



International Carnival

You don't want your community to miss out on this awesome VBS, so what better way to get the word out than to host your very own promo event called Supercharged Carnival. This is a great event to hold two to three weeks before VBS so you can preregister children, build excitement, and spread the word throughout the community.

The Supercharged Carnival will be a good time filled with games, crafts, activities, and snacks. Admission is free. Invite the community by setting up an event page on Facebook and by mailing or handing out "You're Invited!" invitations (see Resource DVD-ROM) to church attendees, friends, sports teams, clubs, and family.

For a list and description of suggested activities to offer at your carnival, check the following pages. (Activities are also on the Resource DVD-ROM.)

Note: Many of these suggestions can also be incorporated into VBS week or the closing program if not used prior to VBS.

Set Up

- Decide if your event will be indoors or outdoors. If indoors, use a multi-purpose room. If outdoors, choose a grassy area or a safe area of the church parking lot.
- Each activity should have its own space, a sign with its name, prize tickets, and a marker or stamp (item 11-6-093) to use on each child's master ticket.
- Use folding tables or large cardboard boxes for activities requiring a base. Drape each table with a colorful, thematic tablecloth, fabric, or sheet. Attach boards, PVC pipe, or long cardboard tubes to each side of the table. Stretch a colorful sign made from roll paper between the two boards and add some colorful balloons.

- A simpler option is to use rope or sidewalk chalk to mark individual activity spaces.
- Choose a few of the decorating suggestions found in the decorating section. Keep it fun, colorful, and simple.
- Play VBS music.

Staffing

- Enlist at least one worker for each activity area. Church families may want to sign up to decorate, organize, and staff one activity each. This divides the workload into small, manageable pieces.
- Workers should dress in VBS T-shirts or theme-related clothing (lab coats and goggles or time period clothing, such as Bible time clothing or Roman empire attire).
- Friendly, costumed greeters can welcome the arriving families.

Registration

- Set up the registration area near the entrance to your event. Warmly greet each arriving family.
- Check everyone in.
- Copy extra carnival master tickets on neon or lime green card stock. See Resource DVD-ROM. Cut apart. Give one to each child. This ticket enables children to participate in each activity once and will be marked or stamped at each location.
- Sign up any unregistered children for VBS. (See registration forms on Resource DVD-ROM.)

Activities and Games

Note: Some of the games need a starting line, which can be made from painter's tape, masking tape, rope, cones, or chalk.

Fiesta Flowers (Mexico)

SUPPLIES

- » Brightly colored tissue paper, cut into 8 x 8 inch squares
- » Green chenille stems
- » Child-safe scissors

DIRECTIONS

- » Ahead of time, make a couple samples.
- » Stack six layers of tissue paper, and fold accordian style.
- » Trim the ends into semicircles.
- » Fold in half.
- » Use a stem to cinch around the midpoint fold.
- » Gently separate the layers, pulling upwards and downwards, until you've formed a flower.
- » Players get one ticket after completing this activity.

Global Face Painting

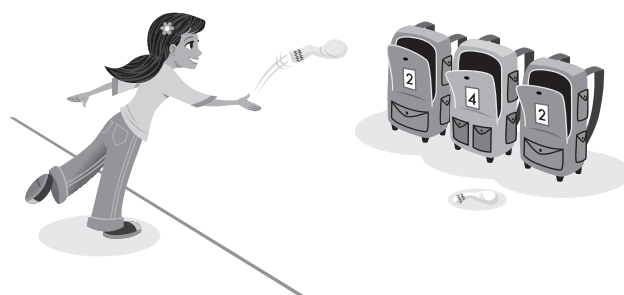
SUPPLIES

- » Face paints
- » Paintbrushes
- » Wet wipes
- » Face Painting Reference Chart (see Digital Resources)

DIRECTIONS

- » Paint the children's faces using images on the Face Painting Reference Chart.
- » Give one prize ticket after completing this activity.

Backpack Toss



SUPPLIES

- » 3 backpacks
- » 3 sock balls (tie a sock in a knot to make one)
- » Index cards, 2 with the number 2, and 1 with the number 4
- » Clear packing tape

DIRECTIONS

- » Open up the backpacks. Tape a numbered index card on each so it is clearly visible.
- » Players get three throws to try to get the sock balls in any of the backpacks—preferably the one in the middle worth the most tickets.
- » Award the number of tickets earned. If they don't get any in, give one ticket for trying.

Match the Map

SUPPLIES



- » Pictures of each continent (see Digital Resources)
- » Cards with the names of each continent (see Digital Resources)

DIRECTIONS

- » Players try to match the name cards with the correct continent.
- » Give one ticket for each correct answer.

World Traveler Photo Spot

SUPPLIES

- » Photo spot backdrop (make your own or use the Photo Op scene setter, 11-7-127)
- » Optional: Dress-up clothes or props from different countries
- » Camera

DIRECTIONS

- » Make or buy and put up the photo spot. There are clip art images of various places from around the world available on the Digital Resources that you may want to use.
- » Children dress up and stand in front of the backdrop. Photograph them and print the picture (either at the carnival or later) to give to them.
- » Give one prize ticket after completing this activity.

Ice (less) Hockey (Canada)

SUPPLIES

- » Plastic play hockey stick or homemade mini hockey stick (see DIY directions below)
- » One soft foam ball (for the puck) or buttons for the tabletop version
- » Cones to use for the goal area, or two craft sticks placed on the end of a table to act as the goal area for the tabletop version

DIRECTIONS

- » If making your hockey a tabletop version, make the mini hockey stick using a large craft stick and half of a large craft stick. Tape the half of a craft stick at a perpendicular angle to the large craft stick with masking tape or duct tape.
- » Set up the goal area of either the regular hockey set or the tabletop version.
- » Players get three tries to shoot their “puck” into the goal.
- » Give one prize ticket for each successful attempt.



Guessing Game

SUPPLIES

- » Plastic container filled with an interesting candy from somewhere around the globe—share what country the candy originated in
- » Paper and pens
- » Container to put guesses in

DIRECTIONS

- » Before the event, count the candies and write the number on a piece of tape. Tape it to the bottom of the container. Put the candies in the container.
- » Have each child look at the container and write a guess of how many candies are in there. Make sure each child has his name on the paper. Put the guesses in the other container.
- » At the end of the carnival or during the opening assembly the first day of VBS, reveal the answer. The person whose guess is the closest receives the container with the candies.
- » Give one prize ticket after completing this activity.

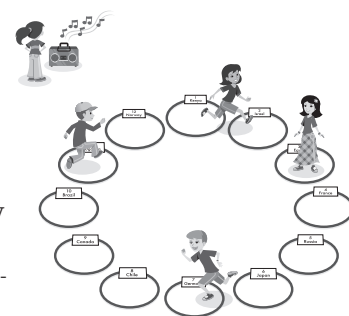
Around the World Walk

SUPPLIES

- » 12 toy hoops arranged in a big circle (simulating a globe)
- » Index cards with different countries written on each card (Kenya, France, etc.), each taped to a toy hoop
- » CD player and VBS music CD (make sure you are near an electrical outlet)

DIRECTIONS

- » Several players can play this at the same time. They each start at whatever hoop they want.
- » The person working the music should have her back to the players. Begin to play the VBS music as the players walk from hoop to hoop. After a short time, stop the music. Each player must stop as soon as the music stops.
- » Players receive the number of tickets that correspond with the numbered hoop they ended on. Or, another way to do tickets is to have anyone who ended up on an even number receive 2 tickets and anyone who ended up on an odd number receive 3 tickets.



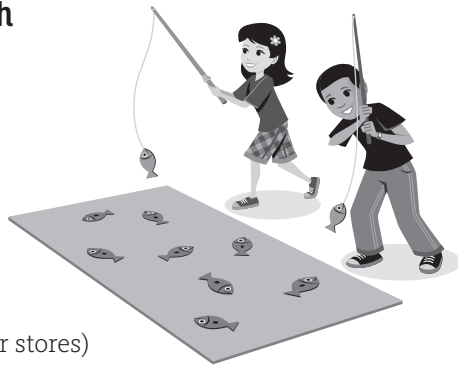
Nile Pile of Fish

SUPPLIES

- » Construction paper fish (see Digital Resources for pattern)
- » Magnetic roll tape (found in craft or teacher stores)
- » Fishing line
- » Dowel rods
- » Blue plastic tablecloth, roll paper, or sheet

DIRECTIONS

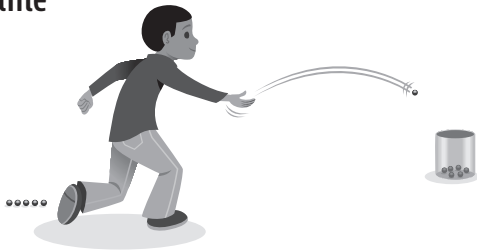
- » Ahead of time, write 1, 2, or 3 on one side of each fish and attach a small piece of magnetic tape to the other side.
- » Tie or tape the fishing line around one end of the dowel rod.
- » Attach a piece of magnetic tape to the other end of the fishing line.
- » Place the fish on the blue tablecloth (the Nile River) with the numbers facing down.
- » Have the players “catch” a fish and receive the number of tickets they get on their card.



Israeli Jar Game

SUPPLIES

- » Quart size plastic jar
- » 12 apricot pits or marbles



DIRECTIONS

- » Place half of the apricot pits or marbles (six of them) in the jar.
- » In Israel, children play this game. The goal is to empty the jar, rather than fill it.
- » Each time a player lands a pit (a marble) in the jar, he gets to remove that pit and three more.
- » The player gets four throws to attempt to remove all the pits (marbles).
- » If they succeed in emptying the jar, they get three tickets. Otherwise, they get one ticket.

Golfing (Scotland)



SUPPLIES

- » Child's play putters or real putters
- » Child's play golf balls or real golf balls
- » 2 long boards (such as 2x4s) per hole
- » 1 cup or small sand pail per hole
- » Optional: obstacles (such as cones)

DIRECTIONS

- » Ahead of time, set up one or several holes of mini golf using a cup or small pail on its side for each hole. Set up the boards as bumpers running along the sides of the hole. Place any obstacles you want to use along the way.
- » Players choose a club and a ball. Start at hole one and see how many strokes it takes to get the ball in the hole.
- » Give five tickets for a hole in one, three tickets if it takes 2–3 strokes, and one prize ticket for four or more strokes. (Adjust for age of child, however.)

Coloring Contest

SUPPLIES

- » Coloring page (see Digital Resources)
- » Crayons or markers

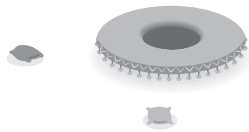
DIRECTIONS

- » Have each child color the scene and turn in their sheet. Make sure names are on each one.
- » At the end of the carnival or sometime during VBS, announce the winners of the Coloring Contest. You may want to have several age categories and several winners per category.
- » Give one prize ticket after completing this activity.

Sombreros and Mirrors (Mexico)

SUPPLIES

- » Sombrero (may need to prop up to sit straight)
- » Child-safe mirror



with a handle

- » Ball or bean bag

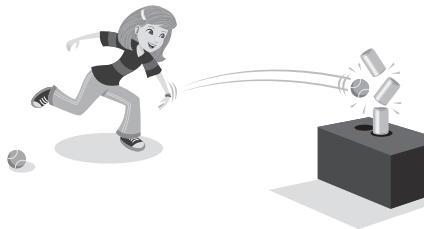
DIRECTIONS

- » Players stand with their back to the sombrero and throw the ball or bean bag over their shoulder using only the mirror to view.
- » Each player gets three tries.
- » Give one prize ticket for each time the ball or bean bag lands in the rim of the sombrero.

Drie Blikkies ("Three Tins"—South Africa)

SUPPLIES

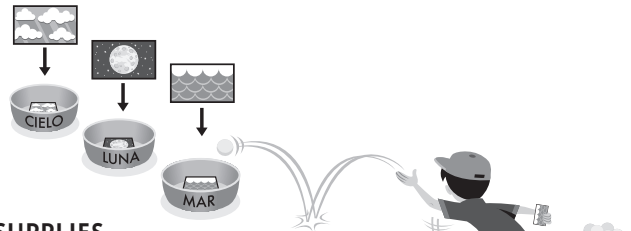
- » 3 empty tin cans with smooth rims
- » Crate or box
- » 2 tennis balls



DIRECTIONS

- » Stack the three cans on a crate or box.
- » Players get two tries to knock down all three cans.
- » Give three tickets if all three are knocked down; otherwise, get one ticket for trying.

Cielo, Luna, Mar ("Sky, Moon, Sea"—Chile)



SUPPLIES

- » 3 baskets with pictures labeled sky (cielo), moon (luna), and sea (mar)
- » 9 picture cards of sky, moon, and sea (see Digital Resources)
- » Table tennis balls

DIRECTIONS

- » Ahead of time, prepare the pictures of the sky, moon, and sea. Put the three in the bottom of the baskets (trim to fit if need be) and place the nine in a small box or cup.
- » Set the baskets on the floor behind each other in a line or on three different level steps.
- » Players draw a picture card to see what basket is the target.
- » Players get three tries to bounce a table tennis ball into the appropriate basket (bounce, not throw).
- » Give one ticket for each successful attempt. If none go in, give one ticket for trying.

Hoops (Greece)

SUPPLIES

- » 1 toy hoop
- » Ball or other small object

DIRECTIONS

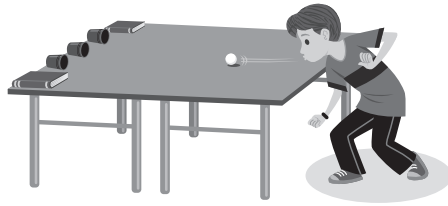
- » The leader rolls the hoop in front of the child. While the hoop is moving, the player throws the small object and tries to get it through the hoop.
- » Give three tickets if successful. Give one for trying.



East to West

SUPPLIES

- » Table
- » Table tennis balls
- » 3 plastic cups
- » 2 books
- » Tape



DIRECTIONS

- » Tape the cups to one end of the table. Stick the books on the two ends.
- » Kid try to travel from east to west by blowing the table tennis ball from one end of the table to the other.
- » Give one ticket for each table tennis ball that ends up in a cup.

Soak You in a Canoe

SUPPLIES

- » Canoe
- » Bucket filled with water
- » 2 sponges



DIRECTIONS

- » Enlist a good-natured adult or teen who doesn't mind getting wet to sit in the canoe. (If you're doing this during or after VBS, the characters in the drama are fun to use!)
- » Players have two turns to try to hit the person in the canoe with a sponge.
- » The player gets 3 tickets if he successfully hits the person in the canoe.

Sightseers' Souvenirs

- » Set up the Sightseers' Souvenirs area with various prizes worth various numbers of tickets. Children turn in their tickets to receive prizes. Check the *Resource Catalog*, Oriental Trading Company, or Rhode Island Novelty for inexpensive prize possibilities. The following are potential prizes: drawstring backpacks; fanny packs; sunglasses; earth balls; globe beach balls; balsa wood glider planes; pullback planes or cars; die-cast race cars; toy boats; flags around the world folding hand fans; flags around the world erasers; around the world spiral notepads; candies from around the world such as Pocky Sticks®, Lindt Chocolates®, Cadbury Chocolate®, Swedish Fish®, or Hot Tamales®.
- » Another option is to give prizes at each location. If this option is chosen, children will need bags of some kind to keep their prizes in as they move from activity to activity.

Global Goodies

Set up a Global Goodies area and choose one or more fun snacks from the suggestions listed below. Make signs that announce the name of each snack.

Note: There are also lots of additional great ideas in the *Runway Café Snack Guide* and in the Training Workshop section of this guide. You may want to make some of the snacks you will be serving during VBS week. Check out the snack guide!

SOUTH AMERICAN-INSPIRED IDEAS

- » South American Pao de Queijo: Check online for a recipe for Pao De Queijo, which is like a yummy cheesy bread.
- » Queso: Buy or make queso and serve with tortilla chips.

ASIAN-INSPIRED IDEAS

- » Pretend Sushi Deluxe: Unroll fruit roll-ups and cut them into four pieces. Cut Twizzlers® Rope Candy into pieces as tall as the roll-up, about 1 inch. Roll the roll-up around the rope candy so the Twizzler® is inside, but the top shows.
- » Great Wall of Chewy: Make crispy rice treats using the Tower Treats recipe in the snack guide. Cut the treats into three long strips. One is the base (representing the footpath of the Great Wall of China). The other two are the sides (which are the walls of the Great Wall of China). Press the sides against the base to have the Great Wall of Chewy, and cut off chunks as people want it.

AFRICAN-INSPIRED IDEAS

- » South African Malva Pudding: Check online for a recipe for this yummy dessert. Some recipes make it in an ooey, gooey chocolate version!
- » Pyramid Pound Cakes: Make or buy pound cake and cut it into triangle shapes. Stand them up like a pyramid and put strawberries on them.

EUROPEAN-INSPIRED IDEAS

- » French Pastries: France is known for its delicious pastries such as macaroons, petit fours, eclairs, and madelines. Stock a tray full with the sweet treats.

- » Italian Pizza: Who doesn't like pizza? 'Nuff said.
- » German Soft Pretzels: Buy or make soft pretzels and serve warm.

NORTH AMERICAN-INSPIRED IDEAS

- » All American Banana Splits: Banana splits are an American invention. Serve with a mini US flag in each.
- » Key Lime Pie: As the story goes, key lime pie originated in Key West, Florida. Check online for a recipe.

TRAVEL/GLOBAL IDEAS

- » Wayfarer Fruits: Make a fruit tray with interesting fruit from around the globe. It can really be anything, but some different ones from normal would be fun.
- » Around-the-World Candies: Fill containers with candies from around the world, such as Pocky Sticks® (Japan), salt water taffy (US), Haribo Gummy Bears® (Germany), Mentos® (Netherlands), Cadbury Chocolates® (Britain), etc. Label what country they are from.

DELICIOUS DRINKS

- » Around-the-World Drinks: Try any of the drinks described in the snack guide, such as limeade (Day 1), Middle Eastern Limonada (Day 2), or the Succo D'uva (Day 4).
- » Water: Wrap water bottles with labels that say "water" in various languages. See the Digital Resources for a pattern.
- » Soda: Wrap any canned carbonated beverages with labels that say soda in various languages. See back of the snack book or the Digital Resources for a pattern.

Additional Ideas

- » Have *The Incredible Race* drama team or greeters dress in costume and mingle with the kids, acting in character.
- » Rent an inflatable.
- » Make balloon animals in the shapes of the five animal pals—snake, camel, dog, swan, and bird.
- » Do a Creature Feature. See the *Assembly Guide* to get an idea of how this works.