

Rhythms Of Mardi Gras Answer Key

1. Jazz and brass bands became part of Mardi Gras because they grew in New Orleans and were used to celebrate, tell stories, and bring communities together.
 2. Music expresses cultural identity by showing shared history, emotions, and traditions-such as jazz reflecting the creativity and resilience of New Orleans' people.
 3. Example: The trumpet leads the melody, symbolizing energy and joy.
- 4-5. Answers will vary; look for thoughtful, sensory, or emotional connections to the music's cultural meaning.

Teacher's Guide

- **Pre-Listening:** Introduce students to a classic brass band recording (e.g., "When the Saints Go Marching In") before reading.
- **Guided Reading:** Discuss key vocabulary such as *rhythm*, *heritage*, and *identity*.
- **Differentiation:**
 - *Grades 8-9:* Provide sentence starters for reflections (e.g., "The trumpet represents...").
 - *Grades 10-12:* Encourage use of figurative language or personal cultural connections in responses.
- **Engagement Ideas:**
 - Play short clips from various Mardi Gras bands and have students jot down how each makes them feel.
 - Invite students to create a "Mardi Gras Playlist" that represents joy, unity, and tradition.
- **Extension Activity:** Research a famous New Orleans musician and summarize how their work reflects Mardi Gras culture.