

How Children Celebrate Birthdays Around the World

Article: *How Children Celebrate Birthdays Around the World*

Everyone loves birthdays! But birthday parties can look very different depending on where you live.

In **Mexico**, many children have a big party with music and a game called the *piñata*. A piñata is a colourful shape filled with sweets. Kids take turns hitting it with a stick until the sweets fall out!

In **South Korea**, children often eat seaweed soup on their birthday. It's a healthy and traditional meal that mothers eat after giving birth, so children eat it to thank their mums.

In **Germany**, children wear a special crown at school and sit in the "birthday chair." Their friends sing a song and the teacher sometimes gives them a small gift.

In **Brazil**, there is a sweet called *brigadeiro*, made of chocolate and sprinkles. It's very popular at birthday parties!

In **Canada**, some children get a "butter nose"; their noses are lightly covered in butter for good luck!

Even though each country celebrates birthdays in its own way, the feeling is always the same: happiness, love, and fun with friends and family.





Vocabulary Practice:

Word	Meaning	Example Sentence
Celebrate	To do something fun for a special day	We celebrate birthdays with cake and games.
Piñata	A paper shape filled with sweets	The children broke the piñata and got treats.
Tradition	A custom or habit people follow	Eating soup is a birthday tradition in Korea.
Crown	A special hat worn by royalty	The birthday child wore a paper crown.
Sprinkle	Tiny decorations for sweets	The brigadeiros have colourful sprinkles on top.
Butter	A soft yellow food from milk	Grandma put butter on the cake and on my nose!

Pronunciation Practice

Say these words out loud with the student:

- Piñata
- Tradition
- Celebrate
- Sprinkle

Grammar Focus 1: Present Simple for Habits & Traditions

We use the **present simple** to talk about what people usually do:

In Mexico, children **hit** the piñata.

- In Korea, kids **eat** seaweed soup.
- In Brazil, people **make** brigadeiros.

Mini Practice: Fill in the blanks

1. In Canada, children _____ (get) a butter nose.
2. In Germany, they _____ (wear) a birthday crown.
3. In your country, people _____ (celebrate) birthdays by...?

Grammar Focus 2: Comparing Countries – "In [country], people..."

This structure is helpful when discussing different cultures.

Examples:

- In South Korea, people eat soup.
- In Mexico, children play with a piñata.
- In Brazil, families enjoy chocolate sweets.

Mini Practice: Complete the sentences:

1. In _____, people eat...
2. In _____, children like to...
3. In my country, we...

Comprehension Questions

1. What do children in Mexico play with at birthdays?
2. Why do Korean children eat seaweed soup?
3. What is special about birthdays in Germany?



4. What sweet do people enjoy in Brazil?
5. What does Canada do for birthday good luck?

Discussion Questions

1. How do you celebrate your birthday?
2. What food do you eat on special days?
3. Would you like to try a piñata or seaweed soup?
4. What birthday tradition is your favourite from the article?
5. Do you think birthdays are celebrated the same everywhere? Why or why not?