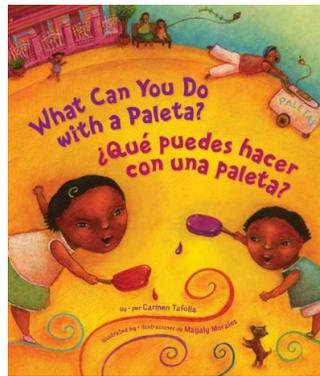


Book Guide
Milwaukee Public Library Summer Reading Program



Book Title:	What Can You Do with a Paleta? / ¿Qué puedes hacer con una paleta?
Author:	Carmen Tafolla
Illustrator:	Magaly Morales

Recommended Audience	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> K5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 st	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 nd	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 rd	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 th	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 th	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 th
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<p>Length of Time to Read: About 15-20 minutes. This book can be revisited and read more than once.</p>
<p>Summary: What can you do with a paleta? Paint your tongue? Scare your brother? Cool off? Lick it and slurp it and gobble it down? Or maybe learn to make tough decisions. Open the imagination with this playful journey through a bright, colorful, Latinx neighborhood in the summertime.</p>
<p>Before Reading (Create Interest): Before showing your students the book, ask them to name some sights, sounds, smells, and flavors that remind them of summer. What is their favorite thing about summer? Next, read the title and ask your group if they know what a “paleta” is. If they don’t, ask them to use the illustrations on the front cover to look for clues. Kind of like a popsicle, a “paleta” is a Mexican frozen treat made from fruit or other fresh, yummy ingredients. In many neighborhoods, people look forward to the arrival of summer, when they hear the tinkling of a bell and the call of a person selling paletas from a small wagon. Ask your students if they have ever visited a paleta wagon or ice cream truck in the summer.</p>
<p>During Reading (Discussion/Questions): Pause to identify any unfamiliar vocabulary words. Give the students plenty of time to look at the colorful, detailed illustrations. Ask your students if they can spy the little dog throughout the book.</p>
<p>After Reading: Ask your students if they liked the book. Why or why not?</p>

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Ask your students to recall some of the things that the children in the book did with their paletas (i.e. paint your tongue, make friends with a dog, cool off). Make a list together that your whole class can see. What are some other fun things you could do with a paleta? Ask your students to use their imaginations and add to the list.

Turn to the final page of the book. Read "About Paletas," then read the list of flavors in both languages. Challenge your students to learn some flavor words in a language they are unfamiliar with. If your students are bilingual, ask if they can think of some other paleta flavors that aren't on this list. Make a list of even more paleta flavors in Spanish and English.

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) Connection:

The barrio (neighborhood) in the book has houses that are decorated with papel picado ("pecked paper," a traditional Mexican art form). Beautify your classroom by guiding your students to make their own papel picado creations. Tissue paper is preferred, but any colorful paper will work. Have your class brainstorm a list of shapes that they could cut into their paper. Follow the step-by-step instructions found at <https://www.deepspacesparkle.com/how-to-make-a-papel-picado/> or check out this short how-to video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vfjGY133aDQ>. If possible, tape all of the papel picado creations to a string and hang across your room to make a banner.

How is a paleta made? Ask your students if they have ever made paletas, popsicles, or another frozen treat at home. Invite students to explain what they did to make their frozen treat.

Ideas for younger or older children

For younger students, have them choose a favorite flavor or invent a new flavor (example: strawberry peach coconut chocolate chip). Using markers, crayons, colored pencils, or watercolors, have students draw and decorate a paleta, then cut it out. Tape a popsicle stick to the back of each student's paleta and hang on the wall of your classroom to see all the different flavors!

For older students, give them a Design Challenge. Put your students into pairs or small groups. Using pencil, paper, pipe cleaners, paper clips, rubber bands, and any other supplies you have available, challenge each group to design and build a miniature paleta wagon. Ask students to figure out a way to make their wagon move (Wheels? Sled? Skis? Wings or propeller so it can fly?). Bonus points if their wagon has a bell or some other noise-maker so people know when it's moving.

Additional Notes: If you have access to a freezer, try out some fun and simple science experiments with your class, using just water and ice: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zVAL5I-WtAQ>