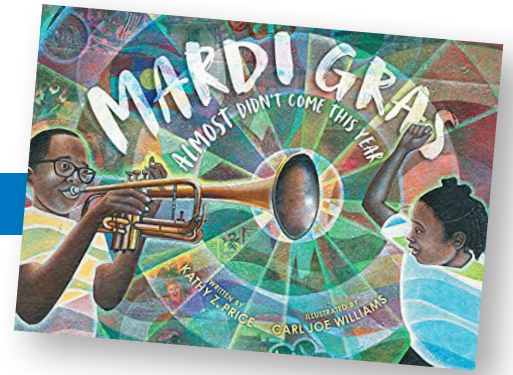


# Mardi Gras Almost Didn't Come This Year

## RIF EXTENSION ACTIVITIES FOR EDUCATORS

INTERDISCIPLINARY THEMES: ART, SCIENCE, SOCIAL JUSTICE, SOCIAL STUDIES, TECHNOLOGY



### SCIENCE

#### FIND THE HELPERS: LEVEES, SHELTERS, ETC.



Although the levees broke during Hurricane Katrina, levees can work. Divide the class into small groups and assign a type of natural phenomenon to each group. Then, have them research engineered solutions for survival for their assigned phenomenon. (For younger students, provide the relevant information.) Have groups present their findings.

### ART

#### MUSIC AND EMOTION

WWOZ 90.7 FM is the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Station, a community radio station currently operating out of the French Quarter in New Orleans. It is owned by the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival and Foundation. Tune in to <https://www.wwoz.org> and listen to jazz music with your class. Play it as background or listen with focus. Invite your students' reactions.



### ART, SOCIAL STUDIES

#### MARDI GRAS DESK FLOATS

The Author's Story section at the end of the book includes a note about "porch floats" that gained popularity in the era of COVID-19. Have your students look at pictures of Mardi Gras parade floats and porch floats. Then provide crafting materials and allow students to design and display desk floats in Mardi Gras style.



### SOCIAL JUSTICE, TECHNOLOGY

#### REBUILDING AFTER KATRINA

Rebuilding after a storm requires funding. Many people affected by Hurricane Katrina had insurance, grants, and FEMA funding. Still, there were inequities in the relief provided for rebuilding. Before focusing on New Orleans, familiarize students with interactive maps by searching online for one featuring your town or a nearby city or attraction. Then, visit a site that focuses on New Orleans, such as [https://www.nola.com/news/then-and-now-interactive-map-of-new-orleans-housing-developments/article\\_d2cfa990-a749-5905-a051-d3aa0d792780.html](https://www.nola.com/news/then-and-now-interactive-map-of-new-orleans-housing-developments/article_d2cfa990-a749-5905-a051-d3aa0d792780.html). Review the map with your students and discuss the information you find there.



### ART

#### MARDI GRAS MASKS

Make Mardi Gras-inspired masks out of paper plates. Cut paper plates in half or wide strips and cut out eye holes. Then, provide paint, markers, glitter, feathers, construction paper, scissors, glue and let your students get creative. Post images of Mardi Gras materials to inspire designs and color choices (e.g., purple, green, gold).

