

Carnival: Music, Costumes and Public Space

B1 | Adults / Teens | Reading + Vocabulary + Discussion | 50-60 minutes

BEFORE YOU READ

Talk with a partner. What makes a public event feel exciting but safe?

1. Match the words (1-6) with the definitions (A-F).

- | | | |
|--------------|-------|---|
| 1. costume | _____ | A. a repeated pattern of sound in music |
| 2. spectacle | _____ | B. clothes worn to look like a different person |
| 3. float | _____ | C. plan and arrange an event |
| 4. rhythm | _____ | D. an impressive public event to watch |
| 5. audience | _____ | E. people who watch a performance |
| 6. organise | _____ | F. a decorated vehicle in a parade |

2. Read the article. The bold words are the vocabulary from Activity 1.

1. Carnival is celebrated in many countries before the Christian season of Lent. Famous events take place in Rio de Janeiro, Venice and the Caribbean, but each city has its own history and style. Music, dance and **costumes** are central to the celebration.
2. A carnival parade can be a huge **spectacle**. Performers dance to a strong musical **rhythm**, and large decorated vehicles called **floats** move through the streets. The **audience** may watch from seats, windows or the side of the road.
3. Planning is important. Event teams must **organise** transport, toilets, medical help and security, as well as road closures. A successful carnival allows people to enjoy the event while keeping the area safe for residents, visitors and performers.
4. Carnival can also be a way for communities to tell stories about history and identity. A costume, song or dance may have a meaning that visitors do not understand immediately. Looking beyond the party can make the event more interesting.

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UNDERSTAND, DISCUSS AND WRITE

3. Comprehension. Answer in complete sentences. Use the article to help you.

1. When is Carnival celebrated in many countries?

2. What is a float?

3. Where can an audience watch?

4. Why is planning important?

5. What can Carnival express?

4. Discuss. Talk in small groups. Give reasons and examples.

- Would you rather perform or watch at Carnival?
- What services are needed at a large event?
- Can costumes tell stories?
- How should cities balance visitors' needs with residents' needs?

5. Homework: Write a proposal.

Write 120-150 words proposing an event for your town. Include music, safety and one local idea.

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ANSWER KEY AND TEACHING NOTE

Vocabulary matching

1. costume - B
2. spectacle - D
3. float - F
4. rhythm - A
5. audience - E
6. organise - C

Comprehension answers

1. When is Carnival celebrated in many countries?

It is celebrated before the Christian season of Lent.

2. What is a float?

It is a decorated vehicle in a parade.

3. Where can an audience watch?

They can watch from seats, windows or the side of the road.

4. Why is planning important?

It helps keep the event safe and organised.

5. What can Carnival express?

It can express a community's history and identity.

Teaching note

Compare matching answers before reading. Accept other article-supported comprehension answers; discussion and homework answers vary. Discuss customs respectfully, distinguishing religious, cultural and personal traditions.