

# Passport to Learning

## Morning

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# Time Plans



Travel  
UNIT

Welcome,



Pour yourself a cup of coffee, put your feet up, and take a little coffee break with me. Let's talk about Family Style Learning using simple Morning Time plans. Our family found the simplest way to homeschool was to learn as much as we could together as a family. We found the easiest way to do this was by setting time aside each morning to do our Bible, memory work, and humanities together. In our home, we called it family time; you may call it Morning Time, Circle Time, Table Time, Basket Time, or something similar.

Each morning, our family would gather at the table for breakfast and devotions. Then we would congregate on the couch and floor in our family room for our family-style lessons. I would read aloud to the kids while they drew something, built something, or created something with their hands. After discussing the book or chapter we read, we would work on memory work, read some poetry, learn a folk song or hymn, write in our journals, play a game (usually math-related), learn about an artist or composer, draw in our nature journals, discuss current or historical events, do some map work, maybe do a science experiment, and from time to time, read a little Shakespeare.

Did we cover all of these things each day? No way! After family devotions and read-aloud, we would do 2 or 3 of the things mentioned as a family before taking a break and moving on to independent work. In this resource, I have compiled for you our Morning Time Plans we did over the years. Each monthly plan suggests topics to read, discuss, memorize, learn, teach, observe, and do.

Use what you like and what appeals to your family. Skip the rest. Each month is "grab and go." Scripture, memory work, poetry, map work, and art prints are printer ready. Links are provided for geography, art, science, and music studies. All you need to do is collect picture books and chapter books to read (I share some of my favorites), print what you need, and start. For more ideas on how to use Morning Time Plans, listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast [Episode #130, "Simple Homeschool Solutions: Let's Get Loopy!"](#)

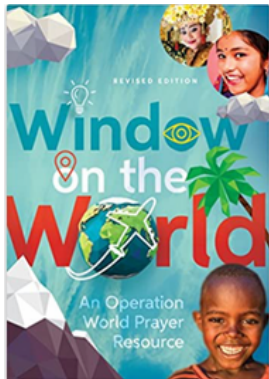
May the Lord bless your homeschooling adventures for His glory,

— Carrie —  
**DE FRANCISCO**



## Family Devotions

Start each day in prayer and worship. In this year's Morning Time Plans, you and your family will be "traveling the world." As you "travel," spend each week praying for missionaries around the world. Pray for the people and cultures around the world that do not know the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Learn about different world religions and compare them to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I recommend using the book, Window on the World: An Operation World Prayer Resource (WOW) by Operation World Resources and edited by Molly Wall and Jason Mandryk. From, October through May, I will suggest countries and cultures to read about from this book during your family devotional time.



## Map Work

Create a Map Work Binder for each child (or add these pages to their Memory Work Binder). Each month, print the maps to be learned and memorized. Print one blank map and one labeled map for each child. Place the blank map and labeled map back to back inside a sheet protector. Then place each sheet protector into the Map Work Binder. Another alternative is to purchase Transparent Menu Covers. For younger students, print extra copies of the labeled maps to use as coloring sheets. Each day, trace with a dry-erase marker the labeled map. Once or twice a week, try to label the blank map. Once the country or continent is memorized, try drawing and labeling it from memory. Each week, pick a country to read about in Children's Atlas of God's World (CAofGW) by Froman or in The Travel Book Atlas (TB) by Lonely Planet. For example, if the monthly continent focus is South America, then pick 3-4 countries to read about that are located in South America. For more ideas on how to "travel the world" and do simple map work, listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast Episode #69, "Passport to Learning."



## Read Aloud

This is the heart and soul of your family-style learning and morning time. It doesn't really matter which classics or picture books you read; the idea is to spend at least 20 minutes a day reading aloud to your children. However, it is a time (and sanity) saver to read to the entire family books that are related to the topics you are studying in history, science, art, and music. Each month, I suggest a few classics to read as well as give links for recommended picture books. Don't let my recommendations add extra stress to your planning. I often found I could go to the library at the beginning of the month with only a list of topics I wanted to cover, and I could find an abundance of picture books to check out. I personally made more work for myself trying to find the exact books recommended in teacher guides and packed curriculum. Start with the suggested books in each month's Morning Time Plans and then check out or purchase any other treasures you find along the way.

## Math Morning Time

Math and games were a consistent part of our morning time routine. While math was usually what my children did during their independent work or one-on-one with me later in the day, I did incorporate math during our morning time through picture books and/or games. Each month, recommended math picture books will be given to read aloud during your morning time. Over the years, I collected quality math picture books to include in our home library. There is an abundance of picture books that teach counting, shapes, and adding skills so I only purchased the ones my kids loved to read over and over again. Then each month, I would get from the library a ton more. New ones come out every year. Surprisingly, there are a ton of math picture books that teach higher-level math skills such as fractions, multiplication, division, probability, decimals, measurement, ratio and proportions, geometry, and even algebraic concepts. This year while "traveling the world" during Morning Time, I highly recommend using the [Count Your Way Through Country Series](#) by James Haskins. Listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast [Episode #19 "Math Morning Time: Tame Those Math Tears and Fears."](#)

Check out my [Math Games PlayList](#) at my Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Help YouTube Channel. I share over a dozen simple math games you can play with a deck of cards or a pair of dice. There are games for all math levels, including algebra.





## Memory Work

Create a Memory Work Binder for each child. Each month, print the scripture memory verse, poem, song, maps, and/or passages suggested for memorization. Print one of each for each child. Place the memory work pages inside sheet protectors. Then place each sheet into the Memory Work Binder. Another alternative is to purchase [Transparent Menu Covers](#). When you read, recite, or memorize verses, poems, or passages, they are easy to find and use. You can also use dry-erase markers to highlight or underline keywords. For more ideas on how to incorporate memory work into your days, listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast [Episode #116, Memory Work: A Podcast To Remember](#).

## Poetry

My kids did not enjoy poetry so I had to be intentional about including it. I did this by including at least one poem and one poet in our Morning Time Plans each month. Because this was not an area of interest for my children, I made sure I kept poetry time light and enjoyable. Keep it simple. Read the poem with your family and simply enjoy it. It's really that easy! If you want, ask your children to close their eyes while you are reading the poem. Then after, they can narrate what they pictured in their minds, or they can draw an illustration that goes with the poem. Ask what they liked about the poem and what they didn't like. Focus on a new vocabulary word heard in the poem. If you have time, print the poem and place it in your child's Memory Work Binder. Each day or each week, recite the poem and memorize it line by line. For fun, read the poem with different accents. With older kids, you can analyze the rhyming pattern (if there is one). Teens can look for literary devices in the poem such as personification, alliteration, similes, and onomatopoeia. If your child loves to write, then try creating a few original poems about the same topic or using the same rhyming scheme. I honestly think poetry should be read for enjoyment; it doesn't need to be over-analyzed. For more ideas on how to have fun with poetry, listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast [Episode #93, "Poetry Tea Time."](#)



## Nature Study

At the beginning of the year, let each child pick out a new drawing journal.

This will be his/her nature journal for the year. Each week, nature study suggestions and activities are given in the Monthly Morning Time Plans. Feel free to do some, all, or none of them. You can use the activities to supplement whatever you are already doing in science, or they can be your sole science "curriculum" for the year. In the Nature Study section of the Morning Time Plans, drawing, painting, and watercolor instructions, videos, and links are given. The primary objective of doing nature studies is to appreciate God's handiwork in creation, to improve observation skills, to inspire curiosity, and to get outside.

After spending time in nature and drawing something that piqued your child's interest, you can stop there. However, if you want to include more, give your child a verse, poem, or inspirational quote to copy next to his/her drawing. If your child is older, he/she can research the item drawn and write facts about it next to his/her drawing or they can spend time labeling the parts of their drawing. The goal is to observe and enjoy nature. For simple ways to incorporate Nature Studies in your week, listen to past Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast episode.

## Art Study

Print in color the masterpiece for the month. In our morning time plans, we scheduled two weeks for our art and artist study. If you would like to learn about the artist and his/her work once a week during the entire month, then search the internet for 2-3 other masterpieces by the artist to use. The first week, start with the masterpiece given in the Morning Time Plans. Then each of the following weeks, focus on a different masterpiece by the same artist. Use the same procedure described in the Morning Time Plans on the Art Study pages. Since we purposefully chose famous artists, it will be easy to research the artist on the internet and to find quality picture books at your local library about each artist to dig deeper into his/her life and works. I highly recommend building your own home library of artist picture books. Check out some of our favorite artist picture book series: [The Katie Books](#) by James Mayhew, [Anholt's Artists Books For Children](#) by Laurence Anholt, [Getting to Know the World's Greatest Artists](#) by Mike Venezia, and [Smart About Art books](#). We also invested in many art and artist card games and board games to play during our Morning Time. It was a great way to review artists we have learned about and to introduce new artists not yet covered. For more information on how to do simple art studies, listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast [Episode #15: "Let's Talk Art Studies: What Are They and How To Start."](#)

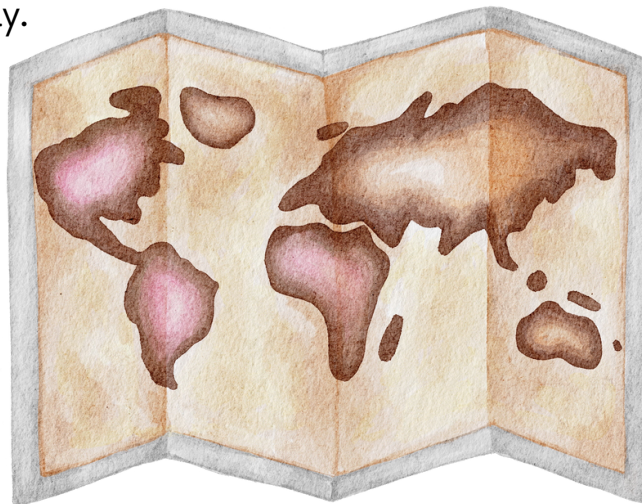
## Music Study

In this year's Morning Time Plans, I combined Composer Studies with Folk and Hymn Studies. You can learn a lot about a culture or time period by singing, listening to, and learning American folk songs and folk songs from around the world. In addition, traditional church hymns are full of biblical truths, doctrine, and bible verses. While listening to, singing, and discussing lyrics of traditional hymns, your family will be learning about God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In September and December, I include a composer study. During the remaining months, your family will learn a new folk song or hymn related to the places and cultures discussed that month.

For a composer study, create a playlist of the composer of the month. Start with the musical piece or symphony listed in the Monthly Morning Time Plan. Spend one week learning about the composer, his or her life, the musical era of his/her work, and one or two musical pieces suggested in the plans. Use your playlist throughout the month. Use it as background music when playing, drawing, cooking, eating, driving, cleaning, and resting. The idea is to infuse your family's day with beautiful music. Just listen and enjoy. Eventually, your children will begin to recognize the composer's style or the style of a particular musical era.

For a folk song or hymn study, print the folk song or hymn for each child and place it in his/her Memory Work Binder. Each morning, start with family devotions and worship by singing the hymn together. For fun, listen to and sing the suggested folk song from another country during Morning Time or throughout the day.



# January Morning Time Plans



Travel  
Mexico &  
Central America

Carrie De Francisco  
[WWW.COFFEEWITHCARRIE.ORG](http://WWW.COFFEEWITHCARRIE.ORG)

Simple Homeschooling 

## Scripture

Throughout the month, read and discuss Matthew 28.  
Focus on the memory verse: Matthew 28: 19.  
Pray for Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama, & Cuba from the WOW book.

## Map Work

Learn and memorize Central American Countries & Capitals.  
Older students should draw and label Central America from memory.  
Read about Mexico (pg 12-14) from CAofGW or visit [Kids World Travel](#) website.

## Poetry

Read, discuss, and memorize "Travel" by Robert Louis Stevenson.

## Art Study

Study the painting, "Baile En Tehuantepec" and learn about the Muralist artist, Diego Rivera

## Music Study

Listen to and learn the folk song, "You Are My Sunshine."

## Nature Study

Learn about the desert and the wildlife of the desert.

## Math Work

Read the Pigs Will Be Pigs Picture book series by Amy Axelrod.  
Read Count Your Way Through Mexico by Jim Haskins (out of print)

## Read Aloud

Read Dear Primo: A Letter to my Cousin by Tonatiuh, The Cactus Hotel by Brenda Guiberson, Cactus Soup by Eric Kimmel, Tales Our Abuelitas Told: Folktale Collection by Ada, Abuela's Weave by Omar Castaneda, Adelita: Mexican Cinderella, desert-themed picture books and/or one of the following chapter books: Cameron Townsend: Good News in Every Language by Benge or Esperanza Rising by Ryan.

## Cultural Connections

In the kitchen, make Mexican Hot Chocolate, Pan de Coco (Honduran Coconut Bread), Cachapas (Venezuelan Corn Pancakes), Horchata or anything with chocolate (Mexico). Then play Toma Toda Game, Jumping Bean Game, and the Taco Cat Goat Cheese Pizza - Spanish Edition! For fun, convert Pescos into American dollars.





## Cuisine Spotlight: Honduras

Pan de coco is a dairy-free coconut bread from Honduras. Often shaped as rolls, they are at home alongside a meal or alone as a snack.

### Pan de Coco (Honduran Coconut Bread)

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 1/4 cup warm water
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 2 1/4 teaspoons active dry yeast
- 3 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 cup coconut milk
- 2 tablespoons coconut oil



#### DIRECTIONS

1. Dissolve the yeast in warm water with sugar. Stir and set aside for 5 minutes.
2. In a large mixing bowl, place the flour, sugar, salt, coconut milk, coconut oil, and yeast mixture. Mix at the lowest speed for 2 minutes, or until the dough clings to the hook and clears the sides of the bowl.
3. Knead at this same speed for another 5 minutes until the dough is smooth and elastic. It will be sticky to the touch.
4. Lightly grease a large bowl, place the dough in it, and turn the dough over once to grease the top. Cover with a towel and keep warm until the dough doubles, about 1 to 2 hours.
5. Place the dough on a floured surface and divide it into 12 equal portions. Roll each portion between the palm of your hands and shape into rolls.
6. Grease a 9×13 inch baking pan. Arrange rolls in a prepared baking pan, cover with a towel and let them rise for 30 minutes.
7. Preheat oven to 375F. Bake for 20-25 minutes or until golden brown on top.
8. Let them cool in the pan for 5 minutes before removing.



## Cuisine Spotlight: Venezuela

These rustic and thin Venezuelan corn pancakes are usually filled with cheese.

### Cachapas (Corn Pancakes)

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 2 cups fresh corn, cut from the cob\*
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup milk
- 4 Tbsp masa harina (or corn flour)
- 1 Tbsp sugar
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 Tbsp butter
- 8 oz fresh mozzarella, sliced



#### DIRECTIONS

1. Add fresh corn, egg, milk, corn flour, sugar, and salt in a blender and blend until a thick paste forms. Let stand for about 10 minutes for the mixture to thicken. (It should be spoon-able consistency.)
2. Preheat a 5-1/2 inch (or similar size) frying pan, over medium heat.
3. When the pan is hot, add some butter to grease it.
4. Pour 1/3 cup of batter into the frying pan, making a circle around the pan.
5. Cook for 4-5 minutes and flip with a spatula. Cook for 3 more minutes until the cachapa is golden brown.
6. Place sliced mozzarella on one half of the cachapa and let it melt. Fold the other half over the cheese and spread some butter on top. These are best if served hot, straight from the skillet.



## Cuisine Spotlight: Mexico

Horchata de Coco, or Coconut Horchata is a delicious alternative to the traditional rice based horchata.

### Horchata

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 Coconut
- 2 Cups Coconut Water
- 1 Tbsp Ground Cinnamon
- 1 Tbsp Vanilla extract
- 13 Oz Organic Coconut Milk
- 1 1/2 Cups Water
- 1 Can of Sweetened Condensed Milk (To keep it vegan, substitute with 2 cups of coconut sugar)



#### DIRECTIONS:

1. Add the coconut meat to a blender with half of each of the other ingredients and blend until smooth.
2. Add to a pitcher with the remaining half of the ingredients and mix well.
3. For a smooth consistency, strain the resulting mixture and add it back to the pitcher.
4. Serve cold.

### Mexican Hot Chocolate

#### DIRECTIONS:

1. Make your favorite Hot Chocolate.
2. Add 4 tsp of Cinnamon, 1 tsp of nutmeg, a pinch of chili pepper, and 1 Tbsp of vanilla. Stir.
3. Shave bittersweet chocolate on top before serving.



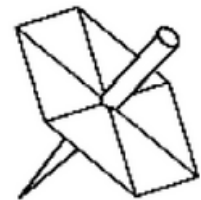
# Toma Toda Game

Children and grown-ups in Mexico often play Toma Todo. They use a six-sided top called a *Pirinola* or *Topa*. Probably the word *Topa* comes from the English word "top." Two or more people play the game. In this game, winning depends on luck, not on how well the people play. Will you be lucky?

**Write the Spanish words you see in the diagram.**  
**They mean:**



Side	Spanish	English
1	Toma Uno	Take One
2	Toma Dos	Take Two
3	Toma Todo	Take All
4	Pon Uno	Put One
5	Pon Dos	Put Two
6	Todos Ponem	All Put



**To Start:** Each person should have ten chips or counters. Each player puts two chips in the center, called the "pot."

**To Play:** Take turns spinning the Pirinola once each. When it comes to rest, read aloud the instructions on the highest part of the top. The player may be told to take one or two or all the chips from the pot. Or the player may have to put one or two chips into the pot. "Todos Ponem" means that every player places two chips into the pot. When only one or two chips remain in the pot, every player places two chips into the pot.

**To Finish:** Decide before you start how many rounds you will play. A player who does not have enough chips to play drops out of the game. The winner is the person with the most chips at the end of the game.



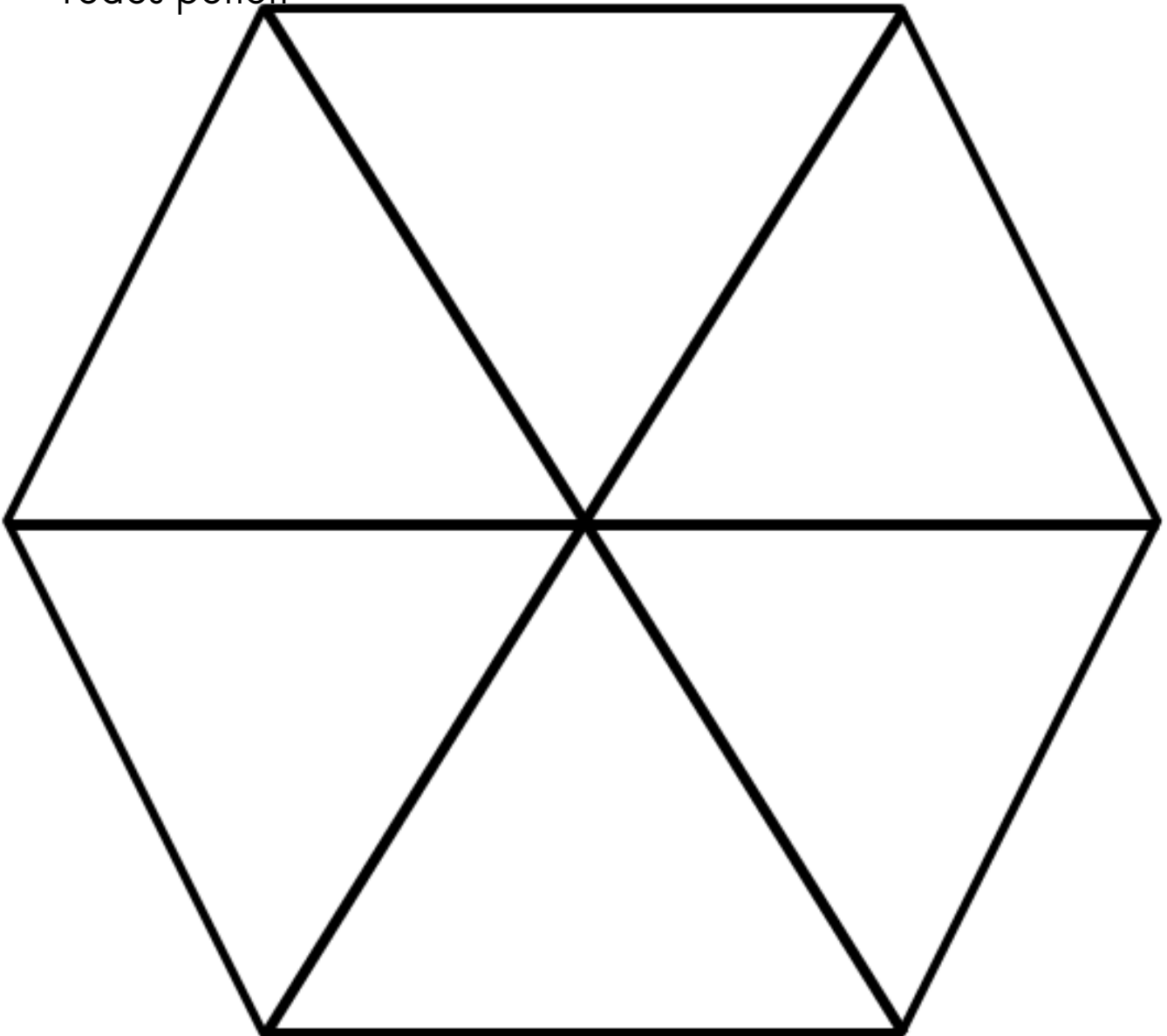
Make your own spinner with the template on the next page.  
Order a set of wooden spinners.



# Toma Toda Game

WRITE THE FOLLOWING PHRASES IN EACH SECTION OF THE SPINNER:

- Toma uno
- Pon uno
- Toma dos
- Pon dos
- Toma todo.
- Todos ponen





# Mexican Money

You will be traveling to Mexico and want to convert your American dollars. Using the conversion rate, calculate what you can buy in Mexico.

Conversation Rate: \$1 American Dollar = 15 Pesos

Pencil	\$1.00
Chips	\$2.00
Drink	\$5.50
Shirt	\$15.00
iPad	\$250.00

Pencil	\$15 peso
Chips	
Drink	
Shirt	
iPad	



You have \$20 American dollars,  
How many Pesos is that worth? \_\_\_\_\_  
What can you buy?

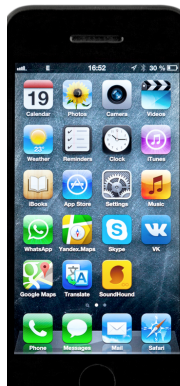
\$4.49 MXN



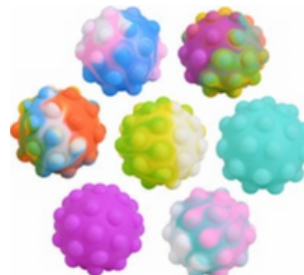
\$2.74 MXN



\$13,773  
MXN



\$0.99MXN



\$154MXN





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check out other  
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BOOK



[Just Breathe \(and Take a Sip of Coffee\):  
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OCTOBER: North America & Canada

NOVEMBER: South America

DECEMBER: Europe

JANUARY: Mexico & Central America

FEBRUARY: Asia

MARCH: Asia and India

APRIL: Asia and Middle East

MAY: Australia, New Zealand & Oceania

SUMMER: Africa & Antarctica



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