

Carnaval Around the World

Objectives

As a result of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Compare Carnaval celebrations in Mazatlan, Mexico, to Carnaval celebrations in Brazil's Northeast.
 - Compare and contrast Carnaval celebrations in different locations around the world.
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Materials

- Student Handout: **Float Design, Mazatlan, Mexico**
 - Student Handout: **Carnaval Around the World Project Directions**
 - Student Handout: **Carnaval Around the World**
 - Teacher Handout: **Carnaval Around the World**
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Activities

1. Review with the class what they learned in the previous lesson about Carnaval celebrations in Carnivals in Olinda, Bezerros and Salvador.
2. Explain to the class that Carnivals take place all over the world, and, while they share many common elements, they are also significantly different.
3. Distribute the student handout entitled **Float Design, Mazatlan, Mexico**.
 - a. Ask students to compare Rigoberto Lewis' attitude towards Carnaval with the people in Olinda, Bezerros and Salvador.
 - b. What are the similarities? Are there any differences?
4. If Internet resources are available, assign students to search the following urls for more information about Carnaval in Mazatlan:
 - a. www.carnavalmazatlan.net (English and Spanish)
 - b. www.carnavalmazatlan.net/index_en.php
 - c. Following their research, bring the class back together and create two columns on the chalkboard: Similarities and Differences.
 - d. Based on the information they discovered, ask students to list the similarities and differences between Carnaval celebrations in Mazatlan and the Carnaval celebrations in the cities of Brazil's Northeast.
5. Extension Activity
 - a. Distribute the student handouts entitled **Carnaval Around the World Project Directions** and **Carnaval Around the World**.
 - b. Focus the attention of the class on the assignment, explaining that they are going to follow the same pattern that they used when comparing Carnaval in Mazatlan with Carnaval in Olinda, Bezerros and Salvador.
 - c. Organize the students in small groups, and direct them to use the urls indicated on the handout to complete their research.



Float Design, Mazatlan, Mexico



Based on an interview with Rigoberto Lewis, March 2006. (For more information and pictures, visit Mazatlan's official Carnival website at www.carnavalmazatlan.net.)

Rigoberto Lewis was born on February 14 – during a Carnival! It seems appropriate since he has now been making Carnival floats for 50 years. He started when he was in his second year of high school. Recently Rigoberto has designed most of the floats (22 of the 32 in 2006) and the royal costumes (since about 1961) for Mazatlan's parades. He controls the production of the floats and teaches the Carnival royalty how to behave on the floats – waving, etc.

Lewis starts with a core of about 10 workers who he trusts implicitly. Later there will be about 30 workers total. They used to start about 8 months ahead, but now he is given about a month. Still, he knows certain things that must be done and tries to get a head start.

In 1956, for the first time, Wilfrida Farmer, a former queen from 1900 was present in the current Carnival. Since then former queens have been an important tie with the past and past traditions. This year there were several although Lewis felt that the part of the parade shown on TV had poor commentary since they never identified the Floral Games' queen from 25 years ago – only called her *la gordidta*. (“The Chubby One”) Some parts of parade itself have been televised; this year two channels showed parts.

Lewis indicated that he works for the love of the job, not for money. “*En el amor no entra la moneda.*” Generally he avoids watching videos of the Carnival until a month before he starts work. At that point he is ready to look for what went well and what needs to be improved for the next round.

Mazatlan and Sinaloa have rich musical traditions, much of which is very dependent on drums. Lewis likes to hear that music during the parade, not songs from other countries or places. He said that farmers often learned to play music. Because farming is so dependent on weather and factors out of their control, the farmers often came to town during Carnival to play music and make some money to help them get through the year.

Carnival is an important time of year, but life does continue when it ends! The rest of the year, Rigoberto Lewis works on projects at home – a garden he loves, caring for his animals: dogs, a cat, etc., but in many ways he is also waiting for the next Carnival season!

Partners _____ Date _____



Carnaval Around the World Project Directions



Introduction

Carnavals take place all over the world! While they share many common elements, they are also significantly different. During this project you will research not only Carnavals in several cities, but also how they are presented through their websites. After research with a group, each person will be expected to write a comparison essay independently so be sure to work with your partners so that everyone understands the information you find.

Task 1: Partner Work

1. From the chart provided, work with your partners to choose 3 or 4 cities that interest you.
 2. Research the Carnavals, cities, and websites for the places you have chosen.
 3. Together list the areas that you will compare.
 4. For each of those areas, list similarities and differences.
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Task 2: Individual Work

Write an essay comparing the Carnavals and their websites. Be sure to include:

- An introductory paragraph that includes the Carnival celebrations you have chosen and basic statements about whether they are more alike or different.
 - Various paragraphs presenting your comparison. Be sure you use numerous examples that show ways that the festivals are similar and different.
 - A conclusion that brings the whole essay to a close.
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Carnaval Around the World

City	Date of Carnaval	Language	Photo Gallery	History	Calendar	Explanation of Events	News
Olinda/Recife www.pe.gov.br/carnaval www.recife.pe.gov.br/especiais/carnaval/carnavaldeolinda.com.br							
Salvador www.carnaval.salvador.ba.gov.br/index.asp							
Bezerros www.bezerras-pe.hpg.ig.com.br/							
Rio de Janeiro www.ipanema.com/carnaval							
Mazatlan www.carnavalmazatlan.net							
Antigua www.antiguacarnaval.com							
Virgin Islands www.vicarnaval.com							
Las Palmas, Gran Canarias, España www.laspalmascarnaval.com/set.html							
Nice, France www.nicerendezvous.com/EN/index_us_carnaval.php							
New Orleans, LA, USA carnavalneworleans.com							
Québec, Canadá www.carnaval.qc.ca							
San Francisco, CA, USA www.carnavalsf.com							
Venice, Italia www.carnavalofvenice.com							

Carnaval Around the World

This teacher handout summarizes numerous Carnaval celebrations world-wide. It provides examples of the type of information that could be collected and analyzed, and it can be used to help students make decisions about which festivals they want to research.



City Web Address	Date in 2006	Lang.	Photo Gallery	History	Cal- endar	Explan ation of events	News	Link to the city's site	Links to other sites	Ori- gins	Video	Sound	Store	Other
Olinda/Recife www.pe.gov.br/carnaval www.recife.pe.gov.br/especiais/carnaval/ carnavaldeolinda.com.br	Feb. 25 - 28	Port.	x (3 rd site)	x				x	x					Tourist guide
Salvador www.carnaval.salvador.ba.gov.br/index.asp	Feb. 25 - 28	Port. Eng. Span.		x	x				x					Maps, Carnaval live, Opinions, Box schedule
Bezerros www.bezerros-pe.hpg.ig.com.br/	Feb. 25 - 28	Port.	x	x	x 2003									Mask making link, guest book
Rio de Janeiro www.ipanema.com/carnaval	Feb 25 - 28	Eng.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x					Trip planner, funny but true stories
Mazatlan www.carnavalmazatlan.net	Feb 23 - 28	Eng. Span	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		Sponsors
Venecia, Italia www.carnavalofvenice.com	Feb 17 - 28	Ital. Eng.	x	x	x	x			x				x	Theme, Masks Masked Balls, Newsletter, Interviews

Antigua (in the Carribbean) www.antiguacarnaval.com	Jul 28 – Aug 8		x	x	x									Patron.
Québec, Canada www.carnaval.qc.ca			x											
Virgin Islands, Carribbean www.vicarnaval.com			x											
San Francisco www.carnavalsf.com	May 27-28	Eng	x	x	x	x	x		x				x	Volunteers, login
New Orleáns carnavalneworleans.com	Feb 11-28	Eng	x	x	x	x			x	x	x			Countdown to next car., Virtual tour, # of visitors, live camera, parade routes
Nice, France http://www.nicerendezvous.com/EN/index_us_carnaval.php	Feb 13 - 28	Eng		x	x			x	x	x				
Las Palmas, Gran Canarias, España http://www.laspalmascarnaval.com/set.html	Feb 8 – Mar 4	Span Eng	x	x	x		x	x						Opinions, Contests, Sponsors

