Grades K-2 - Prepared by Kelly Perez and Vanessa Curcio

Topic: DJ for a Birthday Party

Objective: Families select a party theme for a family member or friend with an upcoming birthday, create a Spotify or YouTube playlist around the party theme, and record themselves singing a song to share with the birthday honoree. Don’t know anyone with an upcoming birthday? Choose someone to celebrate their “unbirthday!”

Become a birthday party DJ

Task 1: Who will you celebrate?

a. Choose a family member or friend who has a birthday coming up OR someone special whose “unbirthday” you’d like to celebrate.
   i. If you are curious about “unbirthdays,” you can see learn about “The Unbirthday Song” here: The Unbirthday Song
   ii. As the lyrics point out:
      Now, statistics prove that you’ve one birthday
      Imagine, just one birthday every year
      Ah, but there are three hundred and sixty four unbirthdays!
      Precisely why we’re gathered here to cheer

b. Make a list of that special person’s favorite things.

Task 2: Pick a theme!

c. Look at your list and choose a party theme. Remember to consider what brings your birthday friend joy! For example, if your friend loves dinosaurs, consider making dinosaurs part of the theme.

d. Get ideas from around the world! Follow this link to learn about birthday traditions from around the world. Consider adapting one of these ideas for your party.

   Birthdays Around the World: Kid World Citizen
   Birthdays Around the World: Culture and History
   28 Birthday Traditions from Around the World

e. Create props and decorations that go along with the theme. Be creative and use items you have at home.

Task 3: Make a party playlist!

f. Create a Spotify or YouTube playlist to go along with the party theme. Use the links below if you need help!
How to Create a Spotify Playlist

Create and Manage Youtube Playlists

g. Again, consider your birthday (or “unbirthday”) friend!
What types of music does your friend like? What songs have you heard your friend singing?
Be sure to include some of your friend’s favorite songs on the playlist.

Task 4: Prepare to perform a special birthday song!

h. With your family, rehearse and prepare to perform a personalized birthday song for your friend.

i. You can compose an entirely new birthday song, like Stevie Wonder did to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.:

Happy Birthday: Stevie Wonder

(This video includes embedded lyrics.)

ii. You can sing a birthday song in your friend’s home language.
Browse variations on traditional birthday songs by country:

70 People on How to Sing Happy Birthday in Their Country

Birthday Songs Around the World

iii. You can perform “Happy Birthday” with American Sign Language:

Happy Birthday in ASL

iv. You can vary the style of “Happy Birthday” to suit your friend’s musical tastes.
Here is a playlist of “Happy Birthday” played in different styles and genres:

Happy Birthday Song Variations

v. Need help singing? Watch this TedEd video for some help!

How to Sing Happy Birthday

i. Find items around your home to use for instruments. For example: Keys can be shakers, shoe boxes can be drums, or pencils can be claves or rhythm sticks. Be creative! Of course, if you have traditional instruments like a piano or guitar, you can use those, too.

j. Rehearse your personalized birthday song with your family.

k. Video record your family’s performance. Make sure you can see the festive props and decorations in the background. Upload and share with your birthday friend!

Extension: Have the party virtually!
Pick a time to Facetime, Duo, or Google Hang with your birthday friend. Perform their personalized birthday song for them and then have a dance party with them to the playlist you created for their birthday!

**Extension: Make a math connection > Birthday Statistics**

Imagine a group of people. How big do you think the group would have to be before there’s more than a 50% chance that two people in the group have the same birthday? The answer is ... probably lower than you think.

David Knuffke explains how the birthday problem exposes our often-poor intuition when it comes to probability. Watch this TedEd video for the explanation:

[Check Your Intuition: The Birthday Problem](#)