



Carnivals around the world

🔮 C1 Level

🔮 Duration: 1 hour

1

Warm-up

Exercise 1: Look at these subheadings. They were all taken from the same news article. What is it about?

🔮 Tip: if you want to use this task, do not show your students the lesson title. Alternatively, you can write the subheadings on the whiteboard/print out the subheadings. Do exercise 1 and after that hand out the worksheets.

A \$1 billion party – well, almost!
The comeback kid
No hiding the cost of a high-end mask
Bombarded by beads
Egging people on

Flour power
Gotta go to Goa
With a little help from your friends
Puppet show
And the band played on

Exercise 2: Ask your classmate these questions. Take notes. Then share your peer's ideas with the class.

1. Have you ever been to a festival or carnival?
2. What do you think is the most interesting thing about festivals and carnivals around the world?
3. What are some of the traditional activities that take place during a festival or carnival?

2

Reading

Exercise 3. Read the extract from a news article about Carnivals and choose whether the statement is true or false.

1. The world's biggest annual Carnival is held in Rio de Janeiro.
2. The expected economic activity for the Rio Carnival in 2023 is \$1 billion.
3. The Venice Carnival began as a military celebration.
4. Carlos II banned Venetians from wearing masks.
5. The Italian government helped Venice restart the Carnival.
6. The price for high-end Venice masks is unknown.
7. Beads are thrown during Mardi Gras in New York.
8. The throwing of beads and other trinkets to the crowds during Mardi Gras was started in the early 1870s.
9. Cleaning crews removed 93,000 tons of beads from a five-block stretch of St. Charles Avenue in New Orleans.
10. New Orleans has found a solution to prevent beads from entering the drains.



Carnival: 10 wild facts and customs

[Link to the news article](#)

Carnival celebrations for 2023 are in full force around the world. It's a time when people – particularly those in areas with strong Roman Catholic traditions – indulge their wild side before the solemn, introspective days of Lent commence.

- 1 With so many participants (more than a million in some cities) and so many different celebration spots (from the Americas to Asia), there's bound to be a lot of fascinating tidbits to uncover surrounding Carnival.

To go with the party vibe, here are some wild Carnival facts, figures and customs:

A \$1 billion party – well, almost

The world's biggest annual Carnival, held in Rio de Janeiro, naturally generates a lot of economic activity for Brazil. But the expected amount for 2023 is positively eye-popping, according to a report from Reuters.

- 2 “We believe the economy will generate five billion reais (\$971.55 million) during Carnival alone, a record,” Ronnie Aguiar, the president of the Rio Tourism Company (Riotur), recently told the news agency.

That's what the power of roughly 5 million people freely spending after pandemic restrictions will do for you. After a two-year hiatus, around 80,000 tourists from abroad are expected to show up for 2023, according to the International Air Transport Association.

The comeback kid

The Venice Carnival began in 1162 as a military celebration. From there, it morphed into good ol' party time – until 1797.

That's when our Francis II, the last Holy Roman Emperor, put the kibosh on the revelries (Austrians had just started calling the shots in Venice at the time). He also banned Venetians from wearing masks. Talk about a party pooper.

- 3 During the 19th century, Venetians tried to jump-start a big public gathering, but they were able to muster only small, private fêtes.

Then in the height of the Disco Era, the Italian government came to the party-time rescue. It helped Venice relaunch Carnival in 1979. It's now grown into one of the world's most renowned, complete with grand masked balls and flotillas in the canals.

No hiding the cost of a high-end mask

Speaking of masks, the Venice Carnival is famous for its mysterious and fancy face coverings. And the nicer ones can cost you quite a few euros.

- 4 Some high-end Venice masks go for €400 (about \$425) or even more. That's a lot to pay to be stylishly incognito, but they provide a classic keepsake.

Bombarded by beads

What masks are to Venice, beads are to New Orleans.

The throwing of beads and other trinkets to the crowds during Mardi Gras was started in the early 1870s. In fact, they're called throws.

- 5 How many are tossed out? Tons of them. Literally.

A few years back, cleaning crews removed a whopping 93,000 pounds on a five-block stretch of St. Charles Avenue downtown from clogged storm drains. That works out to 46.5 tons.

New Orleans has since installed “gutter buddies” to prevent beads from entering the drains.

4

Vocabulary practice

Exercise 4: Complete the phrases. Find them in the text and check your answers.

- incognito
- of beads
- eye-popping
- party time
- trinkets
- a keepsake
- wild side
- pooper
- hiatus
- tidbits
- private fêtes
- big public gathering
- the party vibe

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. indulge their <input style="border: 1px solid purple; border-radius: 15px; width: 100px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> | 8. to jump-start a <input style="border: 1px solid purple; border-radius: 15px; width: 100px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> |
| 2. fascinating <input style="border: 1px solid purple; border-radius: 15px; width: 100px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> | 9. to muster <input style="border: 1px solid purple; border-radius: 15px; width: 100px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> |
| 3. go with <input style="border: 1px solid purple; border-radius: 15px; width: 100px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> | 10. to be stylishly <input style="border: 1px solid purple; border-radius: 15px; width: 100px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> |
| 4. positively <input style="border: 1px solid purple; border-radius: 15px; width: 100px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> | 11. to provide <input style="border: 1px solid purple; border-radius: 15px; width: 100px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> |
| 5. after a <input style="border: 1px solid purple; border-radius: 15px; width: 100px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> | 12. throwing <input style="border: 1px solid purple; border-radius: 15px; width: 100px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> |
| 6. good ol' <input style="border: 1px solid purple; border-radius: 15px; width: 100px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> | 13. other <input style="border: 1px solid purple; border-radius: 15px; width: 100px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> |
| 7. a party <input style="border: 1px solid purple; border-radius: 15px; width: 100px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> | |

5

Speaking

Exercise 5: Let's play a game. Split into teams and do the quiz. Use your logic and background knowledge to answer the questions! The team that gets the most points wins.

In Venice, every year the opening ceremony includes a parade of _____.

- A. boats B. buses C. planes

In 2019, over _____ people attended Mardi Gras in New Orleans.

- A. 10 million B. 1 million C. 100 000

During the Rio Carnival people dress up in colorful costumes and perform _____ dances.

- A. waltz B. samba C. tap

_____, coins, and stuffed animals are thrown from floats during parades as rewards to spectators at the Mardi Gras Carnival.

- A. flowers B. masks C. beads

The primary colors used during the Rio Carnival are _____.

- A. yellow, green, and blue B. black, white, and red C. purple, orange, blue

An estimated _____ tons of recycled paper are made each year for use in Rio's Carnival floats.

- A. 50 B. 100 C. 700

The masks used in the carnival are inspired by the traditional Italian _____ dell'arte theater.

- A. drama B. satire C. commedia

Masks used in the Venice Carnival must have a black base and cannot have _____.

- A. hair B. feathers C. beads

The Mardi Gras Carnivals have roots in _____, beginning in Medieval times.

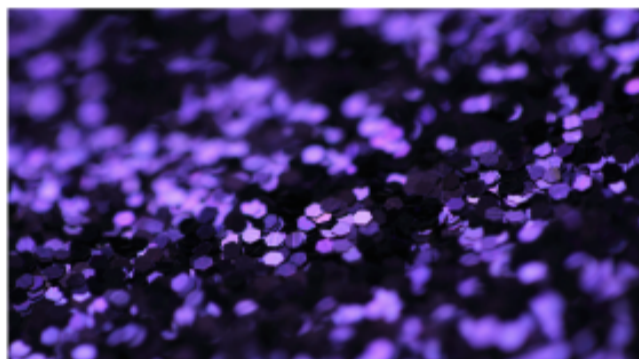
- A. South America B. Europe C. Asia

According to the customs of the Mardi Gras Carnival, _____ rule the festivities.

- A. Knights and Dragons B. Witches and Zombies C. Kings and Queens

Exercise 6: Look at the pictures from different carnivals and make notes about the peculiarities of each carnival.

Mardi Gras



Venice



Rio



All the pictures were downloaded from unsplash.com

Imagine you attended a Carnival. Describe what you saw, what you were wearing, what you were doing. Use your notes. Don't name the Carnival, let the group guess. Use the text below as an example.

The city was bustling with activity and everyone was decked out in their most stylishly extravagant costumes and masks. I felt like I was walking through a mysterious dreamland, where all around me people were wearing high-end, classic, and fancy face coverings. Everywhere I looked there were vibrant colors and intricate details that made it feel as if I had stepped into a fairytale.

The atmosphere was so lively and energetic that I could hardly keep up. There were street performers, musicians, and vendors selling everything from handmade jewelry to delicious food. I even got to take part in some of the traditional activities like eating cookies and taking a gondola ride along the canals.



Homework / Additional exercises

Exercise 1: Find vocabulary in the article with the same meaning as the following definitions.

- a. A break or pause in something. - _____ (part 1)
- b. To cause something to start with a sudden burst of energy. - _____ (part 3)
- c. To give someone something as a reminder of an event or experience. - _____ (part 4)
- d. To collect or bring together people or things for a particular purpose. - _____ (part 3)
- e. To enjoy oneself by doing something that is enjoyable but not necessarily good for you. - _____ (part 1)
- f. Small pieces of interesting information. - _____ (part 1)
- g. Someone who spoils other people's enjoyment. - _____ (part 2)
- h. To act in a way that fits the atmosphere of a party. - _____ (part 1)
- i. small, brightly-coloured objects. - _____ (part 5)
- j. Very impressive and attractive. - _____ (part 2)

Exercise 2: Read the conversation and fill in the gaps with these phrases.

to provide a keepsake

after a hiatus

a party pooper

fascinating tidbits

to go with the party vibe

Jamie: You can't deny that the bead-throwing tradition at Mardi Gras is fascinating. I mean, just think about how many tons of trinkets get thrown out there every year!

Lauren: Yes, it's interesting and all but it does seem like a waste. There must be better ways _____(1) than throwing plastic beads everywhere?

Jamie: Well, no one is forcing us to throw them. It's nice _____(2) for people. We should indulge our wild side _____(3) from such activities.

Lauren: But don't you think this could lead to more harm than good in the long run? A huge amount of plastic pollution will eventually wash into water sources and contaminate land etc.

Jamie: Yeah, but we can introduce ways to look after our environment whilst also enjoying ourselves when celebrating. Let's try installing fabric Mardi Gras throws instead.

Lauren: That's much easier said than done. It requires funds and resources to make that happen. Plus, not everyone may even appreciate the idea. They'd rather have the real deal - good ol' party time!

Jamie: Fair enough, so let's find less impactful solutions while still honouring the amazing traditions. For example, perhaps we could replace part of the throws with other useful items such as educational literature filled with _____(4) about the origins of Mardi Gras.

Lauren: Why not? This might discourage being too much of _____(5). We could come up with creative alternatives to keep the culture alive without damaging our habitat.

Exercise 3: Write a text about your Carnival experience or about Carnivals in general. The text should be 200-250 words.

1. Safety concerns to take into consideration when attending a festival or carnival
2. Attending your first festival or carnival: top tips
3. How have festivals changed due to the modern technological advancements?
4. Examining the economic benefits of festivals



Correct answers

Exercise 3. Read an extract from a news article about Carnivals and choose whether the statement is true or false.

1. True
2. False (The expected economic activity for the Rio Carnival in 2023 is \$971.55 million)
3. True
4. False (Francis II)
5. True
6. False (High-end Venice masks cost around \$425.)
7. False (Beads are thrown during Mardi Gras in New Orleans).
8. True
9. False (Cleaning crews removed 46.5 tons of beads)
10. True

Exercise 4: Complete the phrases. Find them in the text and check your answers.

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. wild side | 8. big public |
| 2. tidbits | gathering |
| 3. the party vibe | 9. private fêtes |
| 4. eye-popping | 10. incognito |
| 5. hiatus | 11. a keepsake |
| 6. party time | 12. of beads |
| 7. pooper | 13. trinkets |

Exercise 5: Let's play a game. Split into teams and do the quiz. Use your logic and background knowledge to answer the questions! The team that gets the most points wins.

A, B, B, C, A, C, C, A, B, C



Homework / Additional exercises

Exercise 1. Find vocabulary in the article with the same meaning as the following definitions.

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| a. hiatus | f. fascinating tidbits |
| b. to jump-start a gathering | g. a party pooper |
| c. to provide a keepsake | h. to go with the party vibe |
| d. to muster fetes | i. beads |
| e. to indulge | j. positively eye-popping |

Exercise 2. Find vocabulary in the article with the same meaning as the following definitions.

1. to go with the party vibe
2. to provide a keepsake
3. after a hiatus
4. fascinating tidbits
5. a party pooper