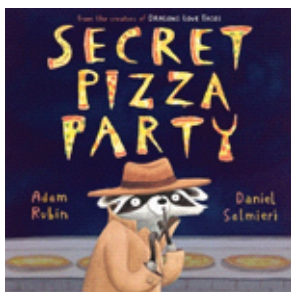
MORE BOOKS BY ADAM RUBIN & DANIEL SALMIERI

If you enjoyed reading *Dragons Love Tacos*, you'll LOVE other books written by Adam Rubin and illustrated by Daniel Salmieri



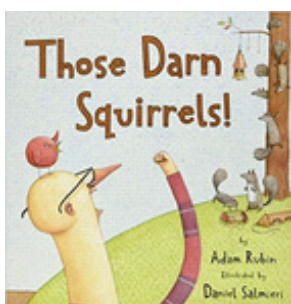
Robo-Sauce (2015)

A special sauce turns a boy into a robot, and he then transforms everyone and everything into robots, including the book. Includes one fold-out page that becomes a book jacket, and seven pages printed upside-down to match the jacket.



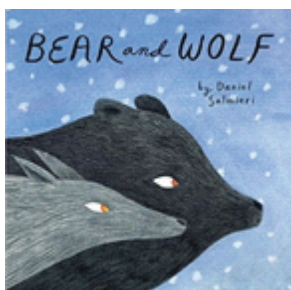
Secret Pizza Party (2014)

While Raccoon is eating pizza at his secret pizza party, he sees a masquerade party going on in the house next door to him and joins the fun.



Those Darn Squirrels (2012)

This is the story of what happens when a grumpy old man and some mischievous squirrels match wits-with hilarious results.



Bear and Wolf (2020)

Bear and Wolf become unlikely companions one winter's evening when they discover each other out walking in the falling snow.

READ ALIKES



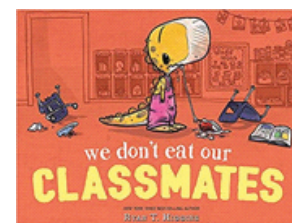
Mr. Tiger Goes Wild by Peter Brown (2013)

Are you bored with being so proper? Do you want to have more fun? Mr. Tiger knows exactly how you feel. So he decides to go wild.



Wolfie the Bunny by Ame Dyckman (2015)

The bunny family has adopted a wolf son, and daughter Dot is the only one who realize Wolfie can—and might—eat them all up!



We Don't Eat Our Classmates by Ryan T. Higgins (2018)

Penelope Rex can't wait to meet her classmates. But it's hard to make human friends when they're so darn delicious!



Unicorn Is Maybe Not So Great After All by Bob Shea (2019)

On the first day of school, Unicorn expects to make his usual big splash. But no one pays him much attention—the other kids are much more interested in the latest toy trends. Unicorn comes up with a plan to get his mojo back.



This Is a Taco! By Andrew Cangelose

"This is squirrel..." Hey, I may be a squirrel, but my name is Taco! And I don't eat nuts and tree bark-blech-I prefer tacos!"