

Brazil: The Carnival Celebration

Time Needed

- 40-60 minutes depending on skill level

Skill/Grade Level

- The intention of this lesson is to be utilized for any grade level with modifications based on the needs of the audience.

Core Area

- Leadership & Citizenship
- Communication & Expressive Arts

Life Skills

- Giving
Responsible Citizens
- Working
Marketable Skills
- Being
Self-Responsibility
- Relating
Accepting Differences
Social Skills
- Caring
Sharing
Empathy
Concern for Others

Educational Standards

- National 4-H Mission Mandates

Core Curriculum

- Kentucky 4-H Leadership & International Programs

Objectives

Through the Kentucky 4-H International Program participants will:

- **Experience** different cultures through geography, history, symbols, language, government, economy, agriculture, customs, religion, arts, food, and fun facts.
- **Share** about their culture while exploring different cultures.
- **Process** connections between different cultures.
- **Generalize** interdependencies of different cultures.
- **Apply** knowledge to work cooperatively with others from different cultures.

Introduction to Content

According to the U.S. Department of Education International Strategy Report (2012-2016), in order for youth to succeed in the 21st century workplace, they must develop knowledge and understanding of other countries, cultures, languages and perspectives. The overall mission of 4-H is to provide opportunities for youth and adults to work together to create sustainable community change. This is accomplished within the use of three primary content areas, or mission mandates, - citizenship, healthy living, and science. The 4-H Citizenship Mandate places emphasis on young people being engaged and active members of their community, country, and world. Citizenship is the foundation needed to help youth gain a broader understanding of life.

Curriculum

4-Hers will increase their global competencies by:

- Identifying their role in the global society,
- Investigating the interdependences of cultures,
- Appreciating the accomplishments of other cultures,
- Cooperatively work with others from varying cultures.

Materials Needed

- Craft Masks (template included)
- Popsicle Sticks
- Hot glue
- Scissors
- Items to Decorate Mask: markers, feathers, plastic gems/beads, glitter

Learn more at www.kentucky4h.org or contact your county extension office.



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Introduction

- What country is Carnival celebrated?
 - Brazil
- Do you know what religion Carnival is associated with?
 - Roman Catholic
- Where is Brazil?
 - Brazil is in South America

Background Information

According to Britannica (2019) Brazil is the largest and furthest East country on the South American Continent. Brazil shares a border with every South American county except Chile and Ecuador. Brazil is the fifth largest country in the world by size with 3,287,956 square miles of land and is the only country that the equator and the tropic of Capricorn run through it. Brazil is home to more than just the rainforest but also includes deserts and a variety of oceanic microclimates.

The arrival of Europeans and the Portuguese empire mixing with indigenous customs is what helped form modern day Brazilian culture. In this activity you will explore the Brazilian tradition of Carnival and the masks adorned during the celebration. Carnival marks the beginning of the Pre-Lent period were a majority of Catholics take their last indulgences of meat, dairy, or other products or lifestyles choices such as social media use before swearing it off during the period known as lent. Remember, Brazil is 65% Catholic making Carnival a large event that many Brazilians take part in. The difference between Carnival and Mardi Gras can be quite confusing. Carnival means the many days leading up to Lent, whereas Mardi Gras or “Fat Tuesday” is the actual day before Lent officially starts. Carnival masks originated in ritual celebrations but were adopted to allow wearers to escape society and class constraints to participate in the festivities. Through the years the masks have become flashier as the popularity of these celebrations has increased.

Instructions for Carnival Mask:

1. A step by step video is available here: <https://youtu.be/xaJPgQghzHY>
2. Each participant should receive a mask. This can be printed from the template attached to this lesson or a pre-purchased mask. If the mask is a template, print on cardstock and cut out prior to decorating.
3. Each individual should receive a popsicle stick and decorations (for example participants can use: glitter, fake jewelry, markers or feathers). Allow individuals to choose their items so they can best represent their personality through the way they choose to decorate their mask.
4. Use the hot glue to attach the popsicle stick onto the mask so that it may be used to hold the mask up to their face using the stick after the glue has dried.
5. Participants can decorate the mask to best fit their personality.
6. At the conclusion of the activity everyone can share their mask and explain why they chose to decorate it the way they did. Take a group photo!

Reflect and Apply

1. What did you learn about Brazil through this activity?
2. Where you surprised as to why masks are worn for the Carnival celebration?
3. How were you able to showcase your personality through decorating your mask?
4. How does the Carnival celebration relate to any celebrations in your culture?

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Expand Your Experience

- Watch a Brazilian soccer match!
- Become familiar with the native wildlife in Brazil such as the Hyacinth Macaw
- Participate in a carnival celebration
- Explore more about Carnival Celebrations in Brazil:
<https://www.oddizzi.com/teachers/explore-the-world/country-close-up/brazil/rio-south-east/festivals-2/mardi-gras/>

Supporting Projects/Events

Kentucky 4-H International Programs provide various experience for youth and families to open their home to the world:

- International Summer Short Term Program (Inbound to USA)
- International Summer Short Term Program (Outbound from USA)
- Academic Year Program (Inbound to USA)
- Kentucky 4-H International Service-Learning Program

References

Davis, J. (2011, April 27). Craft Activities from Brazil for Kids. Retrieved June 17, 2019, from https://www.ehow.com/info-tip_8307167_craft-activities-brazil-kids.html

Muscato, C. (n.d.). History of Carnival in Brazil. Retrieved June 17, 2019, from <https://study.com/academy/lesson/history-of-carnival-in-brazil.html>

Poppino, R. E., James, P. E., Burns, E. B., Momsen, R. P., Martins, L., & Schneider, R. M. (2019, June 10). Brazil. Retrieved June 17, 2019, from <https://www.britannica.com/place/Brazil>

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Extended Learning

- Research more about Brazil and traditions within the Brazilian culture.

Civic Engagement

- Create a mask that communicates a message through art and gift to a friend.
- Research more about the relationship of US and Brazil's government.

Communications

- Organize a pen pal program with the 4-H International Program.
- Give a demonstration on how to make Carnival mask in the 4-H Communications Program.

Future Readiness

- Join the Kentucky 4-H International Program to expand your understanding of your role in the global marketplace.

Volunteering

- Ask your family to host an international delegate through Kentucky 4-H.

Junior Mentor/Teen

- Plan and conduct a workshop with members where you show them how to make a Carnival mask.

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Mask Template

Print on cardstock, cut out prior to decorating.

