

History of

MARDI GRAS

Reading Comprehension



SYMBOLISM AND COLORS

Mardi Gras is rich in symbolism, with each color representing something unique. Purple symbolizes justice, green represents faith, and gold signifies power. These colors are prominently featured in costumes, decorations, and parade floats, adding a visual spectacle to the celebration.

TRADITIONAL KING CAKE

A delicious tradition is the King Cake. This is the traditional cake of the celebration. The person who finds the "king" for the day is crowned.

EVOLUTION OF MARDI GRAS

Over the years, Mardi Gras has evolved. Festivities taking place in the region have added their own unique traditions, making Mardi Gras a diverse and vibrant celebration.

CONCLUSION

Mardi Gras has a rich history and is a beloved tradition in many parts of the world. From its roots in medieval Europe to its modern-day celebrations, it remains a cherished festival bringing communities together in joy and festivity.

HISTORY OF MARDI GRAS

ORIGIN

Mardi Gras has a rich history dating back thousands of years. Its roots can be traced to ancient Roman and medieval European traditions. The term "Mardi Gras" is French for "Fat Tuesday," referring to the practice of indulging in rich foods before the fasting period of Lent.



MEDIAEVAL CELEBRATIONS

During medieval times in Europe, different countries had their own ways of celebrating the period before Lent, known as pre-Lent festivities. These celebrations often included masked balls, grand feasts, and lively parades. People took part in these events as a way to have fun and enjoy themselves before the more serious and solemn season of Lent started.

ARRIVAL IN NORTH AMERICA

Mardi Gras was brought to North America in the late 17th century. The first record of the celebration occurred in Mobile, Alabama, in 1703. It later spread to New Orleans, where it evolved into the modern-day celebration.

MARDI GRAS IN NEW ORLEANS

New Orleans holds a special place in the history of Mardi Gras. The first official Mardi Gras parade took place in 1857, organized by the Mistick Krewe of Comus. Over the years, many other organizations responsible for organizing parades and events emerged, each adding its unique flair to the celebrations.

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READING COMPREHENSION

READING PASSAGES WITH TEXT DEPENDENT QUESTIONS

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HISTORY OF MARDI GRAS

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MEDIEVAL CELEBRATIONS

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grand feasts, and lively parades. People took part in these events as a way to have fun and enjoy themselves before the more serious and solemn season of Lent started.

ARRIVAL IN NORTH AMERICA

Mardi Gras was brought to North America by French explorers in the late 17th century. The first recorded 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 (social organizations responsible for organizing parades and events) emerged, each adding its unique flair to the celebrations.



KREWES AND PARADES

Krewes are vital to Mardi Gras, crafting intricate floats, themed costumes, and organizing city parades. Each krewe adds its unique traditions, contributing to the diverse Mardi Gras

END COLORS

In symbolism, with each color representing something: purple symbolizes justice, green represents faith, and gold represents power. These colors are prominently featured in costumes, parade floats, adding a visual spectacle to the

KING CAKE

King cake, associated with Mardi Gras, is a sweet treat, often adorned with colorful beads. It contains a hidden figurine (the "king") and is said to bring good luck.



MARDI GRAS

Mardi Gras has evolved into a global celebration, with parades in various countries around the world. Each location adds its own cultural touch to the festivities, making Mardi Gras an inclusive celebration.

Mardi Gras has a fascinating history that spans centuries and continents. From its humble beginnings in medieval Europe to the vibrant parades in New Orleans, Mardi Gras has become a symbol of joy, unity, and the vibrant spirit of celebration. As communities from around the world come together to revel in the festivities, Mardi Gras continues to be a tradition that bridges the past and the present, bringing communities together in a shared celebration of life.

READING
COMPREHENSION

COMPREHENSION QUEST

1. What are the traditional colors that do they symbolize?
2. Describe the significance of the celebration.
3. How does the date of the Mardi Gras season of Lent?
4. What are some unique cultural Mardi Gras celebrations in different parts of the world?
5. How do Mardi Gras parades contribute to the celebration?

6. What is hidden within a King Cake?

- a) A gold coin
- b) A silver spoon
- c) A plastic baby figurine
- d) A lucky charm

7. What is the significance of finding a King Cake?

- a) The Finder gets to keep the cake.
- b) The Finder receives good luck.
- c) The Finder must pay for the next year's cake.
- d) The Finder becomes the King of the party.

8. In which country is Mardi Gras known as 'Carnaval' and features samba dancing?

- a) France
- b) Brazil
- c) Italy
- d) Spain

9. What is a highlight of Mardi Gras parades?

- a) Silent processions
- b) Colorful floats
- c) Lively music and dancers
- d) Private celebrations

10. What is the underlying theme of Mardi Gras celebrations across different cultures?

- a) Sadness and reflection
- b) Isolation and solitude
- c) Joy, Festivities, and community coming together
- d) Religious ceremonies and rituals

Answers Key

ANSWERS TO THE MCQS

1. What does the term "Mardi Gras" mean in English?
Answer) Fat Tuesday
2. What marks the beginning of the Christian season of Lent?
Answer) Ash Wednesday
3. Which city is most famously associated with Mardi Gras celebrations?
Answer) New Orleans
4. What determines the date of Mardi Gras each year?
Answer) The date of Easter
5. What do the traditional colors of Mardi Gras symbolize?
Answer) Purple (justice, green faith, gold power)
6. What is hidden within a King Cake?
Answer) A plastic baby figurine
7. What is the significance of finding the plastic baby figurine in a King Cake?
Answer) The Finder becomes the king of the celebration.
8. In which country is Mardi Gras known as Carnival and features samba dancing?
Answer) Brazil
9. What is a highlight of Mardi Gras parades?
Answer) Lively music and dancers
10. What is the underlying theme of Mardi Gras celebrations across different cultures?
Answer) Joy, Festivities, and community coming together

Name _____ Date _____

HISTORY OF MARDI GRAS

Comprehension Questions

DIRECTIONS: CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER.

1. What does the term "Mardi Gras" mean in English?
 - a) Happy Tuesday
 - b) Fat Tuesday
 - c) Festive Tuesday
 - d) Colorful Tuesday
2. What marks the beginning of the Christian season of Lent?
 - a) Mardi Gras
 - b) Ash Wednesday
 - c) Easter Sunday
 - d) Good Friday
3. Which city is most famously associated with Mardi Gras celebrations?
 - a) Paris
 - b) London
 - c) New Orleans
 - d) Rio de Janeiro
4. What determines the date of Mardi Gras each year?
 - a) The first day of spring
 - b) The date of Easter
 - c) The summer solstice
 - d) The winter equinox
5. What do the traditional colors of Mardi Gras symbolize?
 - a) Purple joy, Green peace, gold love
 - b) Purple justice, green faith, gold power
 - c) Purple sorrow, green envy, gold wealth
 - d) Purple wisdom, green nature, gold happiness

MCQ'S

ANSWER KEY INCLUDED

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