

# Mardi Gras



twinkl

# What Is Mardi Gras?

Mardi Gras is traditionally a day people indulge in rich food and celebration before Lent. Lent is a 40-day time period in which Christians fast and praise in preparation for Easter.



# When Is Mardi Gras?

The Mardi Gras celebration is the last day of the Carnival season and the day before Ash Wednesday. The Carnival season begins on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

During this time, there are parades and balls.



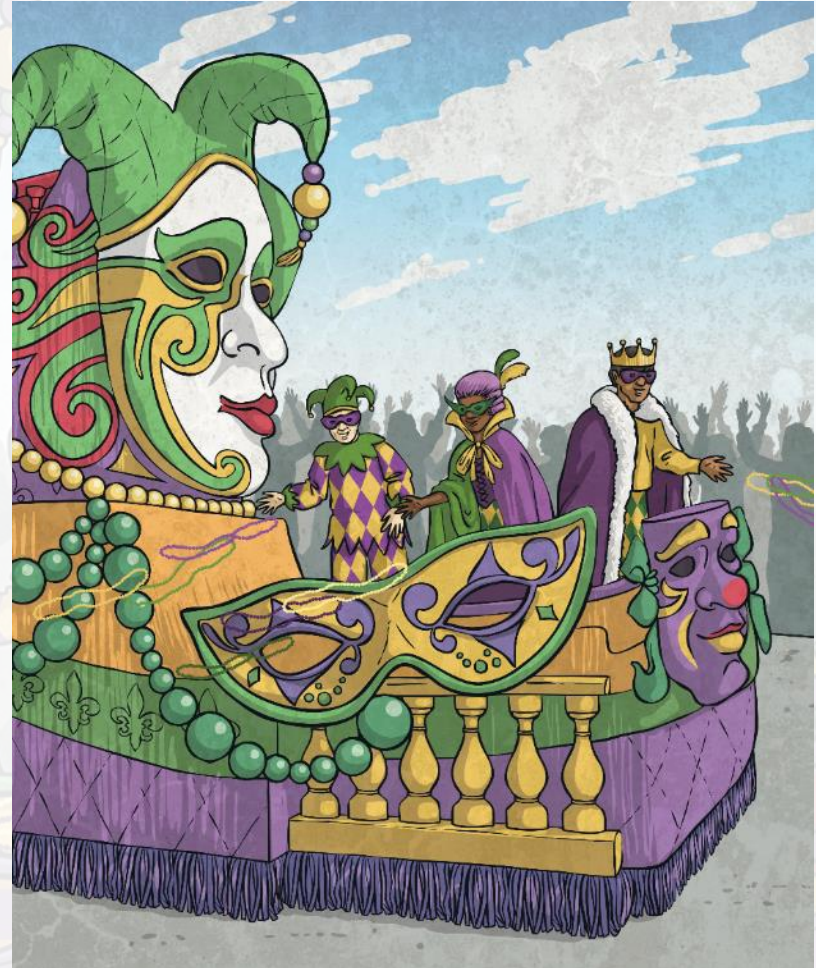
# What Is Carnival?

Carnival is a season of celebration before the religious event of Lent.

During this time, there are parades and balls.

People spend time indulging in good food and drinks.

Mardi Gras is the last day of Carnival.



# When Was the First American Mardi Gras?



There is a debate about when the first American Mardi Gras celebration occurred.

Many historians believe it occurred on March 3, 1699.

Others believe it occurred in 1703.

# The Many Name of Mardi Gras

Mardi Gras is also referred to as...

**Shrove  
Tuesday**

**Fat  
Tuesday**

**Pancake  
Day**

# New Orleans, LA

Mardi Gras is celebrated all over the world, but the largest celebration is in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The first Mardi Gras parade was on February 24, 1857 in New Orleans.



# Traditional Colors

The traditional symbolic colors of Mardi Gras are purple, green, and gold.

**Purple**  
=  
**Justice**

**Green**  
=  
**Faith**

**Gold**  
=  
**Power**

# Krewes

Krewes are an important part of Mardi Gras.

Krewes are groups or organizations who come together to host a Mardi Gras ball, ride on a parade float, and participate in social events throughout the year.



# Masks



Masks and costumes are a large part of the Mardi Gras tradition. It is illegal to ride a Mardi Gras float without a mask!

# Beads

Beads are a popular Mardi Gras tradition. The original idea was to pass beads out during the parade to people who exhibited the traits of the three Mardi Gras colors: justice, faith, power.



# Zulu Coconuts

Zulu coconuts are another popular Mardi Gras tradition. The coconuts were originally left in their natural state but are now decorated and covered in glitter.

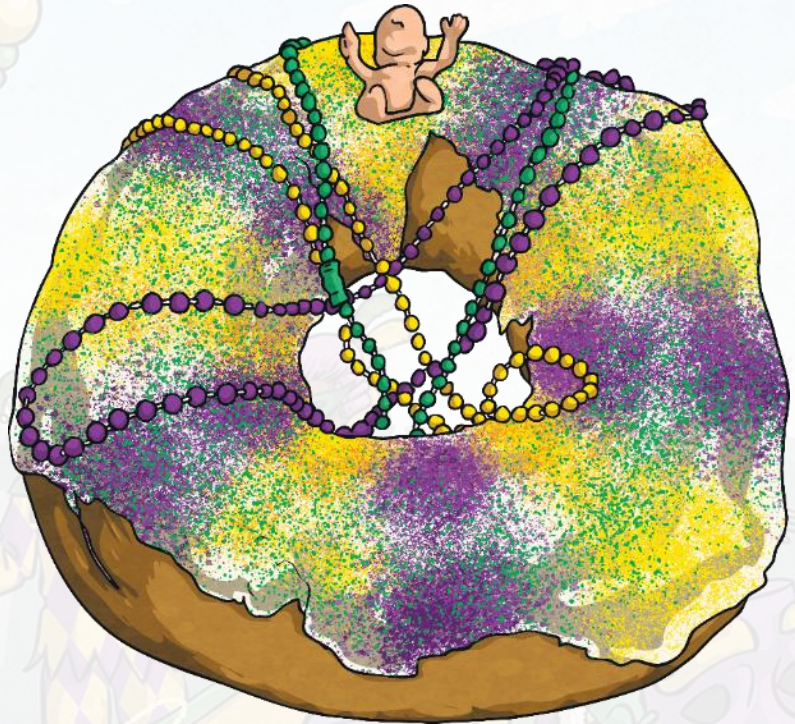


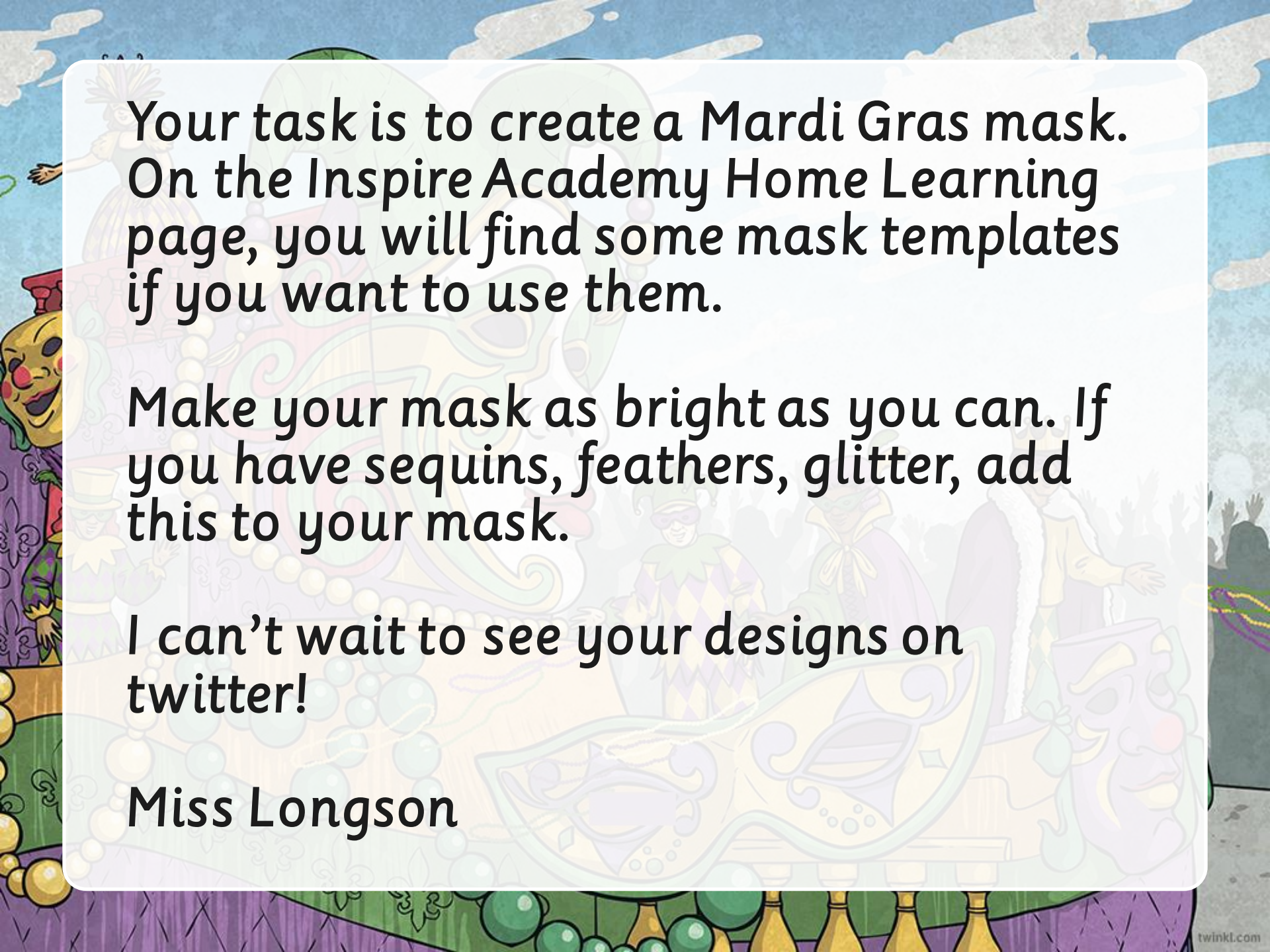
# King Cakes

King Cakes are Mardi Gras's most popular food.

They began as a simple ring of dough.

The most popular King Cake now is a braided Danish pastry iced with purple, green, and gold icing.





Your task is to create a Mardi Gras mask. On the Inspire Academy Home Learning page, you will find some mask templates if you want to use them.

Make your mask as bright as you can. If you have sequins, feathers, glitter, add this to your mask.

I can't wait to see your designs on twitter!

Miss Longson