

## ZOMBIE ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

I'm holding a Zombie Apocalypse program the first day of my kids' Thanksgiving break, and it's going to be an all day thing, and encouraging the kids to dress up if they feel like it.

If the weather's nice we're invading the park outside our building for some Zombie Tag (like freeze tag but the first person is a zombie, and every person tagged afterwards is a zombie) and Zombie Marco Polo, marked off with caution tape and using our zombie hat to tell who's it (<http://www.geekalerts.com/u/Plush-Zombie-Hat.jpg>). I'm also planning on a team relay race for Zombie Escape Fitness. All of these can be done outside or inside our large program room. Then we're moving onto crafts (leftover fall crafts along with zombie masks) and games (Zombie Dice, Zombie Fluxx, and Munchkin Zombies). We're ending the day with a showing of Beetlejuice.

I also pulled together all of our zombie books in our system that weren't checked out and made bookmarks for them as well.

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I put on a zombie program last May, because May is Zombie Awareness Month, after all. <http://www.zombieresearch.org/awareness.html> There was food (pureed beet dip, craisins, and twizzlers), music, a nerf shooting range with zombie pinup targets, zombie trivia, and races. It also had an emergency preparedness element--we had a relay to stuff backpacks with common disaster prep items, and each took home a folder which included an emergency kit list. The coolest part was the makeup angle--the local high school's theater department had, awesomely, just done a zombie play and zombie haunted house, so they were well-prepared to make up my teens. Participants who survived the program received a (disclaimer heavy) completion certificate.

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Last year I did a Zombie Invasion at my library. We taught the kids how to do the Thriller dance, and then shot a Flip Video of them doing it. I was surprised at how much they got into it, even the boys. They wanted to be going up on their toes and do the whole thing. We did our program inside though, and so we showed the video so they could see what they were doing.

We also had them make little zombie finger puppets. If you could get one of those nerf-style footballs that is shaped like a brain, you could do zombie football or get several and play keep away or a sort of "capture the flag" with brains. The Zombie Survival Guide is a great idea - if you wind up trapped inside you could have the kids make teams and search the library for its most defensible position - then make lists of what they can use as weapons, etc. Also - read a chapter or two of World War Z aloud. Totally scary and awesome, if they are teens and tweens they'll love it. If you can get

your hands on the audio version it's excellent, and there are plenty of passages that are creepy without being too much for kids.

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I just held a teen zombie prom at my library last week (the kids loved it). We invited the teens to come dressed in their best zombie attire (almost everyone came in costume and I think this was their favorite part).

For activities, we made black roses out of duct tape (and we also had the instructions for duct tape wallets in case the roses were too girly). And we had a station set up where the kids could make zombie sock puppets (basically plain socks, permanent markers, and any scraps and materials laying around our art room).

We also did a Zombie Walk-Off and gave out prizes for the best costumes/zombie walks. This is something you could do even if the kids aren't coming in costume, just get them to show you their best zombie shuffle.

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Just did a zombie book discussion (Rot & Ruin) last Saturday and we made zombie felties (from the book of the same name). After that, I saw some easier zombie dolls to make on Pinterest; but they all loved making zombies with felt and then I bought little paper coffins that they took their zombies home in. I gave them the choice between playing zombie fluxx and doing the felties and everyone chose the felties. Even the boys liked making these!

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Nerf guns + Zombie targets = Happy teens & tweens (Plus, Nerf guns can then be given away as door prizes.)

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We had fun with a Zombie Apocalypse Survival Kit Challenge that I adapted from someone else's suggestion out of my files (thanks, whoever you were). I posted this near a table:

### **Zombie Apocalypse Survival Kit Challenge**

1. Would you be ready for the Zombie Apocalypse?
2. Choose 7 (seven) items from our display.
3. Put them in the box.

4. Bring to Tim or MsS for scoring.
5. Each item is worth a secret number of points.

Whoever gets the most points wins:

A TWINKIE!!

On the table were the following:

- Bandana 2
- Batteries 3
- Blanket 3
- Book (1 vol encyclopedia) 3
- Can opener 3
- Canned food 3
- Duct tape 3
- First aid kit 4
- Flashlight 2
- Hiking boots 4
- Magazine (fashion) 1
- Matches 4
- Mirror 3
- Plastic sheet 3
- Socks 2
- Sunscreen 2
- Sword 4

- Twinkie 10
- Umbrella 1
- Water bottle 5

The items were spread out, with a box for them to put their selections in. My assistant and I each had the list of items and their assigned point values, as above (the teens didn't know the points). Teens assembled their kits one at a time throughout the program and brought them to us. We did the math, recorded their name and score, and returned the items to the table. At some point I asked loudly "Who has seen *Zombieland*? Who can explain to me the significance of Twinkies?"

It was a fun little side activity.

You can also buy *Zombie Dice* for \$13.13, simple and fun game.

If you will be playing music, look for Abney Park's "To the Apocalypse in Daddy's Sidecar" which has a nice abandoned sound.

If you can find a Jello brain mold, you could serve that with all sorts of treats, or there are some wonderful icky things as well in *Gross Goodies Cookbook*.