

# MARDI GRAS

## AROUND THE WORLD

### Reading Comprehension



#### KREWS AND PARADES

Krews play a crucial role in Mardi Gras Festivities. These social organizations design elaborate floats, create themed costumes, and organize parades that wind through the streets of the city. Each krew has its own traditions, customs, and unique ways of celebrating Mardi Gras.

#### SYMBOLISM AND MEANING

Mardi Gras is rich in symbolism. Purple symbolizes justice, green symbolizes power, and gold symbolizes luxury. The decorations, parades, and costumes are filled with meaning and tradition.



#### EVOLUTION OF MARDI GRAS

Over the years, Mardi Gras has evolved. Festivities taking place in the New Orleans region adds its own unique twist to the celebration, sharing its rich history and traditions with the world.

#### CONCLUSION

Mardi Gras has become a global phenomenon. From its roots in New Orleans, it has spread to other parts of the world, bringing joy and community to millions of people.



## MARDI GRAS AROUND THE WORLD

Mardi Gras, a lively and colorful celebration, is not just confined to one place - it's celebrated around the world with unique traditions and cultural touches. Let's take a journey to explore how people in different countries enjoy the festive spirit of Mardi Gras.



#### THE ORIGIN OF MARDI GRAS

Mardi Gras has a long history that dates back thousands of years. It started with the ancient Romans and medieval Europeans celebrating the arrival of spring with grand feasts and lively activities. The term "Mardi Gras" itself is French for "Fat Tuesday," indicating the tradition of indulging in rich foods before the fasting period of Lent.



#### MEDIAEVAL CELEBRATIONS

In medieval Europe, different countries had their own ways of celebrating the period before Lent, known as pre-Lenten Festivities.

These celebrations were marked by masked balls, games, and feasting.

They themselves before the more serious Lent started.

#### MARDI GRAS IN NORTH AMERICA

Mardi Gras made its way to North America through the celebration in the Old World. In the United States, the first Mardi Gras celebration in the United States, in 1703. The tradition then evolved into the grand spectacle we know today.

#### MARDI GRAS IN NEW ORLEANS

### Answers Key

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# READING COMPREHENSION

# READING PASSAGES WITH TEXT DEPENDENT QUESTIONS

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## MARDI GRAS AROUND THE WORLD

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### THE ORIGIN OF MARDI GRAS

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### MEDIAEVAL CELEBRATIONS

In medieval Europe, different countries had their own ways of celebrating the period before Lent, known as pre-Lenten festivities. These celebrations were marked by masked balls, grand feasts, and lively parades. People joined in these events to have fun and enjoy themselves before the more serious and solemn season of Lent started.

### MARDI GRAS IN NORTH AMERICA

Mardi Gras made its way to North America when French explorers brought the celebration in the late 17th century. The first recorded Mardi Gras celebration in the United States occurred in Mobile, Alabama, in 1703. The tradition then moved to New Orleans, where it evolved into the grand spectacle we see today.

### MARDI GRAS IN NEW ORLEANS

New Orleans holds a special place in Mardi Gras history. The first official Mardi Gras parade took place in the city in 1837, organized by the Mistick Krewe of Comus. Over the years, more krewes emerged, each adding its unique flair to the celebrations.

### PARADES

Parades play a crucial role in Mardi Gras. Social organizations design and create themed costumes, floats that wind through the city. Each krewe has its own contribution to the diverse tapestry of celebrations.



### AND COLORS

Each color has a meaning in symbolism, with each color representing something. Purple symbolizes justice, green represents faith, and gold these colors are prominently featured in costumes, floats, and parade floats, adding a visual spectacle to the



### TRADITIONAL KING CAKE

A delicious tradition associated with Mardi Gras is the King Cake. This sweet treat, often adorned in the traditional colors, contains a hidden figurine or trinket. The person who finds it is crowned "king" for the day and is said to bring good luck.

### THE EVOLUTION OF MARDI GRAS

Mardi Gras has evolved into a global celebration, with each place in various countries around the world. Each town adds its own cultural touch to the festivities, making Mardi Gras a diverse and inclusive celebration that brings people together in a shared celebration of life.

### CONCLUSION

Mardi Gras has a fascinating history that spans centuries and continents. From its humble beginnings in medieval Europe to the extravagant celebrations in New Orleans, Mardi Gras has become a symbol of joy, camaraderie, and the vibrant spirit of celebration. As people continue to come together to revel in the festivities, Mardi Gras remains a cherished tradition that bridges the past and the present, bringing communities together in a shared celebration of life.

READING  
COMPREHENSION

**6. What do the colors purple, green, and gold symbolize in Mardi Gras celebrations?**

- a. Emotions and Feelings
- b. Justice, Faith, and power
- c. Royalty, nature, and wealth
- d. Happiness, hope, and prosperity

**7. What is the significance of the King Cake in Mardi Gras traditions?**

- a. A dessert for kings
- b. Symbolizes wealth and abundance
- c. Contains hidden figurine, and the finder is crowned "king"
- d. Used in religious ceremonies during Lent

**8. In which century did French explorers first bring Mardi Gras to North America?**

- a. 16th century
- b. 17th century
- c. 18th century
- d. 19th century

**9. What is the main theme of Mardi Gras celebrations?**

- a. Solemn religious rituals
- b. Joy, camaraderie, and celebration
- c. A time for fasting and reflection
- d. Exclusive to New Orleans

**10. How has Mardi Gras evolved over the years according to the passage?**

event in New Orleans with colorful floats

## Answers Key

### MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS:

- 1. What is the meaning of "Mardi Gras" in French?**  
- Answer: c. Fat Tuesday
- 2. Where did Mardi Gras originate from?**  
- Answer: c. Ancient Rome and Medieval Europe
- 3. What were the medieval celebrations in Europe known as?**  
- Answer: d. Pre-Lenten Festivities
- 4. Which city holds a special place in Mardi Gras history where the first official Mardi Gras parade took place in 1837?**  
- Answer: c. New Orleans, Louisiana
- 5. What is the role of krewes in Mardi Gras festivities?**  
- Answer: b. Designing elaborate floats and organizing parades
- 6. What do the colors purple, green, and gold symbolize in Mardi Gras celebrations?**  
- Answer: b. Justice, Faith, and power
- 7. What is the significance of the King Cake in Mardi Gras traditions?**  
- Answer: c. Contains hidden figurine, and the finder is crowned "king"
- 8. In which century did French explorers bring Mardi Gras to North America?**  
- Answer: b. 17th century
- 9. What is the main theme of Mardi Gras according to the passage?**  
- Answer: b. Joy, camaraderie, and celebration
- 10. How has Mardi Gras evolved over the years according to the passage?**  
- Answer: c. Festivities take place globally with diverse cultural influences

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# MARDI GRAS

## AROUND THE WORLD

### Comprehension Questions

#### DIRECTIONS: CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER.

- 1. What is the meaning of "Mardi Gras" in French?**
  - a. Green Celebration
  - b. Festive Tuesday
  - c. Fat Tuesday
  - d. Joyful Parade
- 2. Where did Mardi Gras originate from?**
  - a. Ancient Greece
  - b. Medieval Asia
  - c. Ancient Rome and Medieval Europe
  - d. Renaissance England
- 3. What were the medieval celebrations in Europe known as?**
  - a. Carnival
  - b. Lenten Festivities
  - c. Masquerade Balls
  - d. Pre-Lenten Festivities
- 4. Which city holds a special place in Mardi Gras history where the first official Mardi Gras parade took place in 1837?**
  - a. Mobile, Alabama
  - b. Houston, Texas
  - c. New Orleans, Louisiana
  - d. Miami, Florida
- 5. What is the role of krewes in Mardi Gras festivities?**
  - a. Cooking traditional dishes
  - b. Designing elaborate floats and organizing parades
  - c. Leading religious ceremonies
  - d. Decorating homes with Mardi Gras colors

MCQ'S

ANSWER KEY INCLUDED

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