

# Carnival

## World Celebrations and Festivities

- During the year, lots of festivals and celebrations take place across the world.
- Carnival is one of the most famous and colourful festivities.
- Most carnivals take place during February.

## What is Carnival?

- Carnival can be different depending on the country
- Lots of countries celebrate their own traditions and culture.
- In most countries during carnival season, there are lots of masks, colourful costumes, music and parades
- Some carnivals have special symbols, such as King Cakes (a sweet and very colourful cake) which symbolise Mardi Gras, which is celebrated in New Orleans.



### Where is the largest carnival?

- Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: this is where the largest carnival in the world takes place.
- Carnival is very important to Brazil; it is not just for fun. Samba music is often played on drums and there is lots of traditional dancing.
- It is a celebration of the culture and way of life of Brazil.
- There are many parties celebrating the songs, music and dances that are typical of Brazilian culture.



### Samba music

- Samba is the most popular form of music and dancing at the Rio carnival.
- It is a Brazilian style of music.
- Samba music is played on drums and there is lots of traditional dancing.
- Every year, there are over 500 000 foreign visitors to the Rio carnival.

### Carnivals in Europe

There are several carnivals in Europe.

**Cadiz** is the largest Spanish carnival where Spanish traditions are celebrated. Like Rio, there are parades and floats with lots of music.

**Nice** is in France. There are lots of Catholic traditions at this carnival. People eat lots of rich food in the build up to Lent. One of the most popular street celebrations is the Battle of the Flowers, where there are lots of colourful, flower-filled floats and costumes.

**Cologne** is in Germany. The carnival season here actually begins in November! It ends in the week before, and including, Shrove Tuesday. There are lots of parades, and people dress up - even at work and school. It is one of Germany's most important cultural events.

## Questions

1. What is a carnival and what are they like?
2. When do most carnivals take place?
3. Where is *Mardi Gras* celebrated?
4. Where is the largest carnival in the world?
5. What is samba?
6. What do carnivals celebrate?
7. Describe the Spanish and French carnivals using your own words.