



INTRODUCTION AND PARTY INVITATIONS

Dora the Explorer[™] is one of the TV shows most beloved by preschool children between the ages of 2 and 4 years. Dora is a natural explorer who, with a little help from her monkey Boots, her backpack, and a host of other characters, solves problems and teaches children shapes, numbers, colors, and even Spanish. With adventures and fun galore, this party theme will be a hit with boys and girls alike.

An easy way to include the boys in this party plan is to include *Diego*-themed ideas as well.

Send a **Character Map Invitation**. Fold a piece of cardstock into 3 equal parts so it can be placed in a regular-sized envelope. Use thematic language on the front:

If there's a place you want to go, I'm the one you need to know. I'm the Map! I'm the Map! I'm the Map! _____'s turning ____. For details turn to me! I'm the Map! I'm the Map! I'm the Map!

Hand draw a map – similar to an open map on the show – on the inside folds of the invitation. Draw three boxes that contain the information for the party: Date, Time, and Place. Outline the boxes in colors so that the information is easy to read. Include pictures of the places that the party guests will visit during your *Star-Catching* adventure: Bubble Garden, Puzzle Point, and Piñata Playground.

DECORATIONS

Mark the party spot by hanging *Dora the Explorer* foil balloons around the front of your home.

Write *Dora the Explorer* on a map and attach it to your front door.

Create the *Spooky Forest* by hanging green streamers from the doorway, so the children must walk through them to enter the party area.

To create *Windy Valley*, attach blue streamers to fans so that the streamers twirl around.



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To create *Rainbow Road*, wrap blocks in construction paper and place on the floor in a road formation.

To create the notorious *Crocodile Lake*, fill up a kiddie pool with water and put floating crocodiles in it.

Cut out trees and shrubs from green butcher paper and place on the party walls.

Using a large appliance box, create Dora's Casa that the kids can play in during the party.

Draw poster-board-sized characters from the show: Dora, Boots, Swiper, Benny, Tico, Isa, and the Fiesta Trio. Color them with oil pastels and laminate them (if placing them outdoors). Attach dowel rods to them and place them at various points along the path of your adventure.

Add big tropical leaves by cutting long, wide ovals from green construction paper and taping them to the hanging streamers.

Cover the party table with a *Dora the Explorer* table cover and ensure each place setting has a Dora plate, napkin, cup, and utensils.

Add any *Dora the Explorer* toys or dolls your child may have to the table as a centerpiece or use a Dora centerpiece display. Turn a sombrero upside down, and have balloons anchored to the inside of the hat.

Alternatively, use tissue paper flowers for the table centerpiece.

Cut several pieces of curling ribbon one to two feet long. Curl the ribbon by pulling it between your thumb and the blade of scissors. Spread the curls on your table.

Hang balloons in bunches for best effect by tying a colorful ribbon around the strings of several balloons, so they hang together.

Attach streamers, each of a different fiesta color (red, yellow, purple, turquoise, orange, green, and brown) from the corners of the room to a light fixture in the center of the party table to add to the festive environment.

Create multicolored streamers by placing two different colored streamers back-to-back and twisting (try orange and yellow or red and purple).

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

Greet the party guests as they arrive by welcoming them to *Dora's Great Fiesta*. Play children's music in the background.



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Hand each child a map of the party. Make this map by writing on a piece of paper the names of each activity and craft you plan to do during the party. Make sure when you write these names that you spread the names randomly across the paper. Then draw connecting roads, dotted lines, bridges, and lakes linking the various party activities and crafts. Photocopy so each child can have a copy of the party map.

Direct the children to a party area where you have laid out craft materials for activities to keep the children occupied until all the party guests arrive.

Paper Plate Shakers. Give each child a paper plate to decorate. Make sure to tell them to decorate the underside of the plate, not the side where you would typically place food. Let the plates dry. Help each child place a small scoop of dried beans in the center of their decorated plate, and then fold over and tape around the edges.

Friendship Bracelets. Have the children string beads around a string for a bracelet like Dora's.

Binoculars. Have the children tape toilet paper rolls together side by side. Show the children how to cover the ends with colored plastic wrap secured by rubber bands. Let the party guests decorate the binoculars with nature stickers, glitter glue, and markers. Use yarn or ribbon to make a hanging strap.

Great Adventure Obstacle Course. Design an obstacle course with objects from around your house. Hang green streamers like vines down over the obstacle course. Have each child go through the obstacle course. When they have all completed, compliment them with Dora's line, "We did it!"

Backpack Discovery. Gather the guests around in a circle. Pass the backpack around the circle giving each child a chance to feel for an object inside the backpack and guess what it is without looking. Objects may include a toothbrush, a ball, and more (one per party guest). Let guests who guess correctly keep their objects as prizes.

Dora, Boots, Swiper. A variation on classic "Duck, Duck, Goose" game. Start by having the birthday child walk around the circle of children tapping each lightly while saying, "Dora, Boots, Dora, Boots." When the birthday child says "Swiper," the tapped child gets up and chases the birthday child around the circle while the birthday child attempts to sit in the open seat. Then Swiper goes around the circle until a new Swiper is tagged.

Dora's Basketball Game. Explain that for every basket made the child gets a piece of a puzzle. Have the children attempt to make baskets from different distances. For each basket made, hand out a puzzle piece (if there are not enough animal puzzles for each child, group them into teams of two or three). The objective is for each child or team to figure out the puzzle by guessing the animal.



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Dora's Circle of Friends. Glue pictures of Dora and her friends (from activity book or printed from websites) or use stickers to paper plates (make sure there is one per party guest). Write the names of Dora and her friends on pieces of paper and mix them in a hat.

Place Dora character plates in a circle on the floor. Tell the children to walk around from circle to circle when the music starts. When the music stops, the children must stand still on a character plate. Pull a name out of a hat. The person standing on the character plate matching the name pulled from the hat must pick up that plate and step out of the circle. Play until only one guest remains.

Jungle Weave. Lay streamers on ground in a large area (they do not have to be neatly arranged). Instruct the children to each grab an end of a streamer and then form a circle. Count "Uno, dos, tres, cuatro, cinco, seis, siete, ocho, nueve, diez" tapping each child as you encircle them. Turn on some music and announce that all of the even numbered guests should duck and go under the streamers to their right. The odd numbered guests should do the same, but go to their left. When the streamers are tangled enough, tell the children to find their partners (at the streamer's other end) by untangling the trap.

PARTY MENU

Serve a Monkey Meal. Peel a banana and put it in a hot dog roll and spread peanut butter and honey over the banana.

Swiper Chicken Quesadilla

Big Mountain Cheese Enchiladas

Spanish rice

Gummy worms

Animal crackers

Animal fruit snacks

Fire Ants. Plain or chocolate-covered raisins

Trail Mix



Prickly Forest Taco Stand. Place ingredients in bowls: taco shells, ground beef cooked with taco seasoning mix, salsa sauce, sour cream, guacamole, chopped tomatoes, chopped cilantro, chopped onions, chopped lettuce, and shredded cheese. Line bowls along the party table and let the party guests make their own tacos.

Boots' Orange-Banana Smoothie. Use vanilla yogurt, ripe bananas, orange juice, and ice cubes. Mix all ingredients in a blender.

Pineapple Punch. Combine two 46-oz. cans of pineapple juice with one liter of lemon-lime soda, add 4 oz. of sweetened raspberry-flavored drink mix powder and stir well. Serve over ice in a large punch bowl.



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Boots the Monkey Banana Splits. Serve pre-made or have the children make their own (children will have great fun making their own Boots banana splits, but it will be messy so make sure you have plenty of paper towels). Have available: 1 banana per child, several containers of your child's favorite ice cream flavors, several of your child's favorite sauces (chocolate, butterscotch, marshmallow, or strawberry), whipped cream, sprinkles/jimmies, nuts, and cherries.

Dora Cake. Prepare yellow cake according to mix directions and frost cake white. Cut a picture of Dora out of a paper party plate, napkin, or party invitation or from a website printout or an activity book and place the Dora picture on top of the frosted cake.

With a toothpick, trace the outline of Dora. Remove the picture and draw Dora's outline by tracing over the toothpick lines using liquid writing gel. Use brown gel to create chocolate dots for eyes. Draw Dora's hair by using straight lines with this gel. Fill in the backpack with purple gel. Use pink gel for Dora's shirt. Use orange gel for shorts. Use yellow for socks. Outline Dora's mouth with red writing gel.

Mix some shredded coconut with green food color and spread it under Dora's feet for grass. Add green spearmint leaves. Cut 1" pieces of chocolate licorice for the tree trunks. (Use a small dab of frosting to attach the trees to the sides of the cake). Add three spearmint leaves to each tree. Use leftover leaves for a border around the top of the cake.

PARTY FAVORS

Prepare a *Dora the Explorer* loot bag for each child to be given out at the end of the party as a memento of the day. Fill each bag with items such as toy binoculars, a compass, blowouts, party favors, stickers, a map of your town, sour gummy worms, gummy frogs, and chocolate ladybugs.

For an additional activity, have guests decorate their own party bags at the start of the party with stickers and crayons.

During the Dora obstacle course, remember to take pictures of the kids exploring together. Send these pictures to your party guests in your thank you notes too!



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