

The New Carnival Company presents for
IW Mardi Gras Saturday 27 June 2020

The Story of Carnival



From Pagan Roots to Global Party!

- See

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ItXfR_TIIEE

25 x Sections

Carnival History	Island Carnival	Global Carnival
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Carnival History Section 1

Carnival was firstly introduced as a pagan festival in **Ancient Egypt**, to usher out winter and celebrate the beginning of spring. It was called **Sham El-Nessim**.

At the time, winter was thought of as the reign of the winter spirits; these needed to be driven out in order for the summer to return. Carnival was regarded as the first spring festival of the new year.

Ancient Egypt



Carnival History Section 2

Bacchanal

Many centuries later, after Alexander the Great had conquered Egypt, the **Ancient Greeks** adopted the festival.

The Romans copied the festival from the Greeks and called it Bacchanal (after the god Bacchus), and celebrated it with plenty of wine, dancing, song, and generally excessive behaviour!



Carnival History Section 3

The Feast of Fools was a popular festival in Europe during the Middle Ages. During this time a mock bishop was elected, and low and high officials changed places.

People wore animal masks and women's clothing, sang bawdy songs, recited nonsensical speeches and ran amok in the streets.

The Feast of Fools was abolished in the 16th century, but the traditions of satire and ridicule remain a potent feature of many modern carnivals.

Feast of Fools



Carnival History Section 4

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Commedia dell 'Arte

Many years later, the pagan festival was spread with Christian meaning to become 'Carnevale' .
*Carne = meat, and
Vale = farewell* (in Latin).

In 18th-century Italy, people preparing to give up things for Lent liked to dress up and disguise themselves and have fun!

A popular fancy dress theme was based on *Commedia dell 'Arte* with characters such as Pierrot and Harlequin.



Carnival History Section 5

Columbus & Colonisation

In 1492 **Christopher Columbus** sailed in search of India and instead found Trinidad. He called the Caribbean islands the West Indies.

From then on, a steady stream of Europeans came to settle in the Caribbean and Latin America.

The settlers brought with them slaves from Africa to work on the sugar plantations. **They also brought carnival.**



Carnival History Section 6

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The Grand Ball

And so it evolved in the new world.

The plantation owners celebrated carnival from Christmas to Ash Wednesday, with parades on the streets and with *indulgent fancy dress balls* in the European tradition.

They put on masks, wigs, and beautiful dresses and danced long into the night.



Carnival History Section 7

*M

Canboulay

The slaves had their own traditions, and held festivities around the burning and harvesting of the sugar cane (known as **cannes bruleés**, anglicised as **Canboulay**).

For each group, masks, mimicry, African drumming and chanting were a key part of the ritual.

There were characters like Moko Jumbies (stiltwalkers) and Jab Molassie devils, and stick fighting was played.

From 1834, slaves were freed and joined in the carnival, but the authorities banned the drum. **Tambo** **Bambo** and ultimately the steelpan were invented to get round the ban.



@Noel Madegnon

Carnival History Section 8

The Empire Windrush

In 1948 the *Empire Windrush* brought many Caribbean people to England to fill shortages in the labour market. Times were hard, and racism was rife.

Notting Hill Carnival was first held on the street in 1966 as an offshoot of the Trinidad Carnival, celebrating Caribbean culture and identity in London.

Like many other carnivals, it has become divorced from its religious origin. Most UK carnivals are secular events that take place in the summer months.



Isle of Wight Carnival
Sections 9 – 16.

A Rather Bewildering Spectacle

A celebration of Isle of Wight carnival traditions, informed by outreach reminiscence and harvesting of stories, working with young people and community elders and the Island Carnival collection at Carisbrooke Castle Museum.

Facilitated by Lisa Kerley of InspirEd and created by 8 groups working with NCC artists.

Supported by National Lottery Heritage Funds.



Global Carnival Section 17

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Rio Carnival

The biggest carnival in the world, which takes place in February, as a pre-Lenten celebration.

It was introduced to Brazil by the Portuguese in the 18th century.

Carnival Samba is Brazilian music and dance with African Influences.

Samba Schools are based in the neighbourhoods and also have a social function. Up to 4000 people take part in a single group.

The biggest parades are held in the **Sambadrome** in Rio.



Global Carnival Section 18

*VA

Trinidad Carnival

The *Trinidad and Tobago Carnival* is the biggest carnival in the Caribbean and takes place on the Monday & Tuesday before Ash Wednesday.

There are many competitions and parties ('fetes') in the run up, as well as Kiddies Carnival on the Saturday and J'ouvert (from Canboulay) on the Sunday.

The four elements of Trinidad Carnival are song, music, costume and dance, which translate as **calypso/soca**, **steelpan**, **mas (masquerade)**, and **'jump and wine' (dance)** in the Caribbean Carnival.



Global Carnival Section 19

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Mardi Gras is French for Fat Tuesday – and culminates on Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday.

Parades are organised by social clubs called Krewes, who build elaborate floats and throw beads, and other 'favours' to the crowds.

Associated with jazz bands, marching bands and majorettes. Unique characters include baby dolls, wild Indians, and flambeau carriers.

Mardi Gras colours - purple, green and gold - symbolize justice, power & faith.

New Orleans Mardi Gras



Global Carnival Section 20

Goa Carnival

Another pre-Lenten carnival, unique in India to **Goa**, having been introduced by the Portuguese who ruled Goa for over five hundred years.

The parade is a portrait of **cultural Goa** as folk dancers depict scenes that are related to the history of Goa as well as current affairs.

Festivities are presided over by King Momo.

There are Balls in the evenings, concluding with the popular **Red and Black Dance**.



Global Carnival Section 21

Quebec Carnival

The world's largest winter carnival, held from the end of January to mid February (pre-Lenten).

Features night parades, masquerade balls, snow and ice sculptures, and outdoor snow sports.

The modern carnival was established in 1954 as a tourist event to boost economic regeneration.

It's mascot is a character called **Bonhomme**, a snow man in a red hat and an **arrow-head sash** representing heroes of the past.



Global Carnival Section 22

Giants and Big Heads

Quintessentially a *European carnival genre* (seen especially in Spain and Portugal) but also evident in other carnivals where European settlers have introduced the artform e.g. the famous **Olinda Carnival in Brazil**.

Chester in the UK hosts a **Parade of Giants** within its Midsummer Watch Parade.

The Chester Giants have a long history dating right back to the 14th century when most towns had their own individual GIANTS to ward off evil spirits.



Global Carnival Section 23

*VA

Junkanoo takes place every Boxing Day and New Years Day, with parades from 2am to 10am.

Bahamas was a British Colony. African slaves were given three days off during Christmas, which they used to celebrate by singing and dancing in colourful masks. They celebrated at night, whilst their masters slept.

Traditional costumes are made from cardboard, paste and crepe paper.

Junkanoo music consists of goatskin drums, cowbells, horns, whistles and brass.

Bahamas Junkanoo



Global Carnival Section 24

*VA

With over a million visitors every August Bank Holiday, London's **Notting Hill Carnival** is second only to Brazil's Rio Carnival in size, and is now one of the globe's largest annual arts events.

Whilst **Notting Hill Carnival** is rooted in Caribbean culture, with its Windrush-generation influence remaining strongly evident, it is at the same time reflective of a diverse and changing population and is characteristically 'London' – today's modern London.

Notting Hill Carnival



Global Carnival Section 25

A Carnival for the Future

This one is over to you...and for your young people to consider.

You can imagine a Future Carnival of 20 years hence, 200 years hence or 2000 years hence.

- ❖ What will it look like?
- ❖ How will it be made?
- ❖ Who is it for?
- ❖ What will your 'story' or message be?

Where will you imagine it...

- ❖ On the Isle of Wight,
- ❖ Somewhere else on the planet,
- ❖ Or somewhere in the Universe?

Make it memorable, thought provoking, and a suitable and fitting finale to our Story.

No Pressure!



Lets make Mardi Gras 2020 the best ever!



Creative support for your project

- A £50 start-up account at NCC for buying costume materials
- A FREE one-to-one costume prototyping workshop with an NCC artist, for teachers/ group leaders
- Subsidised adult places on NCC 'creative carnival skills' (Beginners) course in March
- Subsidised places on 'further carnival skills' adult training course during April/May
- Ideas for presentation and choreography reflecting your theme at Mardi Gras.

For sections 1-8 Historical sections

- Additional FREE Carnival 'Kickstarter' workshops led by NCC team to elaborate the historical context and lead creative ideas for designing and realising your chosen theme.
- Can involve full school, selected year groups, carnival club children or other community group members.
Takes about 45 minutes.



For sections 9 to 16: IW Carnival

- Sponsored group visit to Carisbrooke Castle Museum to put together carnival 'memory boxes'
- Supported wider community 'story gathering' session at school or community space
- Free Oral History training for adult volunteers
- Allocated NCC artists to help translate stories to costume and performance
- Supported Arts Award offer
- Exhibition of work at Carisbrooke Castle Museum (September)



Next Steps

- Complete your registration Form. Choose your favourite sections, 1,2 and 3rd choices. Add any special reasons why you have chosen these to support your bid.
- Return to us by Monday 9 December for early bird allocation.
- Notification by Tuesday 17 December.
- Final closing date 31 March.



Thank you!

The New Carnival Company CIC

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