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KARNEVAL IN DEUTSCHLAND – CARNIVAL IN GERMANY

TEACHERS' NOTES

Introduction

For many regions in Germany, Carnival – in some places it is called *Karneval*, in others *Fasching* or *Fasnacht* – is a very important date in the cultural calendar for people of all ages. With the help of this presentation, Scottish pupils with little or no German can get to know that colourful German tradition. The *Karneval* is very good example of German regionalism, as it is being celebrated differently in different parts of Germany, and in some places people do not celebrate it at all. This presentation will put special emphasis on the celebrations in the city of Cologne, which is the stronghold of *Karneval* in Germany.

The following slides will guide you and your pupils through the Carnival season, using a lot of colourful pictures to show how bright and cheery this festival is.

Slide

Explanation

1

introductory slide:

The teacher might want to introduce the topic by asking the pupils if they have heard of *Karneval* before, have seen it on TV etc.

The pictures give a first impression of how colourful and bright the *Karneval* celebrations are.

Pictures (left to right):

1. a parade on Rose Monday (*Rosenmontagsumzug*, see slide #8)

2. a clown, one of the most popular costumes on Carnival

3. an official stamp showing a harlequin

"*Alaaf*" and "*Helau*" are two famous hoots at *Karneval*.

2

Translation:

The Carnival Calendar

November 11th, 11 o' clock: The Carnival season starts.

Carnival fans celebrate this moment each year, finally leaving behind the "serious" times of the year and heading into a season of celebrations and festivals.

- 3 Translation:
The Carnival Calendar
February/March: We celebrate Carnival!

The highlight of the Carnival is the time in February when the official days of Carnival are coming around. There are no fixed dates, as Carnival is dependent on the dates of Easter. The Carnival celebrations mark the beginning of lent.

- 4 Translation:
Hello! I am the clown. We celebrate Carnival...

- 5 Translation:
... in Cologne.
Here lies Cologne.

The map is showing the location of the city of Cologne within Germany. Cologne is really the stronghold of Carnival in Germany, where the time of Carnival is also called the "fifth season".

- 6 Translation:
Typical for Cologne: the *Dreigestirn* ("triumvirate")
the virgin
the prince
the farmer

These three characters are the most important representatives in Cologne Carnival. The people who play them vary each year, but all the characters are played by men, including the part of the virgin. The *Dreigestirn* can have up to 400 performances each season, appearing at Carnival parties and parades, but also in social and charitable institutions such as hospitals, children's homes etc.

- 7 Translation:
Typical for Cologne: the *Nubbel*
The *Nubbel* is a puppet made of straw.

Nubbel is a word that is used only in the Cologne dialect. The puppet is a symbolic scapegoat in the Carnival and is put up outside pubs during the season. The *Nubbel* is being burned in the last night of Carnival.

8

Translation:

Rose Monday: On Monday, there is a big parade.

Rose Monday is the highlight of the Karneval season. Many employees in the Carnival strongholds get the day off to celebrate and see the parade.

Of course it is an event where many people like to have drinks. Unfortunately, a lot of them do not drink sensibly and so they end up in hospital that day. Most people just want to celebrate Rose Monday and think it is sad that the ambulance has to be so busy that day.

9

Translation:

Rose Monday: The first Rose Monday parade in Cologne was in 1823.

Carnival in Cologne has existed for many centuries, but the first organised celebrations took place in 1823. A committee was founded to take care of the preparations for the parade. The historic pictures support the fact that Carnival in Cologne is very old. The picture on the left shows the virgin and farmer of the Dreigestirn, the picture on the right gives an impression of Rose Monday parade back in the 19th century.

10

Rose Monday in Cologne in 2010

Click on the picture to start the video. It is a short sequence of the Rose Monday parade in Cologne in 2010.

11

Translation:

Costumes: At Carnival, people wear funny, colourful costumes.

12

Costumes

In this slide, you can see examples of famous costumes that children like to wear for Carnival.

From left: a clown, Spiderman, a witch, a pirate

13

Translation:

I am a princess.

I am a tiger.

14 Quiz: costumes

The pupils can match up the words in the box with the right picture.

Starting from top left: *Pirat, Hexe, Prinzessin, Clown, Spiderman, Tiger, Matrose, Biene*

Translation:

pirate, witch, princess, clown, Spiderman, tiger, sailor, bee

15 Quiz: Carnival

Solutions:

1. When is the big parade?

c) *Rosenmontag*

2. Who is the Cologne *Dreigestirn*?

b) *Jungfrau, Prinz, Bauer*

3. When does the Carnival season in Germany start?

c) am 11.11. um 11:11 Uhr

16 Translation:

Ash Wednesday: Carnival is over.

Bye! See you at the next Carnival...

Ash Wednesday is the last day of the Carnival season. That day, lent starts and it lasts for 40 days. That connection shows how Carnival has developed from Christian traditions.