




Extensive reading: non-fiction

1 Look at the pictures. What's happening in each photo? Where do you think they are?

2 Listen and read.  29

Rio Carnival

Hi! My name's Bruno. I'm twelve and I'm from Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. My favourite time of year is summer. Summer in Brazil is from 22nd December to 21st March. Every summer in Rio, we celebrate the famous Rio Carnival.

The Rio Carnival is the most famous carnival in the world. It lasts for four days. The two biggest performances in the Rio Carnival are on Carnival Sunday and Monday, when the best samba schools in the city have a competition. Samba schools are dance groups and every samba school has its own dancers and musicians. The samba school competition is a fantastic show! Everyone cheers when they see the amazing costumes and floats and the brilliant dancers. The music is great, too. Everybody wants to dance when they hear Samba music!

The children's parade is on Carnival Tuesday. It's always lots of fun. Lots of children in Brazil learn how to dance the traditional samba. I go to a samba school and we're always very busy before the carnival. We write a special song and we create and practise our dance for the children's parade. We work together to build and decorate our float and we sew our costumes, too! When you go to a samba school, you learn to do lots of different things!

There are fantastic street parades at the carnival, too, with clowns, acrobats and people on stilts. My favourite street parade is called Gigantes da Lira. It takes place on the Saturday before carnival. I always go to watch it with my parents. I love the clowns and the giant puppets.

I think the carnival in Rio de Janeiro is the best celebration in the world. There are parties all over the city during carnival and it seems like the whole city is dancing! Come and dance with us!



Notting Hill Carnival

Hello. I'm Cassi and I'm eleven years old. I'm from London in the UK. I love August in London because that's when the Notting Hill Carnival takes place. Notting Hill is an area near the centre of London. The Notting Hill Carnival starts on the last Sunday in August and it lasts for two days. It's the biggest carnival in Europe and it's the second largest carnival in the world. About two million people go to the carnival every year.

Sunday is my favourite day of the carnival, because it's Children's Day. On Children's Day, you can join in with colourful costume parades, listen to live music and watch street performances. Most of the street performers on Children's Day are under 21. There are lots of special competitions for children, too. My brother and I always take part in the costume competition. We sometimes enter the dance competition, too.

My mum makes our costumes for Children's Day. My brother and I usually make masks to wear with our costumes. We always get up early on Children's Day. The carnival starts at nine o'clock in the morning, and we always want to watch the beginning. The carnival bands start playing music in the streets. Steel drums are a traditional instrument in the Caribbean. They make a beautiful sound.

You can eat delicious food at the carnival. There are food stalls with traditional Caribbean, Nigerian, Chinese and Thai food. I love Caribbean food. My favourite is grilled corn on the cob.

The streets of Notting Hill are full of people during the carnival. Everybody wants to see the colourful floats and the beautiful costumes. There are lots of different bands and DJs, so the streets are very noisy! The Notting Hill Carnival is London's biggest street party, and I think it's the best party in the world!



3 Read again and answer the questions.


- 1 When is the Rio Carnival?
- 2 How does Bruno's samba school prepare for the carnival?
- 3 When is the Notting Hill Carnival?
- 4 What happens on Children's Day?

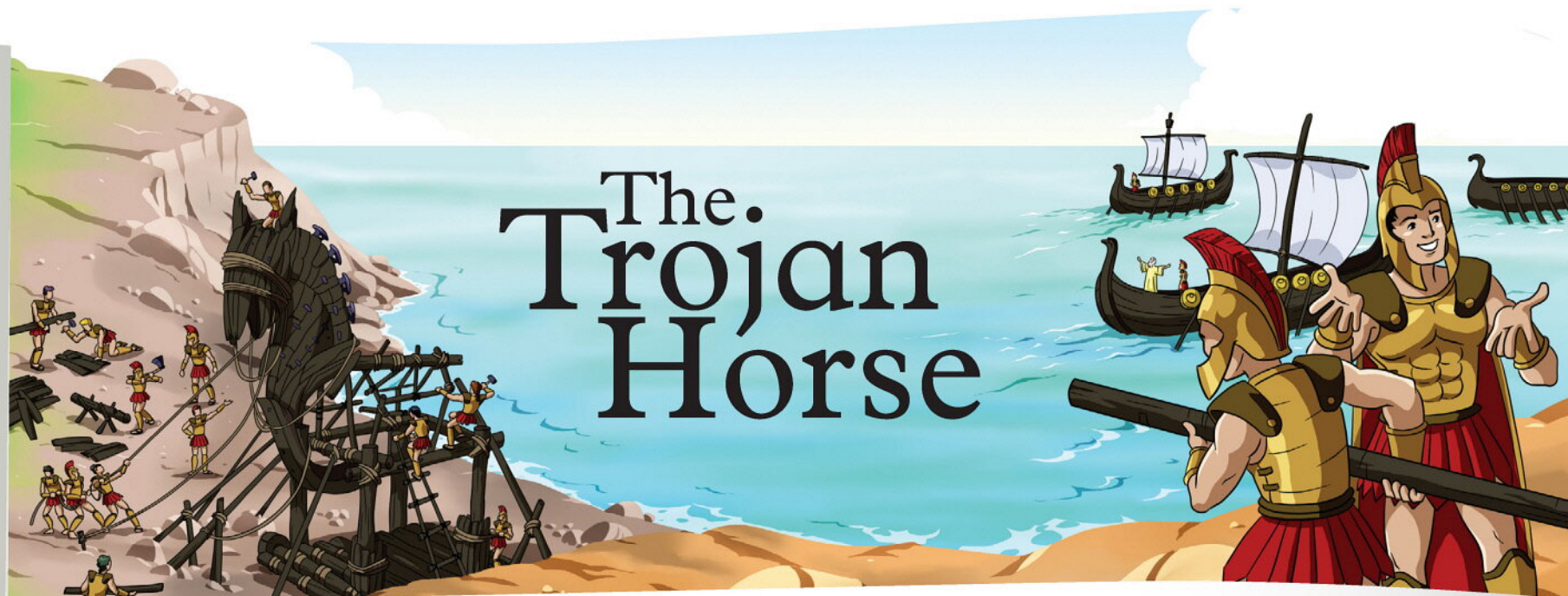
4 Discuss.

- 1 What celebrations are there in your city / country?
- 2 What's your favourite time of the year? Why?



Extensive reading: fiction

- 1 Look at the pictures. What are the people doing? Who do you think the people are?
- 2 Listen and read.  30
- 3 Read again and answer the questions.
 - 1 Whose idea was the Trojan Horse?
 - 2 Why did the Greeks build the Trojan Horse?
 - 3 How many Greek soldiers hid in the horse?
 - 4 What did the rest of the Greek army do?



Hundreds of years ago, Prince Paris of Troy took a beautiful Greek woman called Helen back to Troy with him. A Greek army sailed to Troy to bring Helen home. For ten long years, the Greeks surrounded the city of Troy. But the city had high, strong walls and heavy gates. No enemy could get inside.

One day, a Greek leader called Odysseus had a clever idea for entering the city. The Greeks listened to his plan and started work immediately. They used large saws to cut down trees and make long pieces of wood. They used hammers and nails to join the wood together to make a huge wooden horse. They put the horse on a large wooden platform with wheels underneath, so that the horse could move along the ground. They made a door in the horse's stomach so that thirty soldiers could hide inside the horse. The rest of the Greeks sailed their ships to an island near the city of Troy and waited.

When the Trojans saw that the Greek camps and the Greek ships were gone, they were surprised but very happy. They came out of the city and the children ran down to the water to swim and play in the sea for the first time in their lives. The Trojans believed that the Greeks were tired of the war and didn't want to fight any more. Then the Trojans saw the amazing wooden horse.



4 Discuss.

- 1 Do you think the Trojan Horse was a good idea?
- 2 Do you think the Greeks were right or wrong to use a trick to win the war?
- 3 Do you know any other stories about Ancient Greece? What happens in the stories?

At first, they thought it was a wonderful gift. They wanted to take it into the city. But one old man spoke to the crowd. "My friends, I'm sure this is a trap." The old man threw a spear at the horse. The spear stuck in the side of the horse and a strange noise came from the horse. For a moment, the Trojans were afraid and they wanted to burn the wooden horse.

But, just then, some Trojan soldiers arrived with a prisoner. The prisoner was a Greek called Sinon.

"This man can tell us the truth about the horse," said the Trojan soldiers.

"I will tell you the truth," said Sinon. "You are better friends to me than Odysseus. He left me here and now I can't get home!"

The Trojans listened to Sinon and tried to decide whether he was telling the truth or not.

"Tell us the truth about the horse," said the Trojan soldiers.

"The Greeks wanted to end this war a long time ago, and so recently they decided to sail home," said Sinon. "They wanted the gods to send them a good strong wind to blow our ships home. They built this horse and filled it with treasure to make the gods happy."

The Trojans believed Sinon and wanted the treasure that he was describing. They pulled the wooden horse into the city of Troy. The children danced around the horse and musicians began to play. It was time to celebrate the end of the war. The soldiers let Sinon go free, and he went to the beach. He lit a fire to send a signal to the Greek army on their island.

At night, the Greek soldiers quickly climbed out of the horse and down a long rope to the ground. At last, the Greeks were inside the city of Troy. They opened the gates of the city for the rest of their army to enter. Then they found the beautiful Helen and took her home to Greece. This time, the war was truly over.

