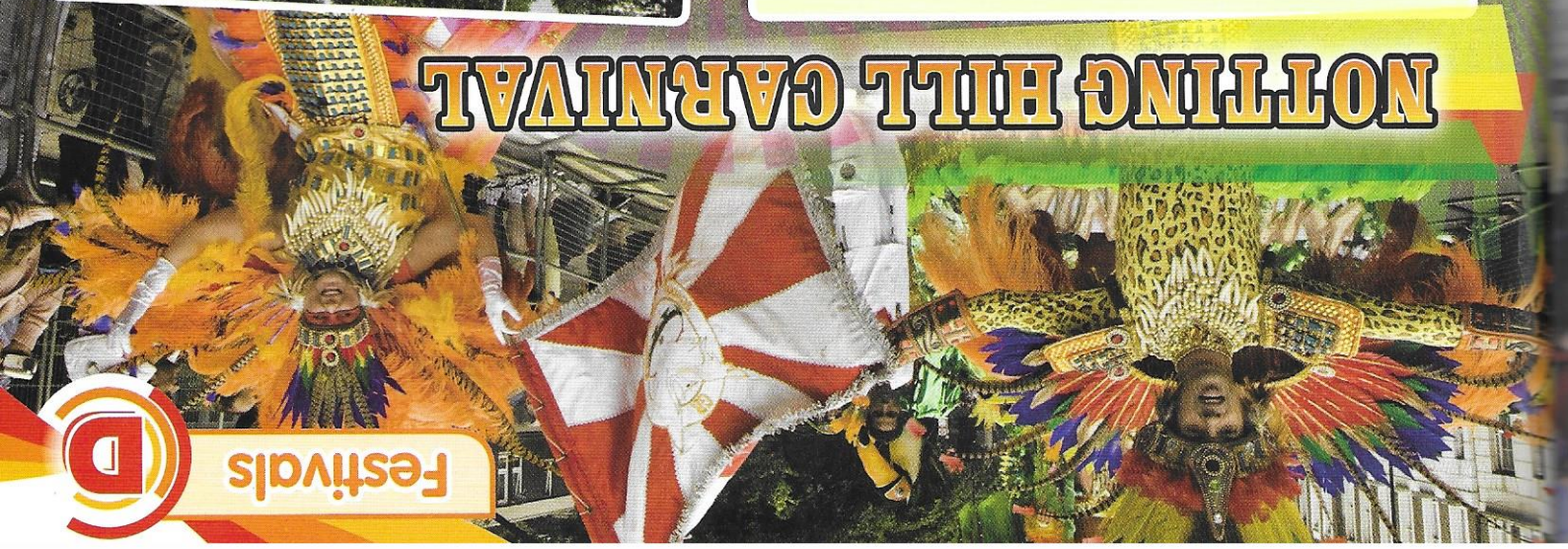


NOTTING HILL CARNIVAL



1 Leggi e ascolta il brano. Poi rispondi alle domande.

- 1 What communities does the Notting Hill Carnival celebrate?
- 2 Where does the carnival tradition come from?
- 3 What happened there in 1833?
- 4 When was the first carnival in Notting Hill?
- 5 How many people went to the first carnival?
- 6 How many people come to watch the carnival now?
- 7 What is special about the first day of the carnival?
- 8 Who is the second day of the carnival for?

2 Rispondi alle seguenti domande. Poi scrivi un breve brano (50–60 parole) sul carnevale nel tuo paese. ES

- When do people celebrate carnival?
- How do they celebrate it? (parades, floats, costume, music, etc.?)
- What food and drink is there?
- Do you know any famous celebrations of carnival in Italy or around the world?

Every year, on the last Sunday and Monday in August, the streets of West London vibrate to the music of Europe's biggest street festival, the Notting Hill Carnival. The carnival is a celebration of the Afro-Caribbean communities in London, but everybody is welcome to come and dance, listen to music, eat Caribbean food and have fun!

The origins of the Notting Hill Carnival come from the island of Trinidad in the Caribbean. In the past, the black Caribbean people on the island were all slaves¹. Trinidad was part of the British Empire and in 1833, the British Government abolished slavery there. The ex-slaves celebrated with street parties in Trinidad. At the parties they sang, danced and wore elaborate costumes.

In the 1950s, a lot of people from Trinidad and other Caribbean islands came to live in the UK. In 1964 a group of immigrants decided to organise a parade with music in the streets of Notting Hill. They wanted to celebrate their Caribbean traditions and culture. There were only about 100 people at the first carnival, but today about 2 million people come to watch and enjoy the fun.

The first day of the carnival is Children's Day. There's a special parade for children and they wear fantastic costumes and dance in the streets. The second day is for adults. It's usually busier and louder² than the children's parade and there are hundreds of spectacular floats. Steel drum bands³ and sound systems⁴ play Caribbean dance music. You can also eat Caribbean food. There's spicy⁵ chicken with rice and peas, coconut milk and exotic fruit, for example papaya and pineapple. Notting Hill Carnival is Europe's biggest street party!

Glossary

- ¹slaves *schiavi*
- ²louder *più rumoroso*
- ³steel drum bands *gruppi che suonano strumenti a percussione ricavati da barattoli d'acciaio*
- ⁴sound systems *riproduttori acustici*
- ⁵spicy *aromatizzato, piccante*