



WATCH & LEARN: ARTS & LIFESTYLE

CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS: CARNIVAL

THE WORLD'S BIGGEST PARTY (3:26 min)

VIDEO Script & Vocabulary (page 1 of 1/v32332)

INTERMEDIATE (B1 - B2) AND ABOVE

- ◊ Read the script and note new vocabulary
- ◊ Write three sentences using new vocabulary
- ◊ Prepare for the discussion questions

Starting
Off

Carnival has grown to become one of the largest celebrations in the world. Today more than 50 countries celebrate the tradition, but where did the party start?

- 1 Read the **Video Script** below. The words in **bold** are defined in the **Vocabulary** section. Look up any new words in a dictionary.
- 2 Go to the **Your Turn** section at the end of this document. Practice using new words and expressions from the video script to prepare for your next class.
- 3 Look at the **Discussion Questions** and prepare your responses for the next class.

Video Script:

Narrator: From **samba blocos** in Brazil to masked **balls** in Italy, Carnival is a truly global phenomenon celebrated in over 50 countries around the world. Carnival originated as a **pagan festival** in ancient Egypt to **usher out** winter and celebrate the beginning of spring. When Alexander the Great conquered Egypt, the ancient Greeks adopted the festival. The Romans **assimilated** the festival from the Greeks and it was later **overlaid** with Christian meaning to become the festival of Carnevale.



The word "carne" means "meat" in Latin and "valet" means "farewell". In the Catholic calendar, "Carnevale", "farewell to meat" is a feast before the fast of **Lent**. In eighteenth-century Italy, people preparing for Lent would throw **indulgent**, fancy dress parties and **gorge** before the fast. As Christianity **spread** across Europe so too did the celebration of carnival.

Colonization exported it across the world. Portuguese colonists took Lent to the shores of Brazil where they had also taken an estimated four-million African slaves. Over time, European rituals **fused** with African ones to create Brazil's world-famous carnival. The **flamboyant** street parties are a celebration of Brazil's mixed heritage and it's big business. In 2016 the city of Rio alone welcomed 1.1 million tourists during Carnival contributing around \$900M to the city's economy.

On the Caribbean island of Trinidad the festival of Lent was introduced by French colonists. Slaves, excluded from these celebrations, created their own parties to the **soundtrack** of calypso music which mocked the French. This is now an integral part of Trinidad's carnival.

In India, Carnival is only celebrated in the southern state of Goa where Portuguese colonists ruled for over four centuries. Parades occur throughout the state with bands, dances and **floats**. Carnival is known as Mardi Gras in the American city of New Orleans and contributes over two percent to the city's GDP. Carnival is not just a party in the sun, Quebec holds the third biggest carnival celebration in the world.

From **humble** beginnings Carnival has become a truly global celebration with millions of revelers all over the world contributing billions of dollars to the party.

Discussion Questions:

- ◊ What do you know about Carnival?
- ◊ Have you ever been to a Carnival celebration?
- ◊ Why do you think Carnival has become so popular around the world?

Vocabulary:

- **samba blocos** - block parties
- **ball** - celebration or festive occasion
- **pagan festival** - often characterized by colorful rituals and elaborate ceremonies, all share a common reverence for nature and its cycles
- **usher out** - cause or mark the end of one thing and the start of something new
- **assimilate** - absorb and integrate (people, ideas, or culture) into a wider society or culture
- **overlay** - integrate (similar to assimilate)
- **Lent** - foundational call of Christians to charity focusing on fasting, prayer and pertinence
- **indulgent** - hedonistic; pleasure-seeking
- **gorge** - eat a large amount greedily
- **spread** - extend over an increasing area
- **fuse** - join or blend to form a single entity
- **flamboyant** - (of a person or their behavior) tending to attract attention because of their exuberance, confidence, and stylishness
- **soundtrack** - recording of the musical accompaniment of a film
- **float** - **decorated platform**, either built on a vehicle like a truck or towed behind one, which is a component of many festive parades
- **humble** - of low social, administrative, or political rank



Your Turn! Using new vocabulary is the best way to learn and remember it.

- 1 Choose three words or expressions from the video that are new to you and write a sentence using each one in your notebook.