

Carnival

There are many festivals and celebrations around the world throughout the year. However, carnival is one of the most famous and flamboyant festivities. Many carnivals take place in the build-up to the religious season of Lent. Lent happens during the six weeks before Easter Sunday, when people prepare for the death and resurrection of Jesus. Therefore, the majority of carnivals take place during February. Lent is a time when, traditionally, people give up something that they will find difficult. This could be a type of food or a bad habit that they want to try to stop.

Carnivals differ from place to place as many areas focus on their own traditions and pastimes and are often heavily influenced by the culture of their country. In most countries, carnival is often characterized by masks, flamboyant costumes, music and colourful floats and parades. Some carnivals have special trinkets or symbols. In New Orleans, they have sweet and very colourful cakes called King Cakes as a symbol of their carnival (Mardi Gras).



The most famous and largest carnival in the world takes place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Carnival in Brazil is not just a fun celebration, but a chance to experience the diverse culture of the country. Brazil is often referred to as a 'melting-pot' of culture. There are many European, African and American influences in Brazilian society. Carnival epitomises the Brazilian way of life and their way of thinking. There are many parties, which take place throughout the day and during the night, celebrating the songs, music and dances, typical of Brazilian culture. The most popular form of music and dancing at the Rio carnival is samba, a style unique to Brazil, which is often played on drums with traditional dancing. The 'Sambódromo' is an avenue, specially made to host carnival in Rio. Every year, thousands of people go to this area to celebrate carnival, including over 500,000 foreign visitors!



Although carnival is linked to religious faith and traditions, it is a time of fun, excess and flamboyance, enjoyed by millions across the world.

Carnivals in Europe

There are several carnivals in Europe, for example:

Cadiz is where the largest Spanish carnival takes place. It is heavily influenced by local traditions along with current and political events. Like Rio, there are parades and floats with lots of music.

Nice, in France, is a carnival that is heavily influenced by Catholic traditions. People indulge in lots of rich food in the build up to Lent. One of the most popular street celebrations is the Battle of the Flowers, where there are lots of floats and costumes, brimming with plants and flowers.

Cologne is the principal carnival city in Germany. The carnival season actually begins in November here and culminates the week before (and including) Shrove Tuesday. There are lots of parades and people dress up - even at work and school. It is one of Germany's most important cultural events.

Questions

1. a) When do most carnivals take place?

b) Why do you think this time of year is chosen?

2. What does the word flamboyant mean?

3. Where do they celebrate Mardi Gras and what is an important symbol of this carnival?

4. Why do you think Brazil is sometimes referred to as a 'melting-pot' of culture?

5. Why is carnival so important to Brazil?

6. What is different about carnival season in Germany and most other countries?

7. Why do you think carnivals are so popular across the world and attract so many visitors?

8. Why do you think people give something up for Lent?

9. The text says that carnivals are often characterised by masks, flamboyant costumes, music and colourful floats and parades. What does this mean?

10. Imagine you have attended a carnival. Describe in three paragraphs, what you have seen, heard and experienced. Use as much detail as possible.



Answers

1. a) When do most carnivals take place?

Most carnivals take place in February, in the build up to Lent

b) Why do you think this time of year is chosen?

Most carnivals take place in February, in the build up to Lent. There can be various answers to the second part of the question, however, look for answers alluding to the fact that Lent is a time of fasting and going without, so there are flamboyant and loud celebrations before this time.

2. What does the word flamboyant mean?

Flamboyant means extremely colourful and over-the-top.

3. Where do they celebrate Mardi Gras and what is an important symbol of this carnival?

Mardi Gras is celebrated in New Orleans, and an important symbol is the King Cakes, which are sweet colourful cakes.

4. Why do you think Brazil is sometimes referred to as a 'melting-pot' of culture?

Brazil is often referred to as a 'melting-pot' of culture due to the diverse population and cultural influences on society. There are many different cultures and ethnicities living there which influences their varied culture and traditions.

5. Why is carnival so important to Brazil?

Carnival is so important in Brazil because it is a reflection of their way of life and gives people the opportunity to experience Brazilian culture.

6. What is different about carnival season in Germany and most other countries?

Carnival season in Germany begins in November whereas most other countries have carnival in February as that is just before Lent.

7. Why do you think carnivals are so popular across the world and attract so many visitors?

Various answers, such as the fact they are a spectacle, are lots of fun, they happen once a year. Also answers discussing the fact that people can celebrate the traditions of their country and enjoy singing, dancing and a sense of freedom.

Answers

8. Why do you think people give something up for Lent?

Often people give up something for Lent as it is a religious tradition, to prepare for the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

9. The text says that carnivals are often characterised by masks, flamboyant costumes, music and colourful floats and parades. What does this mean?

This means that these are the different things that make up a carnival and that you will see if you are at a carnival.

10. Imagine you have attended a carnival. Describe in three paragraphs, what you have seen, heard and experienced. Use as much detail as possible.?

Various answers

Carnival

World celebrations and festivities

There are many festivals and celebrations around the world throughout the year. However, carnival is one of the most famous and colourful festivities. Many carnivals take place in the build-up to the religious season of Lent, which is the six weeks before Easter Sunday. Therefore, many carnivals take place during February. Often during Lent, people give up something that they will find difficult to do. This could be a type of food or a bad habit.

What is carnival?

Carnival can be different depending on the country. Lots of countries focus on their own traditions and are often a celebration of the culture of their country. In most countries at carnival, you will see masks, colourful costumes, music and parades. Some Carnivals have special trinkets or symbols. In New Orleans, they have sweet and very colourful cakes called King Cakes as a symbol of their carnival (Mardi Gras).



The largest carnival

The most famous and largest carnival in the world takes place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Carnival in Brazil is not just a fun celebration; it is a chance to experience the different types of culture in the country. Brazil is often referred to as a 'melting-pot' of culture. This is because there are a variety of different cultural influences brought about by the diverse population. There are many European, African and American influences. Carnival is about the Brazilian way of life and their way of thinking. There are many parties celebrating the songs, music and dances typical of Brazilian culture. The most popular form of music and dancing at the Rio carnival is samba - a style unique to Brazil. Samba music is often played on drums and there is lots of traditional dancing. The 'Sambódromo' is an avenue made to host carnival in Rio. Every year, there are over 500,000 foreign visitors to this area.

Carnival is often linked to religious traditions; however, it is also a time of fun, with lots of colour, costumes and laughter. It is a time enjoyed by millions across the world.



Carnivals in Europe

There are several carnivals in Europe.

Cadiz is where the largest Spanish carnival happens. It celebrates local traditions along with current and political events. Like Rio, there are parades and floats with lots of music.

Nice in France, is heavily influenced by Catholic traditions, and people indulge in lots of rich food in the build up to Lent. One of the most popular street celebrations is the Battle of the Flowers where there are lots of floats and costumes **brimming** with plants and flowers.

Cologne is one of the main carnival cities in Germany. The carnival season actually begins in November here and culminates the week before (and including) Shrove Tuesday. There are lots of parades and people dress up - even at work and school. It is one of Germany's most important cultural events.

Questions

1. a) When do most carnivals take place?

b) Why do you think this time of year is chosen?

2. The word **brimming** is in bold letters. What does this word mean in this sentence?

3. Where do they celebrate Mardi Gras and what is an important symbol of this carnival?

4. What is different about carnival season in Germany and most other countries?

5. Where does the large parade in Rio actually take place?

6. Why do you think carnivals are so popular across the world and attract so many visitors?

7. Name and describe two different European carnivals using your own words.

8. Imagine you have attended a carnival. Describe in 3 paragraphs what you have seen, heard and experienced. Use as much detail as possible.

Answers

1. a) When do most carnivals take place?

Most carnivals take place in February, in the build up to Lent

b) Why do you think this time of year is chosen?

There can be various answers to the second part of the question, however, look for answers alluding to the fact that Lent is a time of fasting and going without, so there are flamboyant and loud celebrations before this time

2. The word brimming is in bold letters. What does this word mean in this sentence?

Brimming means that the floats and costumes are full of flowers.

3. Where do they celebrate Mardi Gras and what is an important symbol of this carnival?

Mardi Gras is celebrated in New Orleans, and an important symbol is the King Cakes, which are sweet colourful cakes.

4. What is different about carnival season in Germany and most other countries?

Carnival season in Germany begins in November whereas most other countries have carnival in February as that is just before Lent.

5. Where does the large parade in Rio actually take place?

The 'Sambódromo' is a special avenue, which is built for the parade during carnival.

6. Why do you think carnivals are so popular across the world and attract so many visitors?

Various answers, such as the fact they are a spectacle, are lots of fun, they happen once a year. Also answers discussing the fact that people can celebrate the traditions of their country and enjoy lots of singing, dancing. And a sense of freedom.

7. Name and describe two different European carnivals using your own words.

Any two from the following: Cadiz Carnival is in Spain and takes place in February in the build-up to Lent. It celebrates lots of Spanish traditions and events in the news and politics. There are lots of parades, music and dancing Nice, France also celebrates carnival. It is quite a religious festival and lots of people eat a lot of rich food before they give it up for Lent. The Battle of the Flowers is one of the most popular parades and consists of floats full of flowers.

Answers

Cologne, Germany also celebrates carnival. Carnival in Cologne actually begins in November, and ends in the run-up to Lent. People dress up during this time, even if they are at work and school, and there are lots of parades.

8. **Imagine you have attended a carnival. Describe in three paragraphs, what you have seen, heard and experienced. Use as much detail as possible.**

Various answers.

Carnival

World Celebrations and Festivities

- During the year, lots of festivals and celebrations take place across the world.
- Carnival is one of the most famous and colourful festivities.
- Most carnivals take place during February.

What is Carnival?

- Carnival can be different depending on the country
- Lots of countries celebrate their own traditions and culture.
- In most countries during carnival season, there are lots of masks, colourful costumes, music and parades
- Some carnivals have special symbols, such as King Cakes (a sweet and very colourful cake) which symbolise Mardi Gras, which is celebrated in New Orleans.



Where is the largest carnival?

- Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: this is where the largest carnival in the world takes place.
- Carnival is very important to Brazil; it is not just for fun. Samba music is often played on drums and there is lots of traditional dancing.
- It is a celebration of the culture and way of life of Brazil.
- There are many parties celebrating the songs, music and dances that are typical of Brazilian culture.



Samba music

- Samba is the most popular form of music and dancing at the Rio carnival.
- It is a Brazilian style of music.
- Samba music is played on drums and there is lots of traditional dancing.
- Every year, there are over 500 000 foreign visitors to the Rio carnival.

Carnivals in Europe

There are several carnivals in Europe.

Cadiz is the largest Spanish carnival where Spanish traditions are celebrated. Like Rio, there are parades and floats with lots of music.

Nice is in France. There are lots of Catholic traditions at this carnival. People eat lots of rich food in the build up to Lent. One of the most popular street celebrations is the Battle of the Flowers, where there are lots of colourful, flower-filled floats and costumes.

Cologne is in Germany. The carnival season here actually begins in November! It ends in the week before, and including, Shrove Tuesday. There are lots of parades, and people dress up - even at work and school. It is one of Germany's most important cultural events.

Questions

1. What is a carnival and what are they like?

2. When do most carnivals take place?

3. Where is Mardi Gras celebrated?

4. Where is the largest carnival in the world?

5. What is samba?

6. What do carnivals celebrate?

7. Describe the Spanish and French carnivals using your own words.

Answers

1. What is a carnival and what are they like?

Carnivals are times of celebration, often linked to religious faith and traditions. There are lots of parades and colourful costumes, with lots of singing and dancing.

2. When do most carnivals take place?

Most carnivals take place during in the build-up to Lent usually in February.

3. Where is Mardi Gras celebrated?

Mardi Gras is celebrated in New Orleans.

4. Where is the largest carnival in the world?

The largest carnival in the world takes place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

5. What is samba?

Samba is a type of music and dance traditional to Brazil. It is often played on drums accompanied by a dance.

6. What do carnivals celebrate?

Carnivals usually celebrate traditions and cultures of the host country.

7. Describe the Spanish and French carnivals using your own words.

Any two from the following: Cadiz Carnival is in Spain and takes place in February during the build-up to Lent. It celebrates lots of Spanish traditions and events in the news and politics. There are lots of parades, music and dancing.

Nice in France also celebrate carnival. It is quite a religious festival and lots of people eat a lot of rich food before they give it up for Lent. The Battle of the Flowers is one of the most popular parades and consists of floats full of flowers.