

# My Carnival, Your Carnival

School and class: 9th Kindergarden school-1st and 2nd class

City and country: Kilkis -Greece

<https://blogs.sch.gr/members/9nipkilk/>

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!

### **The Maypole dance**

Carnival is called the three weeks period prior to Ash Monday when the big 40 day lent before Easter starts. During this period Christians traditionally do not eat meat (Latin origin of the word: Carne = meat, vale = pass).

The main feature in the carnival is the masquerade we come across all over Greece and the rest of Europe. One of the most well-known Greek customs, held as is up to nowadays, during carnival is the Maypole dance. The Maypole is a tall pole with 12 long ribbons of different color hanging from its top. 13 people are required for this dance. One holds the pole in the middle while the other 12 dancers hold a ribbon each and dance in couples around the pole. As they move around the maypole each dancer alternates with their partners weaving the ribbons into colorful complex patterns. When all the ribbons are wrapped around the pole and the dancers dance closer and closer to it then the dance is over and the decorated maypole stands to remind us of the carnival spirit.



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