

juniors

PIZZA

THEMED PROGRAMME



AIM

Pizza is one of the UK's favourite foods. It's made from dough, coated in tasty sauce and covered full of cheese and delicious toppings. Spend some time enjoying pizza with a themed session full of games, crafts and activities which are all perfect for pizza lovers.

ACTIVITIES

-  Protect the Pizza
-  Pizza Makers Game
-  Pizza Making
-  Pizza Box Puzzles
-  Pizza Dough Tossing
-  Blessed are the Pizza Makers

PIZZA

INTRODUCTION

Pizza is an Italian dish. Made from dough, sauce and toppings. This simple meal is a firm favourite with people across the world. In fact, over 5 billion pizzas are sold worldwide each year.

From humble beginnings hundreds of years ago, pizza is now big business. Millions of pizzas are sold every day and big high street restaurants and takeaways, such as Pizza Hut and Dominoes, now exist thanks to one simple dish – pizza.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The UK & USA's favourite pizza topping is pepperoni. In Japan it is squid.
- The average British person eats 731 pizzas in their lifetime. That's 5,848 slices!
- The Margherita pizza was created in 1889 to honour the Italian Queen Margherita.
- The most expensive pizza in the world was sold for over £9,000.
- 49% of people in the UK eat pizza at least once a week.



GET ACTIVE



10 MINUTES



PREPARATION NEEDED

GET ACTIVE: PROTECT THE PIZZA

THEME: PLAYING GAMES

For this game you will need a pizza box for each child. Try your luck at a pizza take away and see if they will donate some boxes. If not, then save up frozen pizza boxes, buy them online or just use large paper plates.

- 1 Give each child a pizza box. They must balance the box on one hand, held above their shoulder like a fancy waiter.
- 2 Children can then move around the room trying to knock other's boxes out of their hands, whilst keeping their own box balanced. If a box falls, then that child is out. The last child with a pizza box is the winner.

Elimination style – All v all. Last person standing wins

Teams – Split into teams and use tactics to work together to attack and defend. Last player standing wins a point for their team.

Protect the Delivery Driver – Each team nominates one person to be the 'pizza delivery driver'. Once their box falls, the whole team is out – so protect the driver at all costs.



GET ACTIVE



10 MINUTES



READY TO GO

GET ACTIVE: PIZZA MAKERS GAME

THEME: PLAYING GAMES

- 1 Stand the children at one end of the meeting space. Nominate 2 children to be 'Pizza Makers'. They should stand in the middle of the meeting space.
- 2 All other children should be given a topping name. Use three toppings, such as cheese, pepperoni and mushrooms. Toppings can be changed after each game.
- 3 The pizza makers call out the name of a topping. Children with that topping name must run to the other side of the meeting space without being caught / tagged. All caught players become pizza makers and stay in the middle to help catch toppings.
- 4 Continue the game calling out the different toppings. More than one topping can be called at a time. The last child (topping) to be caught is the winner.



GET LEARNING



10 MINUTES



PREPARATION NEEDED

GET LEARNING: PIZZA DOUGH TOSSING

THEME: MY SKILLS FOR LIFE

Learn the basics to pizza dough tossing. The skill is a great way to get the perfect pizza base and crust. It also looks very impressive!

Use a shop brought pizza dough or mix. For it to work, it needs to have yeast in it.

- 1 Prepare the worktop by sprinkling flour over the top. The dough should be room temperature and shaped into a ball. Dust it with flour.
- 2 With your hands press the dough to form a circle about 20cm across and 1-2cm thick. You could use a rolling pin to do this.
- 3 Pick up the dough and place it over your hands. One hand should be facing up and the other in a fist shape.
- 4 Use the hand which is facing up to lift and spin the dough into the air. You don't need to toss it high, just enough to get a rotation in. Catch the dough on the back of your fists. This gives a flatter and more stable area to catch with. Continue until the dough stretches to around 30cm.

Top Tips:

- Use your strong hand as the one with the palm up. This is your 'throwing hand'
- Close your fingers, don't spread them.
- As the dough gets bigger, adjust your hands wider to support the dough.
- You can use a damp tea towel to practise with first.



GET LEARNING



10 MINUTES



PREPARATION NEEDED

GET LEARNING: PIZZA BOX PUZZLES

THEME: PROBLEM SOLVING

Challenge the group to solve some pizza box jigsaw puzzles in the quickest time. Beforehand you will need to cut up some pizza boxes into small pieces. Alternatively, you could print out pictures of pizzas and cut these up to use. Remember the smaller the pieces, the harder the game.

- 1 Split the group into small teams. Sit them at one end of the room. Place a cut up pizza box for each team at the other end of the room. In the middle, set up an obstacle course for each team using hoops, chairs, skipping ropes etc.
- 2 On GO one team member from each team must navigate the obstacle course to their pizza box jigsaw pieces at the other end of the room. The team member should pick up one puzzle piece from their pile and return directly to their team. Once back, the next team member can make their way through the obstacle course and retrieve one more puzzle piece.
- 3 Continue playing until all puzzle pieces have been returned. The team to put together their puzzle first is the winner.
- 4 Set up the game again but swap the pizza boxes around, so each team get a new puzzle to complete this time.



GET CREATIVE



30 MINUTES



PREPARATION
NEEDED

GET CREATIVE: PIZZA MAKING

THEME: IN THE KITCHEN

Get creating the perfect pizza with all your favourite toppings. If you have completed the 'Pizza Dough Tossing' activity, then use these as your base. If not, then use a ready roll pizza base, pre-cooked base or you could even use wraps, pitta bread or baguettes.

- 1 Lay out your base on a baking tray and spread it with your desired sauce. Use either ketchup / BBQ sauce from bottles or use ready made pizza sauce from jars.
- 2 Add the cheese.
- 3 Place some toppings in bowls and allow children to top their pizza. They could also cut up and prepare the toppings such as onion, pepper, mushrooms etc.

4 Place in the oven and cook until golden brown. If creating pizza from wraps or pitta bread, use the grill instead.

5 Set up a table and enjoy eating the pizza together. Encourage children to try each other's pizzas.

If you don't have time or the facilities to cook the pizzas, put them on a paper plate and cover in foil/cling film so the children can take them home, suggest they put them in the fridge and have them for dinner the next evening.

KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE - Ensure everyone washes their hands and all surfaces are cleaned before starting this activity. Be aware of any allergies within the group.



GET INTO
THE BIBLE



15 MINUTES



READY
TO GO

GET INTO THE BIBLE: BLESSED ARE THE PIZZA MAKERS

THEME: UNDERSTANDING CHRISTIAN VALUES.

Pizza is often shared with friends. It's a food that brings people together and puts a smile on people's faces. This activity looks at the bible verse 'Blessed are the Peacemakers'.



Matthew 5:9 - Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

1 Ask the group what they think 'Peace' means. Then ask what they think a 'Peacemaker' is.

Peace – A period of calm, getting along and no fighting. It is tranquil, quiet and safe.

Peacemaker – Someone who helps everyone get on, stops fighting and brings people together.

2 Can anyone think of a peacemaker from the Bible? *Jesus, of course!* In the Bible he is even called the 'Prince of Peace' **Isaiah 9:6**. Jesus is our example of how to get along and bring peace to one another.

3 Get the group to think of ways in which we can all be peacemakers in our daily lives and encourage kindness and love. Use Jesus' example for inspiration.

4 Now put those methods to the test. Go through the following situations and decide how the group as 'peacemakers' could resolve each situation.

- You are making a pizza at BB. You add mushrooms to your pizza and one of the others starts to shout out that 'mushrooms are for idiots' and winds you up. The rest of the group start laughing and you get angry and think of a horrible thing to say back. What do you do?
- You and your friends are sharing a pizza. There is only one slice left. Your best friend wants the slice and so do you. You don't want to upset your best friend, but you are really hungry.
- You and your brother share a bedroom. You really want pizza for dinner, but mum has said she will only cook pizza if you tidy your shared bedroom. The mess isn't yours, it's your brother's. He is refusing to tidy it up and doesn't care that you want pizza for dinner.

Finish the activity in prayer, asking God to help us to be better peacemakers in our daily lives.