

# CARNIVAL CELEBRATIONS



The origin of Carnival is uncertain but most people think that it began as a Pagan celebration in ancient Rome. In Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the festivities attract people from all over the world. The celebrations last for four days. It starts on Friday and ends on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. The Samba Parades are considered the greatest show on Earth. It began in the 1930s. Now it takes place in the Sambodrome. Quite a few Samba schools participate with shiny elaborate costumes, choreography and percussion. There is wild dancing and partying all day and all night.



Also celebrating Carnival is the famous Mardi Gras in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. Mardi Gras means Fat Tuesday in French. It is the day before Ash Wednesday, the day when Lent begins. the celebrations last for about two weeks. There are about 70 parades in New Orleans in the two weeks before Mardi Gras. There are about two and a half million people in the French Quarter of New Orleans during Carnival time. One of the features of these celebrations is that people throw bead necklaces from the floats in the parades. People love collecting them during Mardi Gras.



Also celebrating Carnival in Europe is the Carnival in Venice, Italy. When you think of the carnival in Venice, you think of masks. Everyone wears showy, picturesque and elaborate masks and costumes. The celebrations last about ten days. During Carnival time there is music and dancing all day and all night. There are games and theatre for everyone. There is water procession with decorated boats, which concludes with fireworks, and the grand ball on Tuesday in St. Mark's Square.



<b>1. THREE CARNIVALS</b>  Fill the boxes with the specific information of each celebration	LOCATION	HOW LONG IT LASTS	IMPORTANT FEATURE	ACTIVITIES

This celebration is Europe's largest open-air carnival. Despite its name, it's not part of the global Carnival season before Lent. It was started in 1965 by London's West Indian community, many of whom live in the Notting Hill area in West London. The Carnival has remained true to its Caribbean roots and there are numerous bands and floats, and thousands of people in wonderful costumes who dance to Calypso music for hours. The Carnival takes place on the last Sunday and Monday of August. Bank Holiday Monday sees the main parade. In the evening the floats leave the streets in procession and people continue the festivities at the many carnival after-parties.



## 2. ONE CARNIVAL

Write TRUE=T or FALSE=F for these statements

1. The Carnival takes place outside

2. The carnival started in the 60s

3. The celebration takes place before Lent

4. This Carnival has Caribbean roots



### 3. Write the missing words about carnivals

1. People wear ..... at the Venice Carnival
2. The Carnival in Rio de Janeiro ends on the Tuesday before ..... Wednesday
3. A lot of people in Notting Hill come from the West .....
4. People in New Orleans throw ..... from the floats.
5. The ..... is a popular dance in Brazil.
6. The word Mardi Gras comes from .....



Write about the biggest street celebration in your country or your area.



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