

The GOMEDY of ERRORS By William Shakespeare

Mardi Gras Around the World

Grade Level(s): 9-12

Subject: Social Studies, World History, Geography

Florida Standard: SS.912.G.2.1, SS.912.G.4.7, SS.912.W.1.6, SS.912.W.4.15

Objective: Students will understand how Mardi Gras is related to religious tradition, how it has spread through the world and how it differs geographically.

Duration: One or two 50 minute class periods.

Instructional Steps:

1. Begin by asking students what they know about Mardi Gras, and what their impressions are of the holiday and its relationship to New Orleans.
2. Discuss the relationship between Mardi Gras and Catholicism - Carnival as it relates to Twelfth Night, Ash Wednesday, and Lent - a time of celebration, feasting, and excess before a time of sacrifice and strict religious observance.
3. Detail the Mardi Gras traditions as they relate to New Orleans - masks, parades, "throws", beads, King Cake, rich food, and drink.
4. Use the interactive map to show Mardi Gras around the world.
<https://cartovista.com/carnival-map/>

Assessment: Students will choose a Mardi Gras/Carnival celebration outside of New Orleans and do a small research project. Students should investigate the types of clothing, accessories, and costumes worn. They should look into the music and dancing of their chosen carnival, as well as the important foods and beverages consumed during the festivities. Have students create a short presentation displaying descriptions and images of their chosen Carnival, as well as the sources they used to find the information.