



REEEC

Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center
University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign

Pre-Kindergarten Curriculum

Hot-Air Balloon Rides in Cappadocia, Türkiye

Required Materials:

1. Paper plates
2. String
3. Brown paper bags
4. Tissue Paper
5. Glue

Preparation:

Cut out one brown paper bags into several smaller rectangles, pieces of string, and tissue paper into squares. Place a paper plate, brown paper bag, two pieces of string, and several pieces of tissue paper at each student's seat.

Lesson Plan:

1. Introduce the students to Türkiye through a series of photographs. Show them images of the capital city, Istanbul and the Grand Bazaar found there (also known as the "Covered Bazaar," or *Kapalıçarşı* in Turkish). Show them the outside of the bazaar and examples of goods sold there, including spices, textiles, ceramic bowls, slippers, and jewelry. Ask them what a bazaar is and explain.
2. Other points of interest to explore include the subterranean cities in the Cappadocia region – an eight-hour drive from Istanbul! – of Turkey, where there are around 200 underground cities. This region is also known for rock formations called "fairy chimneys," partly naturally made from wind and water coming into contact with the soft rock in this area, and partly handmade by Romans who settled there.
3. The Cappadocia region, with all its rock formations, is also Türkiye's most popular hot-air ballooning destination – each morning over 100 hot-air balloons take off at sunrise!
4. Today, students will be making and decorating their own hot-air balloons:
 - a. First, each student will take their pieces of string and glue or tape it to the back of the brown bag. Then they will glue or tape the other ends of the string to the back of the paper plate.
 - b. Next, each student will spread out their pieces of tissue paper in any pattern they like onto the paper plate. Then they will glue them down to the paper plate.

