

## 1 Europe's best street party

## 2 READING

Read the *Carnivals* text on page 22 of the Student's Book and check your answer to the question in exercise 2 there. Then read about another carnival below.

# CARNIVAL IN NEW ORLEANS

New Orleans is in the southern state of Louisiana, USA, on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico. It's recovering from the terrible effects of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, but it's still a colourful cosmopolitan city. During carnival time, when its population doubles in size, it's even more colourful – and noisier!

New Orleans carnival is the largest carnival in North America, with crowds of up to a million people. It's smaller and less well known than the Rio carnival, but it lasts much longer. The New Orleans carnival season begins on 6 January with fantastic balls and exciting parties, but the main parades start two weeks before Mardi Gras ('Fat Tuesday'), which is 47 days before Easter. The date of Mardi Gras can be any Tuesday between 3 February and 9 March, because the date of Easter varies from year to year.

During the carnival, there are more than sixty huge parades through the city. All the people riding the parade floats must wear masks, and they throw strings of beads, plastic cups, coins and toys to the crowd. There are bands playing New Orleans jazz and other kinds of music, and the streets are full of people dancing in the Mardi Gras colours: purple for justice, green for faith, and gold for power. And when you get hungry, there are lots of stalls and restaurants selling delicious cakes and exotic food.

The first recorded Mardi Gras in New Orleans was a very small event in 1699. Today the New Orleans celebration is the best street party in the USA – and it's less expensive than Rio!



**3 AFTER READING**

**True or false? Correct the false sentences about carnivals in Rio and Notting Hill.**

**1** *In Rio each carnival parade lasts 24 hours.*

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**2** *At carnival time hotels in Rio are much more expensive than usual.*

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**3** *Carnival in Rio is longer than Notting Hill carnival.*

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**4** *Notting Hill carnival is in winter.*

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**5** *The carnival in Notting Hill is less famous than the one in Rio.*

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**6** *Notting Hill carnival is the biggest in the world.*

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**True or false? Correct the false sentences about New Orleans carnival.**

**1** *New Orleans carnival is the largest in the USA.*

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**2** *New Orleans is a city of several million people.*

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**3** *Carnival in Rio is bigger than the New Orleans carnival.*

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**4** *New Orleans carnival celebrations start in January.*

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**5** *The main New Orleans carnival parades are on the day of Mardi Gras.*

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**6** *During New Orleans carnival, everyone wears masks.*

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**Complete the chart for Rio, Notting Hill and New Orleans.**

	Rio	Notting Hill	New Orleans	Your festival
When?				
How long?				
How many people?				
What kind of music?				
How expensive?				
What's special about it?				

**Now look at *Your response* on page 23 of the Student's Book.**