City and Rural Celebrations

Contents

Celebrations 4
What are city and rural celebrations? 6
City parades 8
Keys to the city 10
City festivals 12
Carnival, Brazil 14
Mardi Gras, America 16
Anniversary celebrations 18
Country shows 20
Rodeos 22
Gymkhanas 24
Sydney Royal Easter Show, Australia 26
Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, Canada 28
Try this! 30
Glossary 31
Index 32

When a word is printed in bold, click on it to find its meaning.
Celebrations

Celebrations are events that are held on special occasions. Some are events from the past that are still celebrated. Others celebrate important times in our lives, or activities such as music.

Birthdays are special events that many people celebrate.

Some celebrations involve only a few people. Others involve whole cities or countries. Large celebrations take place across the world.

New Year’s Eve is celebrated all around the world with fireworks.
What are city and rural celebrations?

Many celebrations take place in cities around the world. They include parades and festivals. Some cities are famous for their special celebrations.

Rural celebrations are often held in small towns. They display animals, **produce** and farming equipment. Some rural celebrations are hundreds of years old.

The Moomba parade is held in the city of Melbourne in Australia.

Harvest celebrations take place in rural areas across the world.
Parades are popular in America, especially in New York City. Decorated floats are part of many parades. Cities sometimes hold parades to cheer on a sports team. Parades can also be held to thank people who have helped the city.
Keys to the city

Some cities give people the keys to the city. This shows that the people are well-liked and trusted. The keys to the city are often made from metal or wood.

Some people are also given the freedom of the city. This is a very old custom. It is given to people who have helped the city.

The keys to the city are usually given to people at a special ceremony.

The freedom of the city is sometimes given to a group of people, such as this group of athletes.
A film festival is held every year in the European city of Sarajevo.

Children from the audience are sometimes included in the performances at theatre festivals.

People from around the world visit Sarajevo’s festivals. Festivals such as these let people from many different places enjoy the activities.
Carnival, Brazil

Carnival is held in Rio de Janeiro and other cities in Brazil. It begins four days before the start of Lent and includes street parades and parties.

People wear costumes to the parties and parades, and celebrate by dancing. In some cities, there are samba competitions.
Mardi Gras, America

Mardi Gras is a celebration held in New Orleans in America. It takes place in the weeks before Lent. There are parades every day.

The parades and parties are organised by krewes. Different krewes parade in different parts of the city. They throw toys and presents into the crowd.

There is usually a big parade each day of Mardi Gras.

Krewes parade on decorated floats during Mardi Gras.
Anniversary celebrations

Many cities and country towns celebrate the year they were **founded**. These are called anniversaries. Special celebrations are usually held when a place reaches a **centenary**.

Schools often celebrate the year they began. They hold special events to celebrate their history and success. Older students often return to the school for these celebrations.

In 2001, the centenary of the Australian nation was celebrated around the country.
Country shows

Many country towns hold an **annual** show where farmers display their best animals and **produce**. There are also competitions for the best cakes, jams, sewing and artworks.

In country towns the show is often the highlight of the year. People come from all around the area. There are activities such as dancing and choosing a show queen.
Rodeos

Rodeos celebrate people who work with horses and cattle. They are popular in America, Canada and Australia.

Rodeo events include horseriding and bull-riding, and calf-roping. Riders compete to stay on a bucking animal the longest. Rodeo clowns entertain the crowd and also help the riders.

The Calgary Stampede in Canada is one of the largest rodeos in the world.

The rodeo clowns lead the bulls away from falling riders.
Gymkhanas

Gymkhanas (say jim-kar-nas) are festivals usually held in country towns. They are often organised by pony clubs, and include horse-jumping competitions and races.

There are many children’s events at gymkhanas. There are also fun events such as fancy dress for horses and riders.

Horse-jumping events are popular at gymkhanas.

Competitors try to get their horses and outfits looking as smart as they can.
Sydney Royal Easter Show, Australia

The Sydney Royal Easter Show started in 1823. The show is held for two weeks over Easter. It includes many animal and produce displays from the country.

There are competitions for the best animals, wool, vegetables and other produce. The show also has many fun rides and stalls.

Wood chopping is a popular event at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

The grand parade of farm animals is one of the show’s highlights.
Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, Canada

The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair is held for two weeks in November. It is held in Toronto, Canada. The Fair is nearly 100 years old.

Visitors can see rodeos, horse shows and dog shows. Farmers display their crops and animals, and learn about new equipment.

Horses and their riders perform at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.

Farmers display the large vegetables they have grown.
Try this!

Try this quiz

Find the answers to these questions in the book. (You can check your answers on page 32.)

1. Where is the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair held?
2. What do rodeos celebrate?
3. When was the Sydney Royal Easter Show first held?
4. How do people celebrate Carnival in Brazil?
5. Which European city has film, theatre and music festivals?

Try this activity

Next time you celebrate a special occasion with your friends or family, ask yourself:

• Why are you celebrating?
• How long have people been celebrating this event?
• Are there other places in the world where people celebrate the event?
### Glossary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>agricultural</td>
<td>related to farming, such as growing plants or keeping animals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>annual</td>
<td>happens every year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bucking</td>
<td>jumping and kicking to throw off a rider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>centenary</td>
<td>the celebration of 100 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ceremony</td>
<td>an activity that is performed on a special occasion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>custom</td>
<td>a belief or activity that has been passed from older people to younger people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>floats</td>
<td>vehicles decorated for a parade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>founded</td>
<td>first built or started</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>harvest</td>
<td>when the fruits and vegetables on farms are gathered or picked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>krewes</td>
<td>groups that organise parades</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lent</td>
<td>the 40 days that lead up to Easter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>produce</td>
<td>the fruit and vegetables grown on a farm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rodeos</td>
<td>events that feature cattle-roping, bull-riding and horseriding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>samba</td>
<td>a type of Brazilian dance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Index

a
America 9, 16–17, 22
Australia 22, 26–27

b
Brazil 14–15

c
Canada 22, 28–29
Carnival 14–15
country shows 20–21

f
film festivals 12
freedom of the city 11

g
gymkhanas 24–25

k
keys to the city 10
krewes 17

l
Lent 14–15

m
Mardi Gras 16–17
music festivals 12

n
New Orleans 16–17
New York City 9

r
Rio de Janeiro 14–15
rodeos 22–23, 29
Royal Agricultural Winter Fair 28–29

s
Sarajevo 12, 13
Sydney Royal Easter Show 26–27

t
theatre festivals 12, 13

Answers to the quiz on page 30

1 Canada
2 People who work with horses and cattle
3 1823
4 With street parades and parties
5 Sarajevo