

The Great Gatsby Party Planning Worksheet



The GREAT GATSBY

Name:

In the early chapters of *The Great Gatsby*, Nick Carraway takes us to two very different Jazz Age parties. The parties provide insight into the era generally, but a comparison of the parties illustrate the differences between the characters of Tom Buchanan and Jay Gatsby.



First, identify textual evidence that illustrates the parties for the minds of the readers. Select one description from Tom's party and one description from Gatsby's party. What does each detail reveal about the nature of the party and its host?

(Direct quote)	Conclusions / inferences
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The Great Gatsby Party Planning Worksheet is an essential tool for anyone looking to throw a lavish party inspired by F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic novel. Set in the roaring twenties, "The Great Gatsby" captures the essence of extravagant parties filled with jazz, glamour, and unforgettable moments. This article will guide you through the steps of planning your own Gatsby-style soiree, ensuring that every detail reflects the opulence and excitement of the era.

Understanding the Theme

To successfully plan a Great Gatsby-themed party, it's crucial to understand the key elements that define the era. The 1920s were characterized by:

- Jazz music
- Flapper fashion
- Art Deco design
- Prohibition and speakeasies

These elements should be woven into every aspect of your party, from the decor to the music, to create an authentic experience for your guests.

Creating Your Party Planning Worksheet

A party planning worksheet will help you organize your thoughts and ensure that you cover every detail of your event. Here's how to create a comprehensive worksheet:

1. Set the Date and Time

Choosing the right date and time is crucial for your party's success. Consider the following:

- Date: Choose a weekend or holiday to maximize attendance.
- Time: Evening parties are ideal for a Gatsby theme; consider starting around 7 PM.

2. Define Your Budget

Establishing a budget will help you make decisions about the scale of your event. Include costs for:

- Venue rental (if necessary)
- Food and drink
- Decorations
- Entertainment
- Invitations

3. Select a Venue

Your venue should reflect the grandeur of Gatsby's parties. Options could include:

- A spacious home with a large backyard
- A banquet hall
- A rooftop terrace
- A garden

4. Create a Guest List

Determine the number of guests you want to invite. Make a list of friends, family, and colleagues who would enjoy the theme. Aim for a mix of personalities to keep the atmosphere lively.

5. Invitations

Gatsby's parties were known for their exclusive guest lists. Send out invitations that reflect the 1920s

theme. Consider:

- Art Deco designs
- Gold and black color schemes
- Wording that evokes the era, such as “You are cordially invited to a night of glamour and jazz.”

Decorations and Ambiance

Creating the right ambiance is essential for a Great Gatsby party. Here are some decoration ideas:

1. Color Scheme

Stick to a classic color palette of gold, black, and white. This combination exudes elegance and sophistication.

2. Centerpieces

Consider using:

- Tall feather arrangements
- Gold candelabras
- Vintage glass vases with flowers

3. Lighting

Lighting plays a significant role in setting the mood:

- Use string lights to create a warm and inviting atmosphere.
- Consider adding disco balls or colored uplighting for a more festive feel.

4. Furniture and Setup

Arrange seating that encourages mingling. Consider:

- Lounge areas with plush sofas and pillows
- High-top tables for standing guests
- Outdoor seating if the weather permits

Food and Drinks

The culinary aspect of your party should be just as indulgent as the decor. Here's how to plan your menu:

1. Appetizers

Offer a selection of finger foods that are easy to eat while mingling. Ideas include:

- Shrimp cocktails
- Deviled eggs
- Mini quiches
- Cheese platters

2. Main Dishes

Consider serving a buffet-style meal with options such as:

- Roasted chicken or beef
- Pasta dishes
- Seasonal vegetables

3. Desserts

Choose desserts that are decadent and visually appealing:

- A tiered cake decorated in Art Deco style
- Assorted macarons
- Chocolate mousse cups

4. Signature Cocktails

Create a signature cocktail menu inspired by the era. Some classic options include:

- Gin Rickey
- Sidecar
- French 75

Entertainment

An essential component of a Gatsby party is entertainment. Here are some ideas to keep your guests

engaged:

1. Live Music

Consider hiring a jazz band or a DJ who specializes in 1920s music. This will create an authentic atmosphere and encourage dancing.

2. Dance Floor

Make sure to allocate space for a dance floor where guests can enjoy the music. You could even offer a dance lesson for popular dances of the era, like the Charleston.

3. Games and Activities

Incorporate fun activities to break the ice, such as:

- A photo booth with vintage props
- Gatsby trivia games
- A fashion contest for the best-dressed guest

Dress Code

To fully embrace the Great Gatsby theme, encourage your guests to dress in 1920s attire.

Suggestions include:

- Flapper dresses for women
- Pinstripe suits or tuxedos for men
- Accessories like feather headbands, pearls, and fedoras

Final Touches

Before the big day, take the time to finalize every detail:

1. Checklist

Create a checklist to ensure you have everything prepared:

- Confirm guest attendance
- Double-check food and drink orders
- Ensure all decorations are ready and set up
- Prepare a playlist or confirm live music arrangements

2. Day-of Coordination

On the day of the party, enlist friends or hire help to set everything up. Assign tasks to ensure everything runs smoothly.

3. Enjoy the Party

As the host, remember to enjoy the fruits of your labor. Mingle with guests, dance to the music, and create lasting memories.

Conclusion

Using a **The Great Gatsby Party Planning Worksheet** not only organizes your thoughts but also helps you create a memorable event that captures the spirit of the roaring twenties. By focusing on the theme, decor, food, entertainment, and attire, you can transport your guests back in time to an era of elegance and excitement. With careful planning and attention to detail, your Gatsby party will be a resounding success, leaving guests talking about it long after the last dance has ended.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of a Great Gatsby party planning worksheet?

The worksheet is designed to help organizers plan a 1920s-themed party inspired by 'The Great Gatsby,' ensuring they cover all necessary details such as guest lists, decorations, and activities.

What key elements should be included in a Great Gatsby party planning worksheet?

Key elements include a budget, guest list, venue details, theme decorations, food and drink options, entertainment, and timeline for the event.

How can I set a budget for a Great Gatsby-themed party?

Start by estimating costs for venue rental, decorations, food, drinks, and entertainment, then allocate

funds accordingly to each category while keeping a contingency amount for unexpected expenses.

What types of decorations are suitable for a Great Gatsby party?

Consider using gold and black color schemes, feather centerpieces, art deco designs, vintage tableware, and string lights to create an opulent atmosphere reminiscent of the 1920s.

What kind of food and drinks should I serve at a Great Gatsby party?

Serve classic 1920s cocktails like gin fizzes and martinis, along with canapés, shrimp cocktails, and lavish desserts like cupcakes and macarons to reflect the era's luxurious dining style.

What entertainment options work well for a Great Gatsby party?

Live jazz music, a dance floor for Charleston and swing dancing, photo booths with vintage props, and games like poker can enhance the 1920s ambiance.

How can I encourage guests to dress in 1920s attire for the party?

Include a dress code in the invitations, provide examples of 1920s fashion, and consider hosting a pre-party fashion contest to motivate guests to embrace the theme.

What timeline should I follow when planning the Great Gatsby party?

Start planning at least 4-6 weeks in advance, with a timeline that includes booking the venue, sending invitations, finalizing the menu, and setting up decorations a day before the event.

Where can I find inspiration for a Great Gatsby party?

Inspiration can be found in the book itself, movies like the 2013 film adaptation, Pinterest boards, and event planning websites that specialize in themed parties.

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