



## INTRODUCTION AND PARTY INVITATIONS

Ready to create a *Backyardigans*™ adventure for your child's next party? This very popular TV show is based on the adventures of five friends who play together every day, using their imaginations to *transform their backyard* into all kinds of fun worlds. This is a great party theme to hold outdoors, just like the *Backyardigans*.

The five friends include:

**Pablo**, the blue penguin,  
 Pablo's best friend **Tyrone**, the orange moose with red hair,  
**Uniqua**, their polka dotted friend,  
 Uniqua's best friend **Tasha**, the yellow hippo, and  
**Austin**, the purple kangaroo

Find some promotional *Backyardigans* CDs and place into colorful CD paper holders. Write the party details on the backs of the CD holders, and have your birthday child draw pictures on the front of the CD holders. Hand-deliver or mail your invitations.

Alternatively, use *Backyardigans* clip art to create an invitation card that features the favorite characters on the front and all of the party details on the inside. Use festive language in your party invitation:

*Hi, I'm Pablo! My name's Tyrone! And I'm Uniqua! Don't forget Tasha and Austin! And I'm \_\_\_\_\_ (birthday child's name)! We're inviting you to \_\_\_\_\_'s Backyardigans Bash! Please join us for a snack!*

## DECORATIONS

A party setting in the backyard is ideal for this party theme. However, if the weather doesn't allow for an outdoor party, then decorate an area inside your home for the party.

Mount a *Backyardigans* poster on the fence to greet your guests.



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Cut out **blue penguin footprints** and put them on the walkway leading to the party area. Place a visible sign nearby that reads *Follow Pablo's Steps!*

Place **balloons and streamers** at the front entrance and around the party area in the *Backyardigans* colors:

- Pink (Uniqua)
- Blue (Pablo)
- Yellow (Tasha)
- Purple (Austin)
- Orange (Tyrone)

Decorate the yard by tying balloons to trees and spreading colorful paper streamers all around.

Divide the backyard into several episode-relating settings.

Fill a small pool with sand and place some beach decorations with a sign that reads *Tiki Beach* from the *Backyardigans* episode *Surf's Up*.

Set up pirate decorations to mimic the *Pirate Camp* episode.

Create **Character Stands**. Copy each character onto a clear transparency and use an overhead projector to trace the characters onto white roll paper or butcher paper to make life size (about 3-4 feet) characters. Color them with markers or paint and tape them around the party room or attach them to wooden sticks to stand them up and place around your backyard.

Create a **maze** for the kids out of cardboard boxes. Set up tunnels by joining the boxes together. Finding their way around the maze will be a fun activity for the party guests.

If decorating indoors, place as many houseplants as you have into the party area to create the illusion of the outdoors.

Cover your party table with polka dot tablecloth for the character, Uniqua. Mix and match primary bright colors for your napkins, plates, cups, and tableware to set your table. Place *Backyardigans* books around the table for the kids to look at while waiting for the party meal. Finally, create grass cups by filling cups with shredded green paper. Place small *Backyardigans* stickers onto Popsicle® sticks and place them into the grass cups.

### GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

Find inspiration for your party games and activities from the *Backyardigans* episodes



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themselves, which are often themed. As examples: *The Heart of the Jungle*, *Riding the Range*, and *Castaways*.

**Walk the Plank.** Set up a wooden beam a few inches off the ground that the kids must walk.

**Digging For Treasure.** Fill a barrel with sand and add colored rocks for their treasure dig.

**Musical Islands.** Set foam tiles in a large circle and play the *Backyardigans* CD. When the music stops a color is drawn from a hat and the child standing on that color receives a prize.

**Penny Toss.** Trace various sizes of circles on large pieces of foam. Once a party guest tosses a penny into a circle he or she wins a prize.

**Tattoo Parlor.** Give the kids *Backyardigans* temporary tattoos.

**Beach Ball Barrel Toss.** Toss a *Backyardigans* beach ball into a large barrel to win a rubber bouncy ball.

**Pool Toss.** Blow up an inflatable pool and fill it with water and add several plastic drinking cups. The kids must throw a ping-pong ball into a glass.

Hold a **Scavenger Hunt** outside based on the *Key to the Nile* episode: Split the group into teams and give each team a tear-stained and burned-edge scroll with instructions to find three presents for the Sphinx. When they complete the hunt, tell the teams the *Secret of the Nile*.

The first present is the *Jewel of the Waters* — hide several blue stones in a sand box.

The second present is the *Yellow Lotus Flower* — place large yellow silk flowers in the bushes.

The third is a *Drink of Water from the Secret Oasis* — place a cup next to a bucket of water that is hidden around your home.

When the teams find all three items, reveal the *Secret of the Nile*: the magic words “please” and “thank you.”

**Jump over the Gobbly Goo** from the episode *The Tower of Power*. Create the *Goo* using cornstarch, water, and green food coloring. Have the kids jump over the *Goo*.

**Jump from Stone to Stone** over the river from the episode *The Heart of the Jungle*. Place garden stones over streams of blue streamers that the kids must jump from one to the next without falling in.

**Yeti Stomp** through the balloons from the episode *The Yeti*. Blow up water balloons in a small pool that the kids must stomp.



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**Castaway Coconut Bowling.** Make pins from pineapples and use coconuts for balls.

**Aloha Dancing.** Play *Backyardigans* music and let everyone dance. Add a limbo stick for *Laser Limbo Rock* for the kids to play too.

### Other *Backyardigans* Party Games and Activities:

Upon arrival to the party, give each child a *Backyardigans* cap in one of the fun colors: fuchsia, orange, blue, yellow, or purple. Before the party, affix large plastic eyes to the caps using fabric glue.

While waiting for everyone to arrive, have the kids make their own musical instruments using empty jars, beans, paper plates, bells, and any other craft materials that you have in your home. The children can take these home as a party goody.

Print out pictures of the *Backyardigans* characters' faces and have the kids color in the masks and attach to a Popsicle® stick.

**Catch a Fish with Tasha.** Purchase an inexpensive magnetic fishing toy set or attach a magnet to a long stick and place the magnetic fish into an empty small pool. Have the kids catch fish like Tasha would.

**Follow Pablo.** Ask an adult helper to wear a bow tie or propeller hat, and have her or him come up with various moves that the kids follow.

Play Pin the Bowtie on Pablo.

### PARTY MENU

**Pablo's Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwiches.** Cut out your sandwiches with a penguin cookie cutter.

**Austin's Kangaroo Pockets.** Serve miniature pita bread pockets stuffed with tuna salad, vegetables, and other fillings.

**Pablo's Popcorn.** Serve popcorn with an assortment of toppings, including blue crystallized sugar crystals (instead of regular sugar) and cinnamon.

**Uniqua Ice Cream.** Serve vanilla ice cream with several options for toppings so the kids can choose the topping they like and make their ice cream flavor Uniqua!

**A Rainbow Parfait.** Orange cantaloupe (Tyrone), layered with pink strawberry yogurt (Uniqua), blueberries (Pablo), raspberries (Austin), and pineapple (Tasha), granola and whipped cream. Yum!



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## Party Theme Planning From **BIRTHDAYS** **US**

The *Backyardigans* love their snacks, so have many different choices on hand to enjoy throughout the party:

- Apple slices
- Strawberries
- Pretzels
- Cookies
- Cheese and crackers
- Raisins
- Mini granola bars

### PARTY FAVORS

Send the kids home with their *Backyardigans* caps, musical instruments, and other thematic items that are placed in their caps as they depart.

A unique thank you note to send is a small snack size candy bar wrapped in paper printed on your computer with a *Backyardigans* picture and the sentiment: *It was sweet of you to come to \_\_\_\_'s party!*, along with a short note of thanks.



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