

Nombre: _____

1. Read and answer

I used to associate carnival with the warm south –New Orleans, Mazatlan, Veracruz, Bahia, and Rio de Janeiro. I love carnivals, and I have been to all those traditional ones.

But last year I did something very different – I went north, to Quebec, where the French Canadians have celebrated carnival for more than 100 years.

February is a cold, cold month in Quebec. Ice and snow are usually a problem in the long Canadian winter, but at carnival they are two of the main ingredients of the festivities. In the park across from the National Assembly they make an enormous Ice Palace and fantastic human and animal figures from ice and snow.

You need action to keep warm in that climate and there is lots of that .There are ice hockey games, races on the ice , dances , and of course , parades .The musicians wrap up their instruments so they don't freeze. There you can follow the parade, or you can drink Cariboo, a drink made from red wine and whiskey – or you can do both things and completely forget the cold!

The most spectacular event is the Night Parade on the last Saturday. Crowds of tourists come to see it. The hotels are always full, so make your reservations in advance.



1. How long have the French Canadians celebrated carnival?

2. Ice and snow are a big problem at Canadian carnival. TRUE FALSE

3. Canadians use the ice to make buildings and figures. TRUE FALSE

4. What is Cariboo?

5. Why do you need to make your reservations in advance?

2. Complete with ONE word from the box. Be careful! There's an extra word.

FORGET	HATES	PRESENTS	FOOD	ANYBODY	NEAR	TIME
	CEREMONY	ALONE	READY	MARRIED		

My parents hate all kinds of festivals and celebrations. We always spend Christmas at home _____ just the three of us and we don't even buy _____ for each other.

My mother never celebrates her birthday because she doesn't want _____ to know her age. My father hates birthdays, too. But they never _____ to organise a birthday party for me. We usually blow some balloons and decorate my bedroom and get lost of _____ and drinks for my guests. I invite all my friends from school and we have a good _____.

Last year one of our cousins was getting _____ and my parents got an invitation to the wedding. It took them a long time to get _____. My mum spent two hours in front of the mirror and put a lot of make up on her face. My father had to wear very formal clothes, something he really _____.

Finally they attended only the _____ in church and didn't go to the reception afterwards. When they came back, they were really glad to be home.



3. Complete with ONE word from the box. Be careful! There's an extra word.

BOTH	MUST	COULDN'T	SUCH	THAT	MOST	EVERYBODY
		MORE	SO	LIKE	IF	

One of my friends, Marcia, has _____ a big house that she decided to organise a party for all her friends to celebrate the New Year. I went with my boyfriend. I thought I would find all my friends there, but there were _____ many people that I didn't see any of them. In fact, there were _____ than one hundred people in the house and you _____ move around.



My boyfriend and I sat in the garden. We were _____ looking at the other guests when suddenly we saw a very big man come through the door. _____ started shouting and running towards him. He looked _____ a Hollywood star. "He _____ be someone famous," I said to my boyfriend. My boyfriend said _____ it was impossible. "_____ he were famous, he wouldn't be at Marcia's party. He would be somewhere else," he said. But he was Arnold Swatzeneger!!! I was really impressed.

4. Read this letter and choose the right verb.

Dear Nina,

We **HAD / ARE HAVING** a wonderful time here in New Orleans. It is so great to be here during carnival time or Mardi Gras, as it is called here. There is so much joy in the streets.

We **ARRIVE / ARRIVED** last Saturday and since then we **HAVE BEEN / WENT** to many street parties but we **HAVEN'T SEEN / DIDN'T SEE** any parades yet.

New Orleans **WAS / IS** always lively but at the moment it is even more, and every night there is so much to choose from and nearly all is free.

Last night we **HAVE GONE / WENT** out for a delicious Cajun, a special kind of cooking, typical of this region. We **HAD / WERE HAVING** our meal when suddenly we **SAW / WERE SEEING** James Brown, the famous singer, getting into the restaurant. We **MUSTN'T BELIEVE / COULDN'T BELIEVE** it! He sat at a table next to us!

Tomorrow we **GO / ARE GOING** on a boat trip on the Mississippi. Then, sadly, it is just one more night and then we'll be back home. I'll give you a call when we get back.

Lots of love from us both.

Carol and Mike



5. Dialogue

Read the following conversation about Thanksgiving between two friends. Complete the blanks with the bubbles. Be careful! There's an extra bubble.

what do you celebrate

Was it easy for them

why is Thanksgiving such

When do you celebrate it

Are you sure

Why did they call it

Sue: So tell me, _____ an important festival for you?

Jane: Because it is the most important family occasion in the States after Christmas

Sue: _____ ?

Jane: We celebrate it every year on the fourth Thursday in November.

Jane: And _____ ?

Sue: The good fortune of the early settlers who arrived in America in 1620.

Jane: _____ ?

Sue: No, everything was very difficult for them at first. They had problems like health and sickness.

Jane: _____ Thanksgiving?

Sue: Well, friendly Indians taught them to hunt, fish and grow crops. When they collected their crops in the autumn they were so happy that they decided to have a feast to thank God.



6. Composition - Choose ONE of the following:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| • "Very soon in the future I will ..." (first sentence) | • A Wonderful Celebration |
|---|---------------------------|