NOTTING HILL CARNIVAL

TRANSCRIPT for teachers

BBClearningenglish.com

(music)

0'10"

The biggest street festival in Europe: the Notting Hill Carnival

0'16"

Every year, hundreds of thousands of people head to Notting Hill in West London to dance, sing, eat and celebrate multiculturalism

0'26"

Mutliculturalism: the mix of people from different races, religions, traditions and languages

(music)

0'37"

The Carnival owes its creation to Trinidadian immigrants.

The Carnival was created thanks to people who came to Britain from Trinidad.

0'48"

In the late 1940s and the 1950s, there was mass immigration to the UK, the arrival of people from many different cultures. Some people in the UK didn't like the changes that were happening and this led to riots.

1'03"

Riots:violent protests in civil areas including in West London where many West Indian immigrants had arrived.

(music)

1'13''

After the riots, Trinidadian immigrants and the people of Notting Hill decided they wanted to bring people together and help people to understand each other

1'22''

Corinne Skinner Carter remembers her friend Claudia Jones helping to start the Carnival.

We'll hear the word "function"

A function is a social event of some kind

1'34''

"She just said 'We must get together ...we must get together'. And that was the whole idea. She thought that the best way to get a lot of West Indians together is to have a function and as this... as it happens, this function turned out to be a carnival

Now let's listen to Claire Holder who has been involved with organizing the carnival.

"Carnival is a wonderful show; it's about the positive promotion of black culture, black traditions, to promote our culture"

To promote our culture = to promote culture means to make something know and show it in a positive way

2'17"

"Carnival is Steel Band and costume, without a doubt, without those two elments, there's no carnival"

2'22"

And this musician involved in the carnival says the Steel Band and the costumes are important elements, important parts of the carnival

2'31"

Steel Band is a group of musicians who play steel drums. And the Carnival does officially kick off, it begins with a national Steel Band competition.

(music)

2'47''

Another tradition associated with carnival is something called Soca. To find out what it is, let's listen to Tony, he'll use the word "fusion" which is a mix or combination of different things. We'll also hear the words "Calyspso" and "Soul", which are both types of music.

3'05"

I'm Tony, from Soca Saga Boys". Soca is really a fusion with Calypso and Soul, which is S.O. from the Soul and C.A. from the Calypso. Put them together and you've got Soca

3'19"

So the word Soca is spelt SO the first two letters of Soul and CA the first two letters of Calypso because Soca is a combination of both these kinds of music

3'32"

"Soca is a happy music because... if you want to be, you wanna have a nice time and you wanna really get in the groove you need to listen to soca"

3'39"

Soca is a happy music he says you should listen to soca if you want to have a nice time and get in the groove.

To really enjoy the music and become part of it, get into the groove!

3'51''

Costumes: the special clothes which people wear are also a very important part of the carnival. They're usual bright and colourful, full of colour, and sometimes heavy like for this girl who says, after wearing her outfit or costume for a while, she gets exhausted

4'09"

Exhausted: very tired

4'12"

"When I wear it I feel quite exhausted after a while cause it's really heavy..I'm expected to wear this outfit for about 5 or 6 hours so, a very long time

4'24''

To finish let's look back at some of the vocabulary we've heard

Multiculturalism, Trinidadian immigrants, riots, function, to promote our culture, to kick off,

A fusion, to get in the groove, exhausted , a costume and of course you can practice this vocabulary

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