



INTRODUCTION AND PARTY INVITATIONS

*Batman*TM is a super hero favorite who does battle with a host of villains that seek to attack Gotham City. This is a perfect party theme to build an escapade between *Batman* and the popular Penguin, Catwoman, Riddler, Two-Face, and Mr. Freeze villains. Give all your guests a role to play and enjoy a party to remember.

Purchase a bat cookie cutter and trace bats on black heavy cardstock. Write your party details on one side of the bat with a yellow paint pen.

Alternatively, use your bat cookie cutter to make a batch of bat cookies. Frost with black icing and place into a yellow cellophane bag. Attach a small bat-shaped card with all of the party details to the cookie with a black ribbon. Hand-deliver to your guests.

Create a **Batman Mask Invitation** with pointy ears using black heavy cardstock. Make sure to cut out the eyes and nose and attach a small band so that the kids can wear the masks to your party. Use a yellow paint pen and write the party details on the inside of the mask.

Use festive language to invite your guests to your party:

Holy Cake and Ice Cream Batman, _____ is turning _____ and the villains have just stolen his birthday cake. Come dressed as your favorite superhero and help Batman put an end to their dastardly plan!

List the essential party details with: *Bat Date, Bat Time, and Bat Place.*

Invitation Tip:

Either ask your guests to dress up for the party or provide costumes when the kids arrive.

DECORATIONS

If you are providing costumes to the kids, choose key villains and provide different



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outfits to the guests as they arrive that they can change into or, if you ask them to come dressed as the following characters, provide tips for their costumes in your invitation:

Penguin: Tux, top hat, monocle, and umbrella

Catwoman: All black with ears and tail

Riddler: Green scrub bottoms and a green T-shirt with a purple question mark

Two-Face: Black T-shirt and a white T-shirt. Cut both T-shirts in half vertically and sew one black and one white half together. Additionally, wear one black and one white shoe.

Joker: Wear purple and green and make sure to create a Joker face with stage makeup.

Just inside your front doorway, welcome your guests into the **Bat Cave**:

Blow up a sea of black and gray balloons for the Bat Cave floor.

Cover your walls with black fabric and dim the lights.

Suspend bats from the ceiling and place cobwebs in the corners of the cave.

In a different party area, such as a basement or garage, create **Gotham City**:

Use a fog machine to give Gotham City a spooky feel and dim the lights in this area or use black lights for this room.

Use a small spotlight with a bat shape taped over the lens and shine it on a party wall to mimic the bat signal shown in the Gotham sky.

Using large sheets of cardboard, paint the Gotham City skyline with black paint.

Outline your cityscape with white Christmas lights.

For your party table, use a black tablecloth and yellow and black tableware for your plates, napkins, plasticware, and cups. Tie black and yellow balloons to the backs of each of the chairs, and hang streamers above the party table in the same color scheme. Use bat confetti to add festivity to your table.

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

Upon arrival, ask the kids what they know about *Batman*. Key pieces of information to discuss include:

Batman is a regular guy who is really smart — no superpowers.

Batman is a master of martial arts.



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Batman is into gadgets.

Batman often battles against the same villains.

Batman is summoned by the police commissioner with the bat sign in the sky over Gotham City.

Batman has a Bat Cave and travels in a Batmobile.

Once the kids are dressed up in their costumes, divide the kids into teams and have them complete a series of Bat Stations together. Allow the kids 5 minutes at each station and then rotate:

Station 1: Drive the Batmobile — If you have a battery operated car, dress it up like the Batmobile and have the kids drive it for maneuverability.

Station 2: Visit the Bat Cave — In the sea of balloons that are in the Bat Cave area, place a few pieces of candy in a few of the balloons. Once you have blown them up, write villain names and draw their pictures on the balloons with a paint pen. The kids must stomp the bad guy balloons and save the candy!

Station 3: Board Breaking — Given *Batman* is a master of the martial arts, ask the kids to break a board with a kick and a punch. Use styrofoam trays that meat comes packaged in — your local grocery stores often have extras that they will give to you for free.

Once the kids have completed these stations, they will be ready for some training before solving a series of crimes. Have a parent helper dress up as Commissioner Gordon and address the kids on the help he needs to solve a series of crimes taking place in Gotham City. Before they depart to defeat the villains, have them undergo superhero training, including: rolling, jumping, climbing up wedges, and crawling through a tunnel.

Set the kids off to solve a series of crimes:

Penguin's Mischief — Reintroduce the Penguin as a gentleman of crime who loves birds and uses them in his crimes. The Penguin has kidnapped someone and the kids have to figure out who it is. Purchase 6 little red birds from an arts and craft store and hide 5 of them around the party room with clues attached to each one that leads to the next bird. The last bird shows the kids who they are looking for. As an example, the kids are looking for Big Bird. Use these sample clues:

Victim is someone you see on TV.

He is yellow.

Loves to sing

Lives on a famous street

His best friend lives in a garbage can.



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Mr. Freeze's Cream Caper — Reintroduce Mr. Freeze who commits crimes around the themes of ice and cold. Mr. Freeze has stolen something you need for the party. Guess what it is! When the group finds 5 (plastic) ice cubes, they will also find what he stole — the ice cream.

Play **Mr. Freeze Tag**. Play bat music from the movie and start with the birthday child as "it" and whomever he or she tags is frozen in place. Whoever is still in motion at the very end, wins!

Play **Mr. Freeze Bubble Game**. Using a small wading pool, cover the bottom with water and add dishwashing liquid to it and a little bit of glycerin. Place a small stepping stool in the middle of the pool with a hula hoop around it in the bottom of the pool. Give each child a turn to sit on the stool and then pull the hula hoop over them. Instantly they are inside a giant bubble. Take pictures of each child in the giant bubble.

Catwoman's Thievery — Reintroduce Catwoman, who is a burglar that likes rare and beautiful objects with cat names and designs, uses cats as helpers, and uses cat related weapons. Catwoman has stolen something and the kids must find it. The group must find 5 little stuffed cats that will lead them to play jewelry that is hidden in the Bat Cave.

PARTY MENU

For added authenticity, have Batman's butler serve the party guests!

Penguin's tuna salad sandwiches

Two-Face peanut butter and jelly sandwiches

Catwoman Claws: Bugles®, so the kids can put their fingers in them like her claws

Green Goblin Guacamole with red tortilla chips

Penguin Party Chip and Dip: Use a black plastic top hat and turn it upside down. Put the chips in the hat and place a pair of white gloves nearby.

Bat Pellets: chocolate-covered raisins

Mr. Freeze Ice Cream

Serve Poison Ivy Punch: Use lime punch and freeze plastic ivy in a Jell-O® mold to float in the punch bowl.

Use your bat cookie cutter and make bat Jell-O® Jigglers® using the dark grape flavor.



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Serve Bat Cream Sandwiches. Make a batch of bat cookies and place softened ice cream between two cookies and serve this sweet treat.

PARTY FAVORS

Send the kids home with their own black bat capes and masks. Cut out large rectangles from black non-fraying fabric and tie two corners together. As the kids depart, face paint a mask on each of their faces with black paint.

Make sure to send a Batman thank you note to your party guests. Include a keepsake photo of each child in the giant bubble and write on the photo, *"I survived the Mr. Freeze Bubble at _____'s Birthday!"*



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