

Carnival: One Festival, Many Faces



A girl throws yellow paint in my face. I'm not angry. I laugh and I throw paint at her. This is fun! This is Carnival—Trinidad style.

Carnival is a festival that takes place before the Christian season of Lent, 40 days before Easter. The date changes every year, but it is usually in

February or March. It is the last chance to have some fun before Lent begins.



▲ More than 300,000 tourists come to New Orleans for Carnival. And they spend half a billion dollars!

Around the world people celebrate Carnival in different ways. In New Orleans, musicians play jazz and people dance in the streets. In Rio de Janeiro, samba schools spend a year making fantastic costumes for the Carnival parade. In Venice, they wear beautiful masks. In some parts of Germany, for one day the women take control of the town and cut off men's **ties**. Here in Trinidad, people party!

It is two o'clock in the morning on *Dirty Monday* and we are having a street party. People get dressed in old clothes and throw mud and paint at each other. But tomorrow the serious celebrations begin. People spend the whole year making costumes and writing songs for Carnival. Tomorrow is their big day. There is a competition for the best costumes and songs. The winners get money and a car. It's serious business.

So, why don't *you* come to Trinidad to celebrate Carnival?

