In The Bahamas, residents and visitors look forward to a festive time at Junkanoo. Read the selection below to find out about how Junkanoo has changed over the years.

Celebrating Junkanoo Part 2

1 Did you know that Junkanoo is the major festival in The Bahamas? The word 'Junkanoo' is believed to have come from 'John Canoe', who was a chief of a West African tribe. After he was brought to the West Indies as a slave, he demanded that he be allowed to celebrate with his people. At Christmas time, the slaves were given three days off. They celebrated their freedom during that time. They put on masks and adorned their bodies with leaves, paper, and other materials in their environment. Afterward, they paraded around to the sounds of drums and bells.



This photograph shows Junkanoo during the early years

2 This practice continued for a long while, and then it had to be changed because some people felt that the celebrations were becoming a nuisance. The parades were only allowed on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. In the 1950s, the name of the festival was changed to Junkanoo.

3 Even though it has been many years since slavery has been abolished in The Bahamas, this celebration continues. The parades have become very competitive. Themes are selected, and Junkanooers spend many months in the shacks designing colourful costumes. The themes and the costumes are kept secret until the night before the parade. These costumes are made from cardboard and crepe paper and decorated with feathers and tricks. Large groups dance and perform to the beat of goatskin drums and the sounds of horns, whistles, and cowbells. The groups are judged during the parade, and prizes in the form of money are given. Today, Junkanoo parades are held at 2.00 a.m. on Boxing Day and New Year's Day in New Providence. Parades are also held on every major Family Island in The Bahamas.



This photograph shows some early Junkanooers

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Celebrating Junkanoo --- Questions

1 Put these sentences in the correct order using the numbers 1 to 4.

___ He demanded that he be allowed to celebrate with his people.

___ They put on masks and adorned their bodies with leaves, paper, and other materials found in their environment.

___ John Canoe was a chief of a West African tribe, brought to the West Indies as a slave.

___ They paraded around to the sounds of drums and bells.

___ At Christmas time, the slaves were given three days off.

2 Using information from the passage, write two supporting details for the following main idea sentence: The parades have become very competitive.

1. _____

_____

2. _____

_____

3 What does the word **'abolished'** mean, as used in the following sentence? *Even though it has been many years since slavery has been abolished in The Bahamas, this celebration continues.*

_____

4 Put an X next to the times Junkanoo was celebrated over the years in the correct order.

____Boxing Day and New Year's Day,

____Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve

5 How has the music in Junkanoo changed from slavery times to modern times?

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