Carnival in Patras

Fill in the blank spaces using the following words:

accompany assemble funding spectacular declared announcements varies culminates constructed(x2) extension broadcast momentum emerges objective entourage supervises improvisation pier ritual floats extravagant climaxes treasure

The **Patras Carnival**, **Patrino karnavali** is the largest event of its kind in Greece the 2nd biggest in Europe and the 3rd biggest in the world. It has more than 180 years of history. The events begin on 17 January and last up to Clean Monday. The carnival of Patras is not a single event but a variety of events that includes balls, parades, hidden_____ hunt and the children's carnival amongst others. It in the last weekend of Carnival with the Saturday evening parade of carnival groups, the _____ Sunday parade of and groups, and finally the _____ burning of the carnival king at the St. Nikolaos Street _____ in the harbour of Patras. Its characteristics are spontaneity, _____,inspiration and volunteerism. In 2019, there were about 750.000.000 participants in the carnival.

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Organiser

In recent decades a large part of the organisation is consistently undertaken by the Municipality of Patras which the carnival workshop, a unique space in Greece in which the giant floats of the carnival King and his _____ are built along with other structures that decorate the town during the duration of the carnival season. The carnival receives _____from the Ministry of Culture and other institutions.

The Opening Ceremony

Irrespective of when the Triodion falls, the three-week period preceding the first Sunday of Lent, it is customary for the Carnival of Patras to start on the day of St. Anthony (17 January). A town crier appears on the streets of Patras; in recent years this has been a specially constructed float with music. The crier announces the opening with a satirical message and invites the town's residents to that evening for the opening ceremony in George square. During a celebration with elements of surprise, as the programme is kept secret till the last moment, the start of the Patras Carnival is by the town's mayor from the first floor balcony of the Apollon theatre. The programme usually includes pantomimes and patters, dances, music and fireworks.

The Children's carnival

A spectacular take on the traditional baby rally which was first organised in 1968, the Children's Carnival is an event that is exclusive to the Patras carnival. It with the major parade that takes place the week before the grand parade. Over the years the Children's Carnival has gained its own successfully competing with that of the grown ups. Music has been composed to it, special competitions and games are organised and the municipality's carnival workshop creates special floats inspired by popular fairy tales. In the Ipsilon Alonion square a 'carnival town' is created. Giant and colourful carnival structures allow the children to play. Over 5000 children participate in a festival involving numerous game events and creative activities whose is to introduce the younger generation to the Carnival and to encourage their abilities in artistic expression related to aesthetic or satirical masquerading.

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The Treasure Hunt Game

The groups that participate in the carnival are composed of either permanent carnival companions, groups of friends, colleagues or neighbours. They have a name as a group and a theme for their costumes. Depending on their carnival term, member's education, and the time they have available they choose whether they will participate in the treasure hunt games or the parades or both. These games comprise questions from subjects such as history, philosophy, mathematics, or from practical knowledge, exercises in navigation through hidden clues spread throughout the town, artistic competitions in painting, pantomimes, theatrical highlights or whatever else the organisers of the game can think of. The group's performance in various phases of the game is scored and so the big winner _____.Several groups have offices and clubs for the duration of the carnival period and many organise parties and dances or public events on streets and in squares. Some participate in the parade with their own carnival float to match the masquerade theme of the group. The number of participants in a group between 50 and 300 people, sometimes more.

The Saturday night parade

In earlier years, only the Treasure Hunt groups could participate without their floats. However, the last few years every group is free to join. Night, bright lights, an overwhelming stream of people, colors and high spirits combine to create a spectacular scene.

The Grand Parade

This is the climax of the Patras Carnival. The parade begins around noon on the Sunday before Clean Monday with numerous satirical floats _____ by the municipality followed by an endless stream of groups, each one with an individual theme around which their costumes are designed. Despite the constant flow, due to the number of people participating which in recent years has reached between 35 and 40 thousand, the parade takes several hours to complete. It cuts through the town and is watched by thousands on the streets, on balconies, in the stands and throughout Greece in a televised coverage.

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Closing Ceremony

An of the traditional festivities based around the burning of the float of the Carnival King, with concerts, dances, a farewell to the carnival past, about the carnival to come and countless fireworks. It takes place at the port on Sunday night and is also _____ on TV.

Drag the words from the right column next to their synonyms in the left column

float	escort, retinue, attendants
supervise	chariot
entourage	oversee
pier	gather
assemble	harbor, dock
declare	goal, aim
objective	excessive, spendthrift
extravagant	announce
overwhelming	take on, tackle, handle
undertake	massive, enormous

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