**Make your own Mardi Gras Mask**

Mardi Gras began as a traditionally Catholic festival that typically occurs before Lent. Mardi Gras is a French phrase meaning “Fat Tuesday,” referring to the day before Ash Wednesday. However, the Mardi Gras celebration could last a week or more.

America’s first Mardi Gras celebrations occurred in Mobile, Alabama, and remains an important cultural activity in Alabama’s Gulf South region. Mardi Gras was first brought to Alabama by French explorers as early as 1699.

Mardi Gras usually includes costumed parties, dancing and feasts.

Directions:

1. Cut out the mask from the following page. Don’t forget to cut out the mask eyes.

2. Glue a stick to the back of the mask. You can also punch holes in the corners of the mask and tie each end of one piece of string in the holes.

3. Decorate the mask with feathers, sequins, and lots of color.

4. Celebrate Mardi Gras!