

MARDI GRAS

http://www.eslHolidayLessons.com/02/mardis_gras.html

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ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

"Mardi Gras" is French for "Fat Tuesday". It is the name of a celebration that takes place on the day before Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of the 40-day period of Lent. Mardi Gras is the final day of a three-day period, which starts on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. In Catholic countries, people fast during lent. People eat well the day before Ash Wednesday and hold celebrations. These can be wonderful, colourful carnivals all over the world. The most famous are those in Rio de Janeiro, New Orleans and Venice. The tradition of Mardis Gras goes back hundreds of years in Catholic Europe. Explorers, settlers and missionaries exported the tradition worldwide.

Today, Mardi Gras is a riot of colour, street carnivals, marching bands, dancing and all-night partying in the streets. Many people dress up in spectacular costumes and wear beautiful masks. The biggest Mardis Gras carnivals are in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and New Orleans, Louisiana. Thousands of people from all over the world visit these cities to join in the fun. Venice is home to one of the oldest carnivals in the world, called Carnevale di Venezia. This dates back to 1268. Thousands of mask-wearing revelers fill the Venetian streets and attend special masked balls. In Sydney, Australia, Mardis Gras is celebrated by the city's gay and lesbian community with street parades and costumes.

PHRASE MATCH

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. a celebration that takes place on the | a. before Ash Wednesday |
| 2. the beginning of the 40-day | b. tradition worldwide |
| 3. the final day of a three- | c. period of Lent |
| 4. People eat well the day | d. back hundreds of years |
| 5. The tradition of Mardis Gras goes | e. day before Ash Wednesday |
| 6. missionaries exported the | f. day period |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Mardi Gras is a riot | a. all over the world |
| 2. Many people dress up in | b. the Venetian streets |
| 3. Thousands of people from | c. and lesbian community |
| 4. Venice is home to one of the oldest | d. spectacular costumes |
| 5. mask-wearing revelers fill | e. of colour |
| 6. celebrated by the city's gay | f. carnivals in the world |

LISTENING GAP FILL

"Mardi Gras" is French for "Fat Tuesday". It is the name of a celebration _____ the day before Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of the 40-day period of Lent. Mardi Gras is _____ three-day period, which starts on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. In Catholic countries, people fast during lent. People _____ before Ash Wednesday and hold celebrations. These can be wonderful, colourful carnivals all over the world. The _____ in Rio de Janeiro, New Orleans and Venice. The tradition of Mardis Gras goes back hundreds of years in Catholic Europe. Explorers, settlers and missionaries _____ worldwide.

Today, Mardi Gras is _____, street carnivals, marching bands, dancing and all-night partying in the streets. Many people dress _____ costumes and wear beautiful masks. The biggest Mardis Gras carnivals are in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and New Orleans, Louisiana. Thousands of people _____ the world visit these cities _____. Venice is home to one of the oldest carnivals in the world, called Carnevale di Venezia. _____ 1268. Thousands of mask-wearing revelers fill the Venetian streets and attend special masked balls. In Sydney, Australia, Mardis Gras is celebrated by the city's gay and lesbian community with street _____.

WHILE READING / LISTENING GAP FILL

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

"Mardi Gras" is French for "Fat Tuesday". It is the _____ of a celebration that takes place on the day _____ Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of the 40-day _____ of Lent. Mardi Gras is the _____ day of a three-day period which starts on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. In Catholic countries, people fast _____ lent. People eat well the day before Ash Wednesday and hold celebrations. These can be wonderful, colourful carnivals all _____ the world. The most famous are those in Rio de Janeiro, New Orleans and Venice. The _____ of Mardis Gras goes back hundreds of years in Catholic Europe. Explorers, _____ and missionaries exported the tradition worldwide.

tradition

final

name

over

before

during

settlers

period

Today, Mardi Gras is a riot of colour, _____ carnivals, marching bands, dancing and all-_____ partying in the streets. Many people dress up in spectacular costumes and wear beautiful _____. The biggest Mardis Gras carnivals are in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and New Orleans, Louisiana. Thousands of people from all _____ the world visit these cities to join in the fun. Venice is home to one of the _____ carnivals in the world, called Carnevale di Venezia. This dates back to 1268. Thousands of mask-wearing revelers _____ the Venetian streets and _____ special masked balls. In Sydney, Australia, Mardis Gras is celebrated by the city's gay and lesbian _____ with street parades and costumes.

attend

masks

oldest

community

street

over

fill

night

CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD

Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs of *italics*.

"Mardi Gras" is French *for / by* "Fat Tuesday". It is the name of a celebration that takes *placed / place* on the day before Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of the 40-day *during / period* of Lent. Mardi Gras is the *final / finally* day of a three-day period which starts on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. In Catholic countries, people fast during lent. People eat *well / good* the day before Ash Wednesday and hold celebrations. These can be wonderful, colourful carnivals all *overall / over* the world. The most famous are those in Rio de Janeiro, New Orleans and Venice. The *traditional / tradition* of Mardis Gras goes back hundreds of years in Catholic Europe. Explorers, *settlers / settles* and missionaries exported the tradition worldwide.

Today, Mardi Gras is a riot of *colour / colourful*, street carnivals, marching bands, dancing and all-night partying in the streets. Many people dress *on / up* in spectacular costumes and *wearing / wear* beautiful masks. The biggest Mardis Gras carnivals are in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and New Orleans, Louisiana. *Thousands / Thousand* of people from all over the world visit these cities to join *in / on* the fun. Venice is home to one of the oldest carnivals in the world, called Carnevale di Venezia. This *date / dates* back to 1268. Thousands of mask-wearing revelers fill the Venetian streets and attend special masked *hoops / balls*. In Sydney, Australia, Mardis Gras is celebrated by the city's gay and lesbian community with street *parade / parades* and costumes.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

"Mardi Gras" is French (1) _____ "Fat Tuesday". It is the name of a celebration that takes place on the day before Ash Wednesday, which (2) _____ the beginning of the 40-day period of Lent. Mardi Gras is the final day of a three-day period, (3) _____ starts on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. In Catholic countries, people fast during lent. People eat well the day before Ash Wednesday and (4) _____ celebrations. These can be wonderful, colourful carnivals all over the world. The most famous are those in Rio de Janeiro, New Orleans and Venice. The (5) _____ of Mardis Gras goes back hundreds of years in Catholic Europe. Explorers, settlers and missionaries (6) _____ the tradition worldwide.

Today, Mardi Gras is a riot of (7) _____, street carnivals, marching bands, dancing and all-night partying in the streets. Many people dress up (8) _____ spectacular costumes and wear beautiful masks. The biggest Mardis Gras carnivals are in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and New Orleans, Louisiana. Thousands of people from all over the world visit (9) _____ cities to join in the fun. Venice is home to one of the oldest carnivals in the world, called Carnevale di Venezia. This (10) _____ back to 1268. Thousands of mask-wearing revelers fill the Venetian streets and (11) _____ special masked balls. In Sydney, Australia, Mardis Gras is celebrated by the city's gay and lesbian communities (12) _____ street parades and costumes.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) for | (b) from | (c) with | (d) by |
| 2. | (a) marking | (b) marker | (c) markings | (d) marks |
| 3. | (a) when | (b) which | (c) where | (d) whom |
| 4. | (a) bold | (b) cold | (c) hold | (d) fold |
| 5. | (a) traditions | (b) tradition | (c) traditionally | (d) traditional |
| 6. | (a) exported | (b) exporting | (c) exporter | (d) export |
| 7. | (a) colouring | (b) coloured | (c) colour | (d) colourful |
| 8. | (a) along | (b) for | (c) to | (d) up |
| 9. | (a) these | (b) them | (c) this | (d) then |
| 10. | (a) date | (b) dates | (c) dating | (d) dateline |
| 11. | (a) attendance | (b) attendee | (c) attend | (d) attended |
| 12. | (a) from | (b) at | (c) for | (d) with |

SPELLING

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. marks the beginning of the 40-day ipoedr of Lent
2. people fast rgdiun lent
3. These can be olfwudren
4. The most asuomf
5. goes back ddrusneh of years
6. exported the tradition wwrloedid

Paragraph 2

7. a orti of colour
8. all-night anptgriy in the streets
9. dress up in spectacular mtssceou
10. one of the oldest viaalcrons in the world
11. etadnt special masked balls
12. street esparida

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () well the day before Ash Wednesday and hold celebrations. These can be wonderful, colourful carnivals all over the
- () partying in the streets. Many people dress up in spectacular costumes and wear beautiful masks. The biggest
- () and attend special masked balls. In Sydney, Australia, Mardis Gras is celebrated by the city's
- (**1**) "Mardi Gras" is French for "Fat Tuesday". It is the name of a celebration that takes place on the day before Ash
- () called Carnevale di Venezia. This dates back to 1268. Thousands of mask-wearing revelers fill the Venetian streets
- () over the world visit these cities to join in the fun. Venice is home to one of the oldest carnivals in the world,
- () gay and lesbian community with street parades and costumes.
- () period, which starts on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. In Catholic countries, people fast during lent. People eat
- () settlers and missionaries exported the tradition worldwide.
- () Mardis Gras goes back hundreds of years in Catholic Europe. Explorers,
- () Mardis Gras carnivals are in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and New Orleans, Louisiana. Thousands of people from all
- () world. The most famous are those in Rio de Janeiro, New Orleans and Venice. The tradition of
- () Today, Mardi Gras is a riot of colour, street carnivals, marching bands, dancing and all-night
- () Wednesday, which marks the beginning of the 40-day period of Lent. Mardi Gras is the final day of a three-day

SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. Mardi is for Tuesday Gras French Fat

2. of day final the is Gras Mardi period day - three a

3. fast people , countries Catholic In lent during

4. goes hundreds years Gras back of Mardis

5. tradition exported worldwide the missionaries

6. Mardi of Gras colour is Today a , riot

7. spectacular Many dress in costumes people up

8. cities the people world from visit all these over

9. Venice of is the home oldest to carnivals one

10. revelers wearing - mask streets Venetian the fill

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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THE MARDI GRAS SURVEY

Write five questions about Mardi Gras in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information about Mardi Gras. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about Mardi Gras. Write about what happens around the world. Include two imaginary interviews with people who did something on this day.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. POSTER: Make your own poster about Mardi Gras. Write about will happen on this day around the world.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.