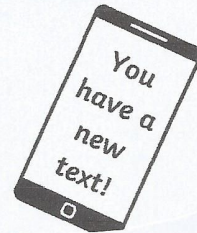


My Carnival, Your Carnival

School and class: 5th Primary School of Almyros, 4th Class

City and country: Almyros Magnissias, Greece

Hello there! Thank you for participating in the "My Carnival, Your Carnival" culture exchange! First, you can collectively draw or make a collage about Carnival in your country or region:

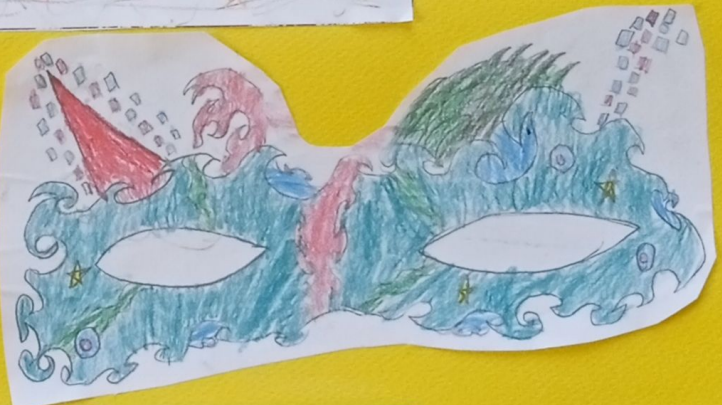
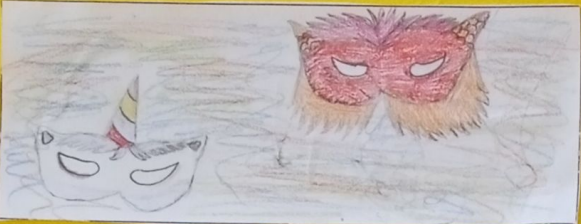
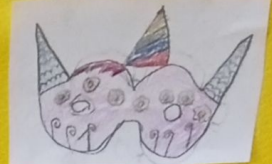
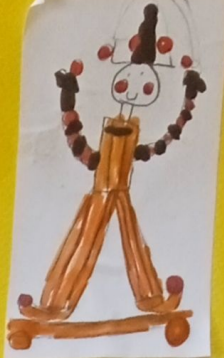
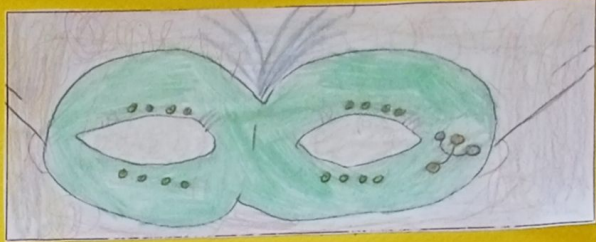
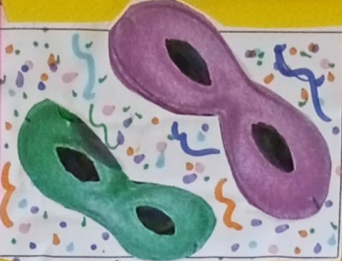


Now, explain to a class of students from a different country what your Carnival is like. What is the best part about it? How do people dress up? Do you wear masks? Feel free to be creative!



Greece's Carnival season, known as "Apokries", is a period which traditionally begins ten weeks before Greek Orthodox Easter and culminates on the weekend before "Clean Monday", (Ash Monday) the first day of lent which is on March 7. At the weekend of March 5-6 carnival is celebrated all over the country with masquerades, parades and parties. The characteristic of carnival is disguising and wearing costumes and masks. This festival dates back to Dionysos, the ancient Greek God of wine, fun and fertility. The biggest carnival that is organised in Greece is that of Patras. Other popular carnivals are those of Xanthi, Pethymno (Crete), Tyrnavos and Galaxidi.

My Carnival, Your Carnival
 School and class: 5th Primary school of Almyros, 4th class
 City and country: Almyros Magnissias, Greece!!!



Gaitanaki
 The Dance of the 'Gaitanaki' is a unique part of Greek carnival: it is a group dance of men and women with colourful ribbons. One person holds the pole and twelve dancers hold each one of the twelve colorful ribbons that are fixed on the top of the pole and hang from it. Tradition says that the twelve ribbons symbolize the twelve months of the year.

