Mardi Gras Trivia

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Where does Mardi Gras Day fall in the traditional New Orleans Carnival calendar?
   A. On the final day of Carnival
   B. On the opening day of Carnival
   C. At the midpoint of Carnival
   D. A full week after Carnival ends
   Correct answer: A. On the final day of Carnival
   Mardi Gras Day is the final Tuesday of Carnival. The season includes festivities leading up to that day.

2. What date traditionally opens New Orleans Carnival with the observance locally called Twelfth Night?
   A. January 1
   B. December 24
   C. January 6
   D. February 14
   Correct answer: C. January 6
   New Orleans marks Twelfth Night on January 6. The 2026 Carnival proclamation names that date as the season’s traditional start.

3. What is a krewe in the New Orleans Carnival tradition?
   A. A decorated vehicle in a parade
   B. A club organized to celebrate Carnival
   C. A single gift distributed by a parade rider
   D. A printed map of the parade route
   Correct answer: B. A club organized to celebrate Carnival
   The Historic New Orleans Collection describes a krewe as a Carnival organization. Its activities may include a parade or a ball.

4. Which trio of colors does the Historic New Orleans Collection highlight for New Orleans Carnival?
   A. Red, white, and blue
   B. Purple, blue, and silver
   C. Green, red, and gold
   D. Purple, green, and gold
   Correct answer: D. Purple, green, and gold
   The museum’s Carnival kickoff materials feature purple, green, and gold as the familiar local palette.

5. Which Carnival pastry is associated with a small baby figurine hidden inside?

A. Pound cake
B. King cake
C. Peach cobbler
D. Pecan pie

Correct answer: B. King cake
The National Park Service notes that the Mardi Gras king cake tradition includes a small baby figure as a hidden token.

6. The Historic New Orleans Collection holds a decorated coconut dated 1952. Which New Orleans Carnival organization is it associated with?

A. Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club
B. Mistick Krewe of Comus
C. Twelfth Night Revelers
D. Krewe of Proteus

Correct answer: A. Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club
The museum identifies the object as a Zulu coconut. Decorated coconuts are associated with Zulu riders and their parade.

7. In the rural Louisiana Courir de Mardi Gras tradition described by the Louisiana State Museum, what do participants collect ingredients to make?

A. A tray of beignets
B. A tower of king cakes
C. A batch of pralines
D. A communal gumbo

Correct answer: D. A communal gumbo
The museum connects the rural run to gathering ingredients for a gumbo shared by the community. The details of local runs can vary.

8. Which materials does the Historic New Orleans Collection describe being sewn by hand into Black Masking Indian suits such as Chief Howard Miller’s 2017–18 suit?

A. Ceramic tiles and metal hinges
B. Pressed leaves and dried flowers
C. Beads and rhinestones
D. Painted wood blocks and leather straps

Correct answer: C. Beads and rhinestones
The museum documents the time and handwork involved in sewing thousands of beads and rhinestones into the design.

9. Which literary work inspired the costumes in the Mistick Krewe of Comus’s 1857 New Orleans procession?

A. Paradise Lost
B. The Canterbury Tales
C. The Faerie Queene
D. A Midsummer Night’s Dream

Correct answer: A. Paradise Lost
The Louisiana State Museum identifies John Milton’s Paradise Lost as the source for the 1857 costume theme.

10. Which bird appears as a pink emblem of the Spanish Town Mardi Gras parade in Baton Rouge’s historic district guide?

A. Parrot
B. Pelican
C. Spoonbill
D. Flamingo

Correct answer: D. Flamingo
The city’s walking-tour guide links pink flamingos with the Spanish Town Mardi Gras parade in Baton Rouge.

11. Which caption distinguishes the early Rex parade’s boeuf gras, or fatted ox, from the version that returned in 1959?

A. The early parade used a live ox. A live ox also returned in 1959.
B. The early parade used a papier-mâché ox. A live ox returned in 1959.
C. The early parade used a live ox. A papier-mâché ox returned in 1959.
D. The early parade used a papier-mâché ox. The 1959 version was also papier-mâché.

Correct answer: C. The early parade used a live ox. A papier-mâché ox returned in 1959.
Rex’s parade notes describe a live ox in its early processions. The organization revived the figure in 1959 as a papier-mâché sculpture.

12. Which timeline matches the dates in Rex’s record for minting its first doubloon and introducing beads designed for specific floats?

A. Float-specific beads in 1960, then the first Rex doubloon in 2013.
B. The first Rex doubloon in 1960, then float-specific beads in 2013.
C. The first Rex doubloon in 1959, then float-specific beads in 2002.
D. The first Rex doubloon and float-specific beads both in 1960.

Correct answer: B. The first Rex doubloon in 1960, then float-specific beads in 2013.
Rex’s milestones date its first doubloon to 1960. Its record separately dates the beads patterned for individual floats to 2013.

13. The Louisiana State Museum dates two New Orleans Black Carnival clubs to 1895 and 1926. Which was founded later, and how many years separated the foundings?

A. The Original Illinois Club, 21 years later
B. The Young Men Illinois Club, 21 years later
C. The Original Illinois Club, 31 years later
D. The Young Men Illinois Club, 31 years later

Correct answer: D. The Young Men Illinois Club, 31 years later
The museum dates the Original Illinois Club to 1895 and the Young Men Illinois Club to 1926. The difference is 31 years.

14. A draft exhibit caption calls Iris and Venus two names for a single women’s krewe. Which correction fits the Louisiana State Museum’s account?

A. Aminthe Laudumiey Nungesser founded two distinct krewes, Iris in 1917 and Venus in 1940.
B. Aminthe Laudumiey Nungesser founded two distinct krewes, Venus in 1917 and Iris in 1940.
C. Aminthe Laudumiey Nungesser founded both krewes together in 1940.
D. Aminthe Laudumiey Nungesser founded Iris in 1917 and renamed it Venus in 1940.

Correct answer: A. Aminthe Laudumiey Nungesser founded two distinct krewes, Iris in 1917 and Venus in 1940.
The museum credits Nungesser with both foundings. It lists Iris in 1917 and Venus in 1940 as separate organizations.

15. A caption says Louis Andrews Fischer’s Hummingbird design appeared in the planned 1973 Proteus parade. What correction fits the Historic New Orleans Collection’s account?

A. Living Jewels took place in 1973, and the design was discarded before the next parade.
B. The 1973 parade went ahead. The design was first reused in 1975.
C. The 1973 parade was canceled. The design was reused in the 1974 Living Jewels parade.
D. The design was drawn after the 1974 parade when Proteus made its souvenir program.

Correct answer: C. The 1973 parade was canceled. The design was reused in the 1974 Living Jewels parade.
Fischer made the design for the planned 1973 procession. Rain canceled that parade, and Proteus reused the design for the next year’s Living Jewels parade.