

## Have A Sea Serpent Party!

What's the best way to celebrate National Sea Serpent Day on August 7? With a sea serpent party of course. The idea comes from *The Sea Serpent and Me*, a new picture book from Houghton Mifflin. Written by Dashka Slater, and illustrated by Catia Chien, the book tells the story of an unusual friendship between a little girl and the tiny sea serpent that drops from her bathroom faucet. When a trip to the beach is foiled by rain, the two decide to have an indoor beach party.

You can have one too, to celebrate both National Sea Serpent Day and the launch of this wonderful new book. Below you will find tips on decorations, crafts, snacks, and games -- all to celebrate those mysterious creatures from the deep blue sea.

### DECORATIONS

Decorate your party room as if it were the beach. Drape your tables with colorful beach towels, and use plastic beach buckets to hold party favors, silverware, and flowers. A couple of beach umbrellas can make a fine hideout for kids to play in. Inflatable beach balls are terrific party favors. Don't forget to play some surf guitar CDs to set the beach party mood.

### SEA SERPENT SNACKS

#### Vegetable Sea Serpents:



Make an ocean by mixing equal parts plain yogurt or cream cheese and Green Goddess salad dressing. Spread a layer over a platter or individual plates.

Peel a cucumber and slice in half lengthwise. Scoop out the seeds with a spoon. Slice into half circles.

Arrange the cucumber slices in the ocean by standing them on their flat edges to form the coils of the Sea serpent. Cut one of the half circles in half again to form the head. Attach it to its cucumber body with a small piece of toothpick.

You can use peapods to make waves, and crumbled crackers to form the beach if you desire.

### **Sailboat Snacks:**

Preheat oven to 350°. Use a glass or a 2 inch round cookie cutter to cut out circles of sandwich bread. Flatten each round with a rolling pin and then lightly brush both sides of each round with melted butter. Place the rounds into muffin cups, using your fingers or wine cork to press them into place. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes, or until lightly browned.

Fill each one with kid-friendly fillings like cream cheese, peanut butter, or tuna salad. Add sails by slicing quarter-inch squares of cheddar cheese, and then slicing them on the diagonal to form triangles. Attach a triangle to each boat with a toothpick to form the sail.



### **Other Sea-Themed Snacks:**

- Make sea serpents out of honeydew melon. Halve the melon and scoop out the seeds. Peel and slice each half. Create sea serpents by arranging melon slices on a plate to form the coils. Cut one slice of melon in half to form the neck and head. Use a knife to create notches for the mouth and eyes. Insert a currant into the eye notches, then attach the neck and head piece to the body with a toothpick.
- Use star shaped cookie cutters to cut out starfish sandwiches

- Fill parfait glasses or clear plastic cups with blue Jell-O. Drop in a few Swedish Fish and Gummi Worms (sea serpents!) before chilling.
- Mix limeade, carbonated water, and lime sherbet or sorbet to create a bubbly “Sea Slurpent.”

## **Sea Serpent Cake**

### **Ingredients:**

1 cake mix, enough for a two layer cake  
 1 box confectioners sugar  
 1 cup butter (2 sticks)  
 5 Tablespoons light cream  
 2 teaspoons vanilla extract  
 green and blue food color  
 jelly rings  
 M&M's  
 Good 'n' Plenty  
 Sour candy belts

### **Instructions:**

Grease two round cake pans, line bottoms with wax paper, grease wax paper, dust pans with flour. Pour batter into pans. Bake and cool according to package directions.

Prepare frosting in a large bowl, by beating together confectioners sugar, butter, cream, and vanilla. Reserve a half cup, and then add a few drops of green food coloring to the rest .

Prepare the base on which the Sea serpent will rest. It can be a platter or a large piece of cardboard covered with blue paper.

Cut a 3 inch round out of the center of each cooled cake.

Cut each cake in half to make two c-shapes.

Place C-shaped pieces end to end on the platter or cardboard, alternating directions so that the sea serpent seems to swivel.

For the head, use one of the 3 inch round cutouts, then slice the other 3-inch piece in half and arrange it to form his snout, spread a little bit apart so his mouth is open.

Frost the cake with green frosting. Cut jelly rings in half and use to make sea serpent scales down his back.

Make an eye out of one whole jelly ring with an M&M in the middle.

Cut spikes from pieces of green sour candy belts (cut them lengthwise, so that they are long) and arrange around his head to form his mane.

Add white Good 'n' Plenty teeth.

If you are using a platter, add a few drops of blue food coloring to the reserved half cup of frosting, and spread the frosting around the sea serpent to make the sea.

## Sea Serpent Games and Activities

- Have a sea serpent race! Divide children into groups of three -- each group of three forms one sea serpent by lining up and holding onto each other's waists. (The second child in line puts her hands around the waist of the first and the third child puts his hands around the waist of the second.) Have the sea serpents line up at the starting line and let the race begin!
- Have the children create a sea serpent by folding sheets of paper accordion style into thirds. (The paper should be oriented landscape wise). Have each child draw the head of a sea serpent on the first third of the paper and mark the connecting point of the body on the next third before folding it over so that the head can't be seen and passing it on to the child on her right. The next child draws the sea serpent's body, and marks the connecting point for the tail before folding it over so that the head and body can't be seen and passing it to the child on his right. This child will draw the tail. Open the folded drawing to see the completed sea serpent. Each child can then take home one sea serpent drawing.

## Sea Serpent Crafts

### Make A Home For Your Own Tiny Sea Serpent



You will need:

- A small fish bowl (around \$3 at aquarium stores and easy to find at thrift stores) or use jelly jars or transparent plastic containers. This is a great project to do using recycled materials!
- some gravel, sand, or small rocks (you can even use beans or lentils)

- colored play-dough or modeling clay
  - an assortment of small objects to use as decorations – flowers, fish, cars – whatever you have on hand!
  - Sprigs of pine or other hardy leaves to use as underwater plants – just bury one end in the gravel and they will stay in place.
1. Place the gravel on the bottom of the fish bowl
  2. Have children make their sea serpent and other decorations out of play-dough.
  3. Arrange the decorations, plants and sea serpent on top of the gravel.

### Make An Octopus or Sea Serpent Party Hat



#### You Will Need:

Newspaper  
 Purple, green, black, white, and orange paint  
 hole punch  
 purple yarn, ribbon, or string

**Octopus hat:**

1. Fold a full sheet of newspaper into fourths
2. Wrap it around the circumference of your head so that you are basically making a cylinder, and then tape the edges to keep the cylinder form in place.
3. Cut about half of the height of the cylinder so that it's more or less a square (depending on how tall you want your octopus head).
4. Take each side of the top cylinder and fold down two flaps to make a flat top.
5. Fold down the corners and tape them in place.
6. When everything is secured with tape, paint the whole thing purple.
7. Use white and black paint to paint two eyes and a mouth
8. Take a hole puncher and punch holes along the bottom edge of the hat
9. Tie purple strings (can be anything through the holes. These will be the legs of the octopus!
10. Voila! you have an octopus hat.

**Sea Serpent hat:**

1. Fold a full sheet of newspaper in fourths
2. Wrap it around the circumference of your head so that you are making a cone, and then tape the edges to keep the cone form in place
3. Cut about half of the height of the cone (depending on how tall you want your sea serpent hat).
4. Take each side of the top part of the hat and fold down two flaps to make a flat top. Tape in place.
5. Using the leftover newspaper, cut two triangles and attach these to the top of the cone to make the ears of the sea serpent.
6. When everything is secured with tape, paint the whole thing a bright green.
7. Paint two white circles and then inside the circles two black dots for the eyes.
8. Using orange paint, paint the nose. Use dark orange to paint the nostrils!
9. If you want, use the hole puncher to punch two holes on each side of the hat and tie an elastic string to keep the hat on!

## How to Make a Sea Serpent Sock Puppet



You will need:

one green sock  
one square each of white and pink craft felt  
one square of green craft felt in a shade similar to your sock  
one square of lighter green craft felt  
scissors  
a glue gun  
a black sharpie  
googly eyes

1. Glue googly eyes about 3 inches from the toe of the sock.



2. Cut out a rectangle of pink felt that is 2 inches wide and 3 inches long. Turn sock over and place the shorter end of the pink felt rectangle close to the toe of the sock, so that the longer side extends down the sock body. This will be your sea serpent's mouth.



3. Cut a strip of white felt about 3 inches long and 1 inch wide, then cut that into a strip of jagged teeth. Glue that to the toe of the sock just above or slightly over the pink rectangle. These are your sea serpent's teeth.



4. Cut out two triangles from the green felt that is close in color to that of the sock. They should be about an inch and a half at their base and 2 inches in height. Attach them to the sock about a third of an inch above the eyes by placing a dot of glue at each corner of the triangle and folding the corners down so that the ears stand up. Glue the edges of the top point of the triangle together as well.



5. Cut a rectangle from the larger piece of green felt that is about 4 inches wide and 6 ½ inches long. Then cut jagged spikes around the edges. Make a slit of about 3 ½ inches in the center. This will be your sea serpent's mane.



6. Slide your sea serpent puppet through the slit and glue the mane in place. Use a black sharpie to draw the nostrils.



7. Enjoy your sea serpent puppet!