

Mardi Gras = Fat Tuesday

Do you know 'Carnival'? It is a happy, party season in **Europe** and **the Americas**. The season is about one to two months long! It is from after New Year's until February or March every year. Do you know **Fat Tuesday**? It is called '**Mardi Gras**' in French. Fat Tuesday is the last day of this Carnival party season. After Fat Tuesday is Lent. **Lent** is 40 serious days of **prayer** and **reflection**. So, Carnival and Fat Tuesday are the last chance to sing, dance, dress up, and eat **fat** foods before being strict for Lent. Then finally, **Easter Sunday** comes! It is a happy day. If Easter is early (in March), then Fat Tuesday will be in February. If Easter is late (in April), then Fat Tuesday will be in March. Fat Tuesday is on March 1, 2022 and Easter Sunday is on April 17, 2022. Carnival colors are **purple, green,** and **gold!**



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What is in this issue:

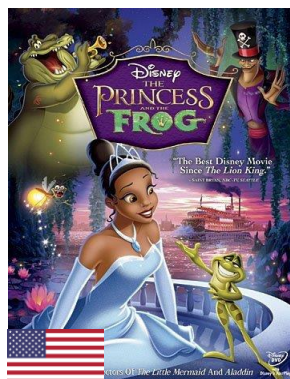
Carnival!

Keika Chronicle Challenge All-Stars



In the U.S.A., the most famous place for Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) is New Orleans! Do you know **New Orleans**, Louisiana? It is a hot city, which is famous for **jazz** music and **seafood**. You may have seen the city in the Disney movie **The Princess and the Frog (2009)**. Mardi Gras in New Orleans is a big, crazy party. Be careful!

My favorite Fat Tuesday food is **pancakes**! Even in Japan, I always go to a restaurant for pancakes that night. In Morioka City, I recommend the cute **Café Pamplemousse**! Its theme is **rubber ducks**. Here in Tokyo, I recommend **Eggs n' Things**! It is Hawaiian themed, but Crystal says that pancakes are NOT Hawaiian. Please eat pancakes this March 1st! I also recommend **paczki**. It is a jelly doughnut from **Poland**. It is delicious but very high **calorie**! They are popular in Chicago in the U.S.A. Happy Pancake & Paczki Day!



Walt Disney's *The Princess and the Frog* (2009) in New Orleans, U.S.A.



A Polish Paczki (Pączki) (ポンチキ)



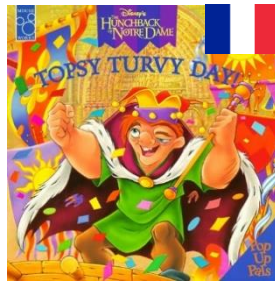
Sheila holding berry pancakes in Harajuku in 2021

Carnival

Carnival started in old, **Catholic** Europe. The Carnival in **Venice**, Italy is especially famous for its **masks**. These are not Coronavirus masks but beautiful masks that keep your **identity** a secret. Let's dance at a **masquerade** ball! Carnival started in **Italy** then spread to **France, Spain, Portugal**, and other countries in **Europe**. The French, Spanish, and Portuguese brought the tradition to **North America, Central America, and South America**. Now, countries there celebrate Carnival a little differently because of their own **culture**.



Carnival of Venice



Walt Disney's *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (1996) in Paris, France



Before, I said that North America was Canada, the U.S.A., and Mexico. But actually, the **Caribbean** islands are there too! Carnival is very famous there. It is loud, colorful, and full of **energy**. Women wear beautiful costumes with big **feathers**. Here are two famous Caribbean women! They are popular in the U.S.A. Rihanna (Robyn Rihanna Fenty) is an international pop star and **CEO** of Fenty Beauty. She was just named the 'National **Hero of Barbados**.' Did you know that Barbados became the world's newest **republic** in 2021? Nicki Minaj is an international pop star and **rapper**. She was born in **Trinidad & Tobago** but grew up in New York City. She is one of the biggest **female rappers** of all time.



Nicki Minaj in 2012



Rihanna in 2019

In South America, the biggest Carnival parades are in **Brazil**. In fact, the Carnival in Rio de Janeiro is the biggest festival in the world! It is famous for **Samba**. Samba is a music and dance style from Brazil. Every year, the most famous Samba Schools in different cities pick a Samba Queen! Did you know that Tokyo has a Brazilian-style Carnival? It is in Asakusa every year. Brazil has the most people with Japanese roots outside of Japan. Many Brazilians also come to work in Japan. So, there is a long and strong friendship between Japan and Brazil.



Carnival dancer in Brazil



33rd annual Asakusa Samba Carnival in Tokyo (August 23, 2014)



Carnival dancer in Brazil