

Mardi Gras Challenge



Translated as 'Fat Tuesday' Mardi Gras is a time to party!
In some parts of the world Mardi Gras celebrations last for weeks. Are you ready to celebrate with a carnival like no other?!

For even more programme ideas check out our 'Mardi Gras' board over on www.Pinterest.com/PawprintFamily

#AdventureForAll
www.PawprintFamily.com

Meet the FAMILY

Hi there! We're Charlotte & Jamie, the husband and wife team behind the Pawprint Family and we believe in #AdventureForAll.

It's our mission to help leaders, teachers and parents save time by providing ideas and opportunities to help them deliver everyday adventure and skills for life. We do this through our family of brands; find out more below and head to the website for your next adventure!



PAWPRINT BADGES

Pawprint Badges provides thousands of free activity ideas and resources to help leaders, teachers and parents deliver fun and adventure.

Every activity helps you share skills for life and is linked to one of our pawesome embroidered badges. Build your collection and celebrate adventures, new skills and knowledge gained.

PAWPRINT TRAILS

Pawprint Trails are treasure-hunt style walks around locations in the UK. Solve puzzles, track down the answers and explore everything our great country has to offer.

From historical sights to popular culture discover something new or rediscover a love for where you live then collect the badge to remember your adventures!

Whether you're looking for the perfect addition to your next family holiday or a few hours of fun with friends; each trail can be completed in a few hours or extended with our activity suggestions in to a weekend or a week's worth of fun!

PAWPRINT TALES

Pawprint Tales are fully illustrated stories that can be enjoyed by the whole family. Join Alfie (our fox-red Labrador) on his adventures around the UK - solving puzzles, turning detective and making new friends. With twists and turns, every tale is an opportunity to discover new places, people and history without needing to leave the comfort of your own home.

Enjoy Pawprint Tales alongside your Pawprint Trails or as a standalone adventure!

PAWPRINT TRUST

Every brand in the Pawprint Family supports the Pawprint Trust with a percentage of profits from every sale providing grants to young people. We're passionate about enabling young people to access life changing adventures.

Share your adventures and join us over on our social channels for even more adventures and a nosy behind the scenes at Pawprint HQ!



@pawprintfamily



@pawprint_family

HOW TO: Use Your Challenge Pack



This Challenge Pack has been divided into 4 sections: Craft, Food, Games and Other. In order to help you provide a balanced and varied programme for your young adventurers we recommend that the following number of activities are completed by each age group:

Age 3 - 5						
Age 5 - 7		Craft	Food	Games	Other	PICK
Age 7 - 11	+					
Age 11 - 14	+					
Age 14 - 18	+					
Age 18+	+					

Leaders, Teachers & Parents
Award yourselves a badge for supporting your young adventurers in their activities!

TOP TIPS

- Adapt activities as necessary to meet your needs.
- Add your own activity ideas or develop them into projects.
- Use what you have; don't buy in lots of new materials/equipment.
- No need to send us evidence, responsible grown-ups decide when the badge has been earned.
- One challenge badge can take as long as you like; from a few hours to days or even a full term!

Terms of Use

By downloading or purchasing this resource you agree to our terms of use as outlined below. As a husband and wife team we work hard to keep all of our resources and activity ideas available free of charge; we can only do this with your help.

Please Do	You May Not
Use this resource with your young adventurers.	Redistribute or sell this resource in any way, shape or form.
Direct people to this resource online by sharing our website links.	Upload this resource to a website for download.
Tell your friends/family/colleagues about us!	Copy or modify any part of this resource to share with others either for free or for sale.
Share photos of you enjoying your adventures with us on social media.	Use any text, graphics, content or fonts without our written permission.

If you are unsure or have any questions about these terms of use please email info@pawprintfamily.com

You can view the extended terms of use on our website www.pawprintfamily.com/terms-conditions



Craft

**PAWPRINT
BADGES**

-  Create decorations for Mardi Gras in traditional colours. The colours purple, green and gold were introduced in New Orleans in 1872 to honour the visiting Russian Grand Duke Alexis Romanoff as they were his family colours.
-  Make a carnival mask; like the one on your badge!

Why?

Around the world are a popular part of Mardi Gras celebrations worldwide. In America, it's actually illegal to ride on a Mardi Gras float in New Orleans without wearing a mask. In Italy, masked balls have reportedly been part of Mardi Gras celebrations since the 12th Century!

-  Roll your own beads using paper, clay or dried pasta shapes and string them up to create necklaces like the traditional throws. Use our free resource to help you. Throws are small items and trinkets thrown from the parade floats by the float riders/krewe members at Mardi gras in New Orleans.
-  Recycle or upcycle old materials into Mardi Gras magic! Create yourself a fabulous Mardi Gras outfit fit for a parade.
-  Other throws include doubloons. Make your own or design a coin.

What?

Originally medallions (in 1884), they are now doubloons introduced by Rex (one of the oldest Mardi Gras krewes) in 1960. The coins are alluminium and coloured in a variety of shades with the parade theme on one side and the emblem of the Krewe on the other. Create a symbol for your family/group/crewe and design your own doubloon! Why not have a go at making one from an aluminum sheet? You could recycle an old puree tube and decorate it with a biro or permanent markers!

-  Complete a craft from any of the Easter Challenge packs. Mardi Gras takes place on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday at the beginning of Lent. Easter is the culmination of the Lenten fast for Christians.
-  Make paper flowers and recreate the Battle of Flowers from Nice in France, where locally grown flowers are thrown from the parade floats to the crowds. Maybe you could give your flowers away rather than throwing them?
-  Gather and wrap your own bundle of willow twigs like the Gilles of Binche's Mardi Gras celebrations in Belgium.
-  Craft a drum from materials of your choice and bang out samba rhythms like those heard at carnivals throughout Brazil and celebrations worldwide.



Food

**PAWPRINT
BADGES**

 Make pancakes from any country that celebrates Mardi Gras.

Why?

Mardi Gras literally translates as 'Fat Tuesday' and is otherwise known as Shrove Tuesday. For Christians, Shrove Tuesday is a final chance to eat and drink to excess before the fast of lent. Typically for many households in the UK, Ireland, Australia and Canada, this means cooking up a batch of pancakes and enjoying them with toppings of your choice!

 Bake a King Cake, traditionally found in New Orleans and decorated to excess with purple, green and gold decorations. In amongst the mix is a figure of a baby. Whoever is lucky enough to get the baby in their slice is in charge of bringing the cake next year!

 Fry your own doughnuts! Whether you call them krapfen, kreppl, kräppel, fastnachtküchelchen or packzi, doughnuts in all their forms are eaten throughout Europe (and the world) at Mardi Gras in an attempt to rid the larder of eggs, dairy and butter/lard before Lent. Sounds like a jammy excuse to eat doughnuts if you as us!

 Whip up some Semla.

What?

These indulgent cream buns are eaten in their millions across Sweden at Mardi Gras. Approximately 6 million are eaten on Fettisdagen (Fat Tuesday). Putting that into context, the population of Sweden is around 10.4 million. That's a lot of buns!!

 Get savoury and bake a batch of Pão de Queijo. These little cheese puffs are found throughout Brazil where arguably the biggest Mardi Gras celebrations are held.

 In Cyprus, Mardi Gras/Carnival celebrations take place over 2 weeks. Week one is Meat Week (Kreatini), the last opportunity to eat meat before Easter. The second week is Cheese Week (Tyrini) when dairy products are consumed. Make a traditional meat or dairy dish from Cyprus.

 Use purple, green and yellow/gold ingredients to make a Mardi Gras themed dish or a whole 3-course meal if you're feeling like a challenge!

 Dip your own Moon Pies. Consisting of 2 round graham crackers with a marshmallow filling and covered in chocolate, these American treats are thrown from carnival floats in Alabama and have been since the 1960s.

 Chop, slice and dice to make a colourful Mardi Gras themed salad.



Games

**PAWPRINT
BADGES**

- ✍ Guess who! Can you guess who's hiding behind the carnival mask?
- ✍ Have a dip in the bead bran tub and see how many doubloons you can find!

What?

Beads and doubloons are traditional 'throws' during Mardi Gras celebrations in New Orleans. Beads, and these collectible coins, are thrown by float riders to the onlooking crowds as floats parade through the streets. Set up a bran tub filled with beads and bunches of chocolate coins. How many coins can you find in a fixed amount of time?

- ✍ Catch the chicken! In Eunice, Louisiana, during Courir du Mardi Gras the parade stops whilst participants try to catch chickens. Historically this would have been to cook them, but today the chicken-catching winners just get bragging rights and the chickens go back to their owners. Play a game of tag and 'catch the chicken'!
- ✍ In Ecuador, the young and old spray foam on each other throughout the celebrations and can be found throwing flour, water and coloured powders on one another too. Have a foam/flour fight of your own.
- ✍ Find the baby (again!)

What?

In King Cake (traditional in the USA at Mardi Gras) a figure of a baby is hidden in the cake and the person who finds it in their slice is responsible for bringing the cake the following year. Find the baby in your King Cake and then play hide and seek with the figure - the finder hides it for the others to find again and again.

- ✍ At Sartiglia in Sardinia, masked knights gallop towards a star and attempt to run it through with a spear. Try star jousting, running or skateboarding towards a hanging star whilst trying to stab it with a fork or skewer.
- ✍ Head off on a Mardi Gras treasure hunt and see how many items you can find items that are purple, green and gold.
- ✍ Mardi Gras/Fat Tuesday is traditionally about eating to excess before the fast of Lent. Test yourself with an eating competition or compete in a cook-off. Why not award a Star Baker or Master Chef badge for the winner?
- ✍ Test your throwing skills with a bead/coin toss.
- ✍ Name carnival/Mardi Gras items, traditions or foods beginning with each of the letters of 'CARNIVAL' or 'MARDI GRAS'.



Other

PAWPRINT
BADGES

-  Discover the origins of Mardi Gras and where today's traditions came from.
-  Mark on a map (or colour in on a printable copy) where Mardi Gras celebrations are held each year. Can you identify any similarities in the places or people?
-  Plan an imaginary trip to a Mardi Gras celebration in another country. What would you need to pack? What would you see there?
-  Enjoy some role play and dress up as though you're taking part in Mardi Gras/Carnival celebrations. Have you got clothes in purple, green or gold?
-  Watch a Mardi Gras parade in real life or in a documentary/film.
-  According to Britannica, the word 'carnival' can be traced back to medieval Latin: *carne(m) levare* or *carnelevarium*, which means to take away or remove meat. This links in with the idea that carnival precedes the Lenten fast. Give up meat or another food for Lent.
-  Visit a local carnival. This doesn't have to be for Mardi Gras, but it can give you a sense of what a Mardi Gras carnival might be like.
-  Help design or decorate a carnival float. What is your theme? Budget? What materials do you have available? Can you recycle or reuse any materials?
-  Host a Mardi Gras themed party and dress in purple, green and gold. Enjoy foods from Mardi Gras celebrations around the world.
-  Masked balls form a part of Mardi Gras celebrations across the world, often following on from parades. Attend a masked ball or host your own.
-  Listen to music from Mardi Gras celebrations around the world.
-  Host your own Battle of the Oranges, as is traditional in Ivrea, Italy. The battle takes place over 3 days before Shrove Tuesday and people throw oranges at each other! Find out the origins and play with friends/family. Want a more food friendly alternative? Play with foam/tennis balls instead.
-  Find out more about Mardi Gras traditions around the world and share your findings in a fun, interactive way.
-  Write a review of a Mardi Gras parade you've visited. Would you recommend it to others? If so, why? If not, why not? Did you see things that you'd read about before you went? Why not turn your review into a blog?

Adventure Complete?

Reward your young adventurers with their Mardi Gras Challenge badge to mark their achievements! Head to the website to bag yours, download certificates and discover even more adventures!



Create a Keepsake!

Experienced adventure? Made memories? Then it's time to create a keepsake! Our Pawprint Family camp blankets are the perfect place to sew your badges and look back on them for years to come.



Personalise it!

Got your camp blanket? Then it's time to make it yours! Our alphabet badges are big, bright and bold...the perfect addition to your camp blanket, hoodies, bags and more. What will you personalise first?



Even More Rewards!

We're all about added value here at Pawprint Family. In addition to the 1000s of free activity ideas and resources you'll find loyalty stickers in every order and you can claim Children's University learning hours too!



Subscribe to the **Tribe News** for all the latest adventures direct to your inbox!

Scan me!

