

# BRAZIL - CARNIVAL

## What is Carnival and how is it celebrated?



Intermediate Level



**C**arnival is a festive season occurring before lent, usually around February or March. In this event people wear colorful masks and costumes and participate in a parade, which contains elements of a circus and a street party.

Items prohibited during lent are often consumed in vast amounts and it is usually encouraged to go wild during a carnival, satirising or celebrating things that are seen as unacceptable in everyday society.

The most famous carnival is the one in Rio. With up to 2 million people in its streets per day. The parade contains breath taking floats, revellers and adornments made by various samba schools. A samba school is a collaboration of neighbours who want participate in the carnival.

## Intermediate Level

### Why is it celebrated?

The motive for celebration varies depending on its location. For example in Rio de Janeiro the carnival is celebrated in honour of the gods and the great waters, whereas in other places it is more of a decadent blow-out before Lent.

### What do people wear?

The Carnival is celebrated with a grand parade of festivity, merry-making and excess. The costumes are designed and made by the samba schools, and are famous for their vast amounts of color, outlandish accessories, wonderfully over the top headpieces and the common use of feathers.

The parade is divided into what is known as wings. Each school's wings represent a specific theme which is reflected in their costumes. The ground wing is reserved to dancers and musicians that surround the float, the float wing is for the performers on the floats themselves. The samba schools take these very seriously, and their costumes often cost as much as 1000 USD to make.



## Intermediate Level

### Answer these questions?

1. What month is celebrated Carnival in Brazil?
2. What do they wear ?
3. What city is celebrated the most famous carnival?
4. How many people in its street per day?
5. What is a samba school?
6. Why is it celebrated?
7. How much does it cost to make a carnival costume in Brazil?
8. Have you ever been to the Carnival in Rio?

### Fill in the gaps

Carnival is a \_\_\_\_\_ season occurring before \_\_\_\_\_, usually around \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_. In this event people \_\_\_\_\_ colorful masks and costumes and participate in a parade, which contains \_\_\_\_\_ of a circus and a street party.

Items \_\_\_\_\_ during lent are often consumed in vast amounts and it is usually encouraged to go wild during a carnival, \_\_\_\_\_ or celebrating things that are seen as \_\_\_\_\_ in everyday society.

The \_\_\_\_\_ famous carnival is the one in Rio. With up to \_\_\_\_\_ people in its streets per day. The parade contains \_\_\_\_\_ taking floats, revellers and \_\_\_\_\_ made by various samba schools. A samba school is a \_\_\_\_\_ of neighbours who want participate in the carnival.