

Carnival Beginnings Answer Key

1. "Fat Tuesday."
2. To enjoy rich foods before the fasting season of Lent.
3. New Orleans, Louisiana.
4. Purple - justice; Green - faith; Gold - power.
5. Krewes organize parades with music, costumes, and floats.
6. It has grown larger and more modern but still celebrates joy, culture, and tradition.
7. Because it combines history, music, food, and community celebration.
8. Answers will vary; look for references to culture, parades, or unity.

Teacher's Guide

- **Activate Prior Knowledge:** Ask students what they already know about Mardi Gras or parades before reading.
- **During Reading:** Highlight key vocabulary (e.g., *krewe*, *Lent*, *tradition*). Have students visualize the colors and music described.
- **Comprehension Focus:** Encourage full-sentence answers that include reasoning, not just short phrases.
- **Differentiation:**
 - *Younger readers (Grades 4-5):* Read the passage aloud and discuss one paragraph at a time.
 - *Older readers (Grades 6-8):* Have students summarize each paragraph or research one Mardi Gras symbol.
- **Engagement Ideas:**
 - Play traditional jazz music while reading to set the atmosphere.
 - Let students design their own symbolic Mardi Gras mask using the holiday's color meanings.
- **Extension Activities:**
 - Research how other countries celebrate similar pre-Lenten festivals (e.g., Carnival in Brazil or Venice).
 - Have students write a short "news article" about a future Mardi Gras parade in their town.