



# Mardi Gras Trivia

These Mardi Gras trivia questions and answers will impress your pals and enlighten you on some of the fun and history behind Fat Tuesday.

1. What does Mardi Gras stand for?

- A. Good Friday
- B. Shrove Monday
- C. Ash Wednesday
- D. Fat Tuesday

2. What is the Mardi Gras slogan?

- A. "Vivre vite, mourir jeune"
- B. "Voulez-vous coucher avec moi"
- C. "Laissez les bons temps rouler!"
- D. "Que la fete commence!"

3. Mardi Gras is part of what larger festival?

- A. Saturnalia
- B. Samhain
- C. Jubilee
- D. Carnival

4. Who started the bead-throwing tradition?

- A. Theodore Roosevelt
- B. Dionysus
- C. Gypsy Rose Lee
- D. Santa Claus

5. Where was the first organized Mardi Gras celebration in the US?

- A. Mobile, AL
- B. New Orleans, LA
- C. Galveston, TX
- D. St. Louis, MO

6. What are the official colors of Mardi Gras?

- A. Purple, green, and gold
- B. Purple, green, and black
- C. Black, green, and gold
- D. Purple, black, and gold



7. What day does Carnival season begin in New Orleans?

- A. Eighth night
- B. Twelfth night
- C. Sixth night
- D. Tenth night



8. What groups organize the Mardi Gras parades?

- A. Choros
- B. Revelries
- C. Krewes
- D. Faxions

10. What canceled Mardi Gras for four years?

- A. Hurricane Katrina
- B. World War II
- C. The Great Depression
- D. Prohibition



9. What kind of cake is associated with Mardi Gras?

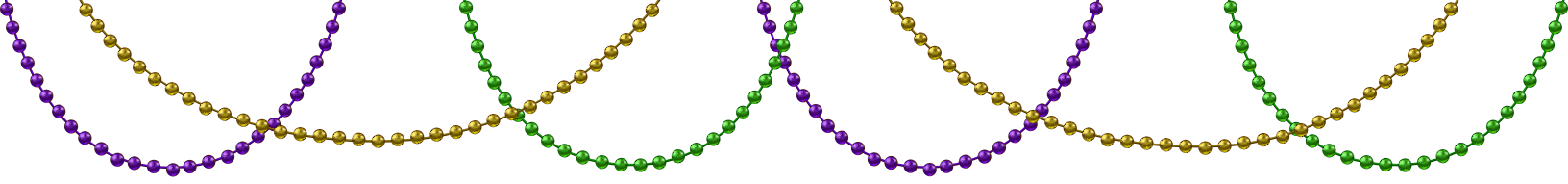
- A. Devil's food cake
- B. Queen cake
- C. King cake
- D. Angel food cake

11. What is the name of the monarch chosen to bear the title "King of Carnival" at each year's festivities?

- A. Louis
- B. Caesar
- C. Hugh
- D. Rex

12. What is the official anthem of Mardi Gras?

- A. *Come all ye fair and tender Ladies*
- B. *Silver Threads Among Gold*
- C. *If I Ever Cease to Love*
- D. *When the Saints Go Marching In*



13. How many tourists visit New Orleans during Mardi Gras every year?

- A. 350,000
- B. 2.8 million
- C. 1.4 million
- D. 700,000


14. What medieval tradition can Mardi Gras be traced back to?

- A. parading held in celebration of Lent
- B. feasting before the arrival of Lent
- C. the throwing of trinkets by children to celebrate Lent
- D. ordinary citizens dressing in costume to celebrate Lent

15. What is Mardi Gras known as in the Christian Calendar?

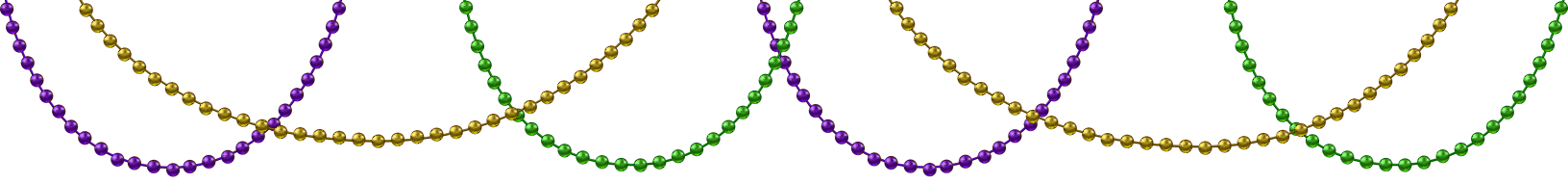
- A. Lent
- B. Shrove Tuesday
- C. Ash Wednesday
- D. Happy Tuesday





# Mardi Gras Trivia Answers

1. Mardi Gras is French for “Fat Tuesday”, reflecting the practice of the last night of eating rich, fatty foods before the fasting of Lent begins.
2. “Laissez les bon temps rouler” is a word-for-word translation of the English phrase “let the good times roll” into Cajun French.
3. Carnival refers to the period of feasting and fun that begins Jan. 6, also known as The Feast of Epiphany. Mardi Gras technically refers to the final day of revelry, although the term has come to be used in a larger sense.
4. According to legend, the first parade participant to throw beads was a man dressed as Santa Claus during the 1880s. The ornamental strands were such a hit that other participants picked up on the ritual. By 1900, when at least 100,000 tourists flocked to New Orleans for Mardi Gras, beaded throws had become a tradition.
5. In 1703, 15 years before New Orleans was even founded, French settlers in Mobile, Alabama established the first organized Mardi Gras celebration in what was to become the United States.
6. The traditional colors of Mardi Gras are purple, green, and gold. Those colors first appeared in 1872 as part of a spectacle honoring the New Orleans visit of Grand Duke Alexei Alexandrovich of Russia during Carnival season.
7. Twelfth Night is the last day of the Twelve Days of Christmas (also called Christmastide) and is the traditional end of the Christmas season. In New Orleans, it also marks the beginning of Carnival when a group called the Phunny Phorty Phellows rides down St. Charles in a streetcar throwing out the first beads.
8. They’re organized by groups called krewes that are usually named for figures of Greek or Roman mythology. Each krewe chooses a new parade theme every year.



9. About half a million king cakes are sold in New Orleans every year around Mardi Gras, with another 50,000 shipped out to customers in other states. The treats are a part of an Epiphany tradition that has been around since at least the 1300s.
10. The Krewe of Zulu has become famous for handing out Mardi Gras coconuts in lieu of beads. The practice ceased briefly in the 1980s due to liability concerns--no insurance company would cover Zulu, fearing that an errant coconut might dent a reveler's skull. Zulu leaders appealed to the Louisiana state legislature, pointing out that beads and other Mardi Gras trinkets were exempted from liability laws. In 1987, then-Governor Edwin Edwards signed the "Coconut Bills", adding Zulu's heavy, oblong handouts to the list of exemptions.
11. Neither Prohibition nor the Great Depression nor Hurricane Katrina canceled Mardi Gras, but all activities did cease from 1942 to 1945 during World War II.
12. Rex and his Queen preside over the Rex Ball, Carnival's glittering conclusion.
13. "If Ever I Cease to Love" was popular in the Victorian music venues during the 1870s. In 1872, it was played during the very first Rex Parade and has since been adopted as the anthem for Mardi Gras.
14. Each year during Mardi Gras, approximately 1.4 million visitors take to the streets of New Orleans to participate in the city's iconic Fat Tuesday parades and festivities.
15. Mardi Gras day was the last day before Lent, when Catholics would give up a certain food until Easter. Therefore, they would feast the day before.  
Shrove Tuesday is the day before Lent starts. The following day, the first day of Lent is known as Ash Wednesday.