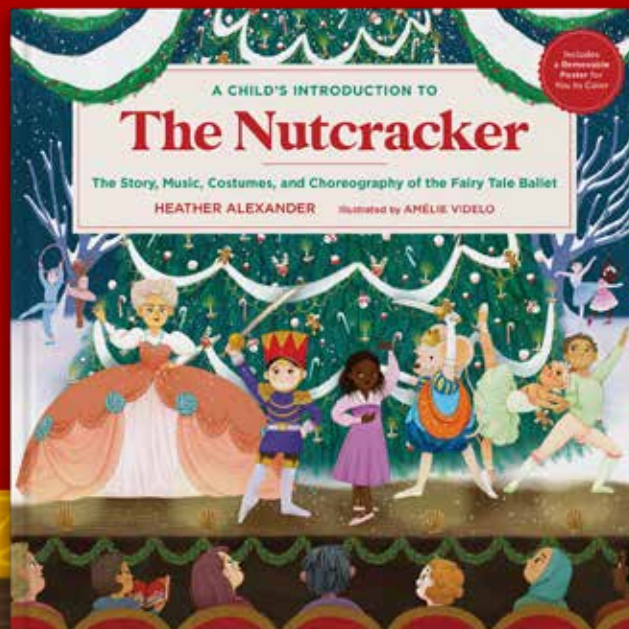


YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO A

Tutu-Sweet Nutcracker Tea Party



'Tis the season to throw a magical Nutcracker Tea Party! Turn up the music, play games, read the enchanting story of the ballet, and serve festive treats for lots of fun—all inspired by ***A Child's Introduction to the Nutcracker***. A Nutcracker Tea Party is perfect whether you invite friends over to watch the ballet on your home screen, gather together before heading out for a live performance, or throw a pre-rehearsal celebration in your dance school.





Decorations

Begin by transforming your party space into a winter wonderland with cut-out paper snowflakes, sparkly pine trees made from glittery scrapbook paper, and strands of mini-twinkle lights. Drape your table with pink or white tulle from a fabric store. Use a stuffed animal mouse and a nutcracker as centerpieces.

Treats

Serve peppermint tea (with plenty of mini sugar cubes) or fill teacups with sparkling pink lemonade or hot chocolate.

And here are two Nutcracker-inspired recipes sure to bring smiles.



Sugar Plum Fairy Pops



INGREDIENTS

large marshmallows
wooden skewers
paper cupcake liners
vanilla frosting
colorful decorating sugar
plastic knife
plate or shallow bowl
cutting board

1. Place one marshmallow on the cutting board. Place a cupcake liner (right-side up) on top of the marshmallow. With a quick jabbing motion, push a skewer through both the marshmallow and the liner.
2. Push the liner down, so it no longer touches the marshmallow. Using the plastic knife, spread frosting around the marshmallow.
3. Sprinkle the sugar crystals onto a plate or into a shallow bowl. Roll the marshmallow in the sugar.
4. Pull up the cupcake liner and display your pops. You can push the skewers into a styrofoam block or even a half a watermelon!

For a healthier version, you can substitute banana chunks for the marshmallows and flaked coconut for the crystallized sugar. To help keep the banana (heavier than a marshmallow) in place, thread a small grape or large blueberry under the cupcake liner skirt.

Mice King Cheese Bites



INGREDIENTS

cheese spread wedges
black sesame seeds or poppy seeds
peanut halves, almond slivers, or thinly-sliced radishes
chives or green onions
round crackers
slice of cheddar cheese
toothpick
plastic knife

1. Unwrap the cheese wedges and place on crackers.
2. Using a toothpick, poke two black sesame seeds or poppy seeds into the cheese for the eyes.
3. Cut tiny slits into the cheese and push in two peanut halves, radish slices, or almond slivers (whichever you like best) for the ears.
4. Use a toothpick to poke a chive or strip of green onion into the back of the cheese wedge for a tail.
5. Cut a tiny crown shape out of the cheese slice and place it in front of the ears.
6. Eat your mice immediately or store in the refrigerator.

Games



NUTCRACKER FREEZE DANCE

It's time to point those toes and get moving! Turn on Tchaikovsky's or Duke Ellington's score and invite your guests to dance. Call out cues, such as: tiptoes, twirl, gallop, soldier march, glide, stomp. When you stop the music, all dancers must freeze until the music starts again. If a dancer moves, they're out of the game.



NUTCRACKER TRIVIA

Is your Nutcracker knowledge all it's cracked up to be? How many of these True or False quiz questions can you answer correctly?

1. The music for *The Nutcracker* was composed by The Beatles. **T or F**
2. *The Nutcracker* was first performed in France. **T or F**
3. The first time the celesta was used in an orchestral score was in *The Nutcracker*. **T or F**
4. *The Nutcracker* was a story written by E.T.A. Hoffmann before it was a ballet. **T or F**
5. Spotting helps a dancer not get dizzy when spinning or twirling. **T or F**
6. The orchestra plays the overture at the end of the ballet. **T or F**
7. The Sugar Plum Fairy is the ruler of the Land of Snow. **T or F**
8. Mother Ginger hides kittens under her enormous skirt. **T or F**
9. The music the flowers dance to is called a "waltz." **T or F**
10. The ballet opens with a big New Year's Eve Party. **T or F**

Answers: F, F, T, T, T, T, F, F, F, F, T, F



NUTCRACKER BINGO

Play while watching a video performance of the ballet (when something listed on the card appears on the screen that square gets covered) or by placing the corresponding word cards inside a bowl and pulling them out randomly, one by one. Supply guests with gumdrops or small peppermint candies to cover the spaces on their boards. Choose any of the following ways to play:

- First to get any line (up, down, left, right, diagonally)
- First to get the four corners
- First to get two diagonal lines through the middle (an “X”)
- First to get all squares

The winner calls out “Bingo!”

Here are two sample bingo boards. Create your own set of 5 x 5 boards (by hand or on the computer) using these Nutcracker words but placing them in different squares for each board. Write or print out cards with the same words to place in a bowl.

B	I	N	G	O
Mouse King	Harlequin	Land of Sweets	Nutcracker Prince	Drosselmeyer
Dew Drop	Snowflakes	Christmas Tree	Presents	Tea
Chocolate	Toy Soldier	Free Space	Sugar Plum Fairy	Party Children
Reed Flutes	Coffee	Ballet	Tchaikovsky	Candy Canes
Polichinelles	Petipa	Waltz of the Flowers	Celesta	Cavalier

B	I	N	G	O
Mittens	Nutcracker	Conductor	Drum	Hot Chocolate
Flute	Blizzard	Lollipop	Reed Flute	Mice
Marshmallow	Flowers	Free Space	Grandfather Clock	Orchestra
Tutu	Gingerbread	Pajamas	Walnuts	Balanchine
Ballet Slipper	Ribbons	E.T.A. Hoffmann	Mother Ginger	Crown