

Brazilian Carnival

Each year tons of tourists go to Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Salvador, Recife and other important Brazilian cities to take part in the most famous Brazilian celebration: the Carnival.

It's usually in February, starts on Saturday (some cities start the celebration on Friday) and lasts until the next Tuesday.



Traditional samba dancers.



Rio de Janeiro

The most important event of the Carnival in Rio de Janeiro is the Parade when all of the "Samba Schools" perform to people on an avenue especially set for the occasion. Each samba school prepares a song theme (or "samba") and while it's sung by the samba school official singers, the samba school members pass through the streets dancing "samba", wearing costumes and some go on floats.

The floats, the singers, the members and the costumes have a unique theme, based on a story that is narrated by the "samba theme". It's common to see Brazilian and foreign artists participating in the parade.



São Paulo

São Paulo city also has a popular parade that is similar to the one in Rio de Janeiro. Carnival Balls are also common, people wear costumes and dance samba until 4 a.m. The most important clubs promote carnival balls each night, from Friday to Tuesday and in the afternoon there's a matinee ball for the kids.

The most popular character is the "King Momo", each city chooses a heavy man to wear the "King Momo" costume and he participates in the Carnival Balls, especially for the kids. He's also called "the king of Carnival".



Frevo dancers



Olodum

Salvador, Recife and other big cities

In Salvador people dance on the street, following the "trio elétrico", that is a truck with a band and some singers on it. They play during all the night and the people dance while following them.

In Recife each "trio elétrico" plays and sings another rhythm - besides "samba": the "frevo", that is danced wearing costumes and holding a kind of small umbrella. It's a popular rhythm during the Carnival. In Salvador they also have the "Olodum", a famous group that participated with Michael Jackson in some of his hits recordings when he was in Brazil.



Try to identify the pictures and match the words:



() FLOAT (Samba School Parade - São Paulo)

() FREVO DANCER JUMPING DURING THE DANCE (Recife)

() FREVO DANCERS (Recife)

() Michael Jackson singing with Olodum Group (Salvador)

() OLODUM GROUP (Salvador)

() SAMBA SCHOOL PARADE (Rio de Janeiro)

Answers: 1 - Samba School Parade (Rio de Janeiro); 2 - Float (Samba School Parade - São Paulo); 3 - Frevo dancers (Recife); 4 - Olodum Group (Salvador); 5 - Michael Jackson singing with Olodum Group (Salvador); 6 - Olodum dancer jumping during the dance (Recife)

Have you ever heard about Brazilian Carnival? (If aff.) What have you heard about it?

Have you listened to samba or frevo? Would you like to learn how to dance samba and frevo?

Would you like to visit Brazil and take part in Brazilian Carnival? Which of the mentioned cities would you like to visit?

Explain your choice: _____

If you visited Brazil during Carnival, would you like to see the parades, or would you prefer to go to the Carnival Balls? Why? _____

Is there such a celebration in your country? _____

How is Carnival in your country? _____

Do you like Carnival? Why (not)? _____

Mark true (T) or false (F). When it's false, you'll explain it orally:

Carnival always happens in February. ()

There are samba school parades only in Rio de Janeiro during Carnival. ()

The floats present during the samba school parades. ()

Foreign artists can't participate in samba school parades. ()

Carnival is celebrated only in Rio de Janeiro. ()

Besides the parades, there are people dancing frevo on the streets in São Paulo City. ()

People dance frevo in Recife during Carnival. ()

Olodum is a group from Salvador. ()

Michael Jackson recorded a CD with the group Olodum ()

Each city chooses a heavy man to be the "King of Carnival". ()

The King of Carnival is also called "King Momo". ()

The King Momo participates mainly in the evening Carnival Balls. ()

The Parade in Rio de Janeiro occurs on a street especially prepared for the celebration. ()

Many Brazilian tourists go to other countries during Carnival. ()

The carnival starts on Saturday (or Friday) and ends on the next Tuesday. ()

In Salvador people dance on the street, whereas in São Paulo they prefer to dance in Carnival Balls. ()

In Recife a truck with sound and singers passes through the streets while the people go behind it, singing and dancing. ()

Frevo is a typical rhythm from Recife. ()

When Michael Jackson was in Brazil, he didn't go to Salvador. ()

The truck with sound and singers that goes through the streets in Recife and Salvador is called "trio elétrico". ()

The people who follow the "trio elétrico" dance and sing all the night. ()

Carnival celebrations happen only in the mentioned cities in Brazil ()