

Both Bahamian adults and children celebrate Junkanoo. Although some children join in the major parades, they now have a parade of their own. In 1988 the Ministry of Youth and Culture started the Junior Junkanoo Parade for Bahamian schools. Junior Junkanoo is celebrated annually during December. It is held during the afternoon and early evening hours. Read a student's account of what it is like to prepare for the Junior Junkanoo festival.

Junior Junkanoo

1 Over the years, many schools in Nassau and some Family Islands have participated in Junior Junkanoo. I performed with **Our Lady's Primary School** Junior Junkanoo group for five years. During that time, we were the champions for four years. It was hard to win going up against schools like Uriah McPhee and Centreville Primary. Every year the competition got stronger. All schools compete for **prizes** in their division. The divisions are **primary, junior, and senior.**

2 Being in Junior Junkanoo helped me to experience what Junkanoo is really about. We did the same things in the Junior Junkanoo Parade that adults do in the larger parades. To prepare for the competition, the first thing we did was to select a **theme**. The theme is usually related to current events or annual festivals. After the theme is selected, work begins on the **design, construction, and pasting** of the costumes. The art teacher, along with former students and parents, would design and make the costumes. They sometimes worked in the **Junkanoo shack** until 11.30 at night. Students participating in the parade paste their costumes with some help from their parents.

3 A few months before Junior Junkanoo, practices take place about three times a week. Each section of the group has its own practice time. There are **two sections** in our group, the **dance** section, and the **music** section. The dance section can sometimes include tiny tots from grades **one and two**, flag twirlers, and choreographed dancers. The music section is **more important** and needs a lot of hard work. It is made up of drummer boys, cow bellers, horn and whistlers, and sometimes a trumpet or two. A month before the competition, our entire Junkanoo group would go into the streets and practice.



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4 Putting in all the hard work would eventually pay off. When we got on **Bay Street**, we could feel the excitement of the crowd. This got us all fired up to do our best. It was the moment of truth or, as some say 'Showtime.' The chants could be heard of all the names of participating schools. I love to hear 'Our Lady's, number one.' Junkanoo fever is in the air, reach out and catch it!

Questions

1 The author has been in Our Lady's Primary School Junior Junkanoo group for five years.

During this time, how many times has the group won the Parade? _____

2 Name the divisions of schools that take part in the Junior Junkanoo Parade.

3 Use the numbers 1 to 4 to put the following events in the order in which they occurred in the passage.

- A colourful junior Junkanooer takes part in the parade
- They work in the Junkanoo shacks up until 11.30 p.m. b A theme is selected.
- They design and construct costumes.
- The students perform in the Junkanoo festival on Bay Street.

4 Have you been to Junior Junkanoo or seen it on television? Write a brief paragraph describing what you saw. Be sure to include a topic sentence and interesting supporting details.

Paragraph

Junkanoo is a colourful display of Bahamian culture. On New Year's and Boxing Day, the largest Junkanoo parade is held in New Providence on Bay Street. The **National Junkanoo Committee** decides the route that the parade will take. The route is designed to allow all the groups to be seen by the public.

You can see an example of this route on the map on the following page. The word '**START**' shows where the parade begins. The **blue arrows** show the direction in which the parade will travel and the streets that it will pass. The **red arrows** show the streets where the participants **may rest**. Look carefully at the map and answer the questions below.

Questions

1 Look at the map of the parade route on page 14, notice where the parade starts. Use number 1, 2, and 3 to place these streets in the order that they were passed by the parade going down Bay Street.

East Street

Charlotte Street

Bank Lane

2 Write the name of the two streets that will be used as rest points for participants in the parade.

3 On which street does the parade begin? _____

4 According to the map, do the groups travel the same distance on Shirley Street as they do on Bay Street? Write yes or no. _____

5 Mary decided to attend the New Year's Day Junkanoo parade. She walked to Bay Street and stood on the corner of **Market Street**. Would this be a good spot to view the Junkanoo parade? Why _____

or why not? _____

New Providence Junkanoo Parade

