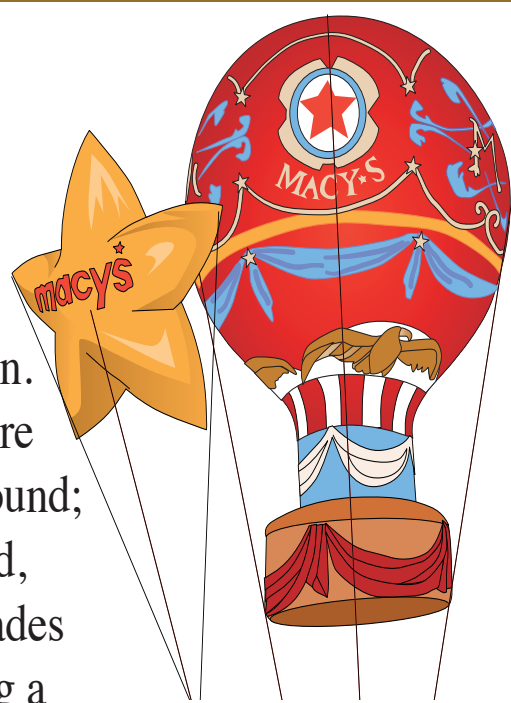


# KEEPING STUDENTS WELL INFORMED AT HOME WHILE THEY'RE DISTANCE LEARNING.



## WORLD OF WONDER Exploring the realms of history, science, nature and technology PARADES

Parades are great fun to watch and to participate in. Large parades take months to organize: Themes are chosen; donations, participants and volunteers are found; permits obtained; balloons and floats are designed, assembled and decorated; and costumes made. Parades bring people and neighborhoods together, fostering a sense of community.



Parade balloons are usually made of rubber and filled with helium. It can take hours to fill a large balloon.

### Famous parades

**The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade** began in 1924. It was first known as "Macy's Christmas Parade" even though it took place on Thanksgiving. It is one of the world's largest parades. The three-hour parade has been televised nationally on NBC since 1952. Today, more than 44 million people watch this parade on television.

**Mardi Gras** means "Fat Tuesday" in French. New Orleans has been celebrating Fat Tuesday (or Carnival) with parades since 1837. The first floats appeared in the parade in 1857. This celebration includes parties, balls, costumes, floats and feasts.

The annual **St. Patrick's Day Parade in Boston** is the largest in the world dedicated to one nationality, the Irish.

**The Philadelphia Mummers Parade** was first held Jan. 1, 1901. Although famous for its grand costumes and floats, this parade has become controversial for ongoing racist depictions of minority groups.

**Shriners** are a Masonic fraternity known for their community service and hospitals for children. Shriners often participate in parades by riding in miniature cars and trucks powered by lawn mower engines.

### Did you know?

Parade participants are usually volunteers.

Philadelphia has the oldest Thanksgiving Day parade. The Gimbels Thanksgiving Day Parade, now the **6abc Dunkin' Thanksgiving Day Parade**, debuted in 1920.

On October 28, 1886, a parade in honor of the Statue of Liberty marched up Broadway in New York City. Employees began to throw ticker tape out of their windows, beginning the tradition of ticker tape parades.

Professional and school marching bands participate in many parades today, but bands were first seen in military parades.



The Chinese New Year is often celebrated with parades, dragon floats and dancers.

### Early days

Parades date back to at least 3000 B.C. Ancient Roman parades were often military in nature, consisting of soldiers marching in triumph. They also had playful processions that announced circuses or shows.

The ancient Greeks held parades that included music, marchers, floats and animals.

The Christian church of the Middle Ages used pageants and parades to honor important feasts and saints' days.

### In a word

The word **parade** can trace its roots to the mid-17th century. It is based on the Latin *parare*, "to prepare, furnish," and on the Spanish *parada* and Italian *parata* and finally from the French *parade* (an exhibition or show).

### Floats

Parade floats of the Middle Ages used pageant wagons as movable scenery for passion plays.

The parade float got its name because the first floats were decorated barges towed along canals.

Today, most floats are decorated platforms propelled by motor vehicles. Modern floats with elaborate detailing, statues and sound systems can weigh tons.

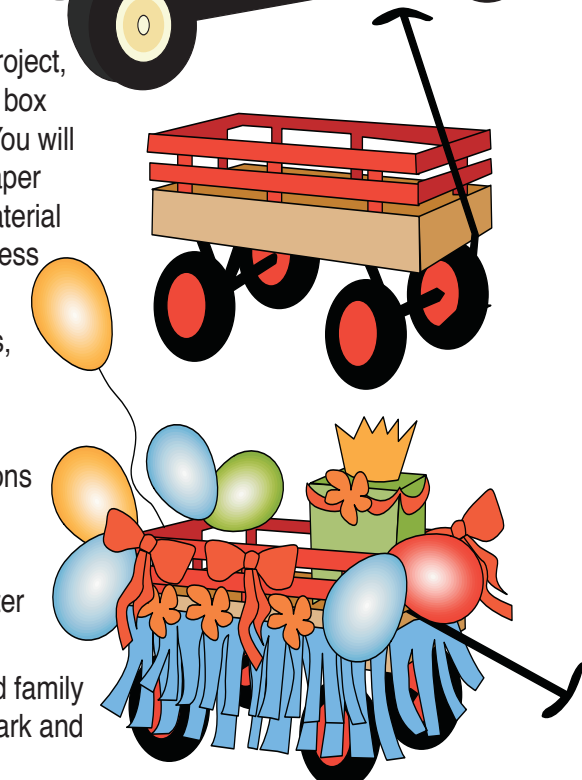
Mardi Gras colors are traditionally purple, gold and green.

### Decorate your own float

A small pull wagon is perfect for this project, but if you don't have one, a cardboard box can be just as much fun to decorate. You will also need tape, balloons and crepe-paper streamers. Ask an adult for any old material or other items that could be used to dress up your float.

1. Use crepe paper to make streamers, bows or flowers.
2. Inflate the balloons.
3. Attach balloons and paper decorations to the wagon or box with tape.
4. Make a skirt along the bottom with paper or cloth. Glue sparkles or glitter to the skirt.

When finished, invite some friends and family to dress up and join you at a nearby park and walk your own parade route.



SOURCES: World Book Encyclopedia, World Book Inc.; <http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu>; <https://www.farmersalmanac.com>; <https://kids.kiddle.co>; <https://www.history.com>; <https://www.mentalfloss.com>

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