

Name _____ **Mardi Gras**



Mardi Gras

Mardi Gras is a celebration with roots in Christianity. In French, the words "Mardi Gras" mean "Fat Tuesday." Mardi Gras is the day before Ash Wednesday, which is the day the Christian observance of Lent begins. Lent is a 40-day long period of prayer and fasting in which Christians prepare for the resurrection of Christ on Easter day. Mardi Gras originated as a day of feasting on all of the rich, fatty foods they had left in their homes before fasting during Lent. The date of Ash Wednesday changes each year according to when Easter occurs, so the date of Mardi Gras changes each year as well, but it usually occurs sometime in February, and occasionally in March. Mardi Gras is celebrated all over the world. One of the largest and best-known Mardi Gras celebrations happens in New Orleans, Louisiana. People celebrate Mardi Gras with parades, costumes, masks, traditional foods like King Cake, and colorful beads.

- 1, Mardi Gras has its roots in which faith?
2. When is Mardi Gras?
3. What was the origin of Mardi Gras?
4. Why does the date of Mardi Gras change every year?
5. How do people celebrate Mardi Gras?