

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Sounds and Celebrations of New Orleans

New Orleans is a city famous for its music and colorful festivals. People from all over travel to see the bright parades, hear joyful jazz, and eat tasty foods. Music is a big part of life there.

You might hear a brass band play in the morning or see people sing and dance in the street.

One special event is Mardi Gras. During this festival, people dress in bright colors and wear masks. Parades pass through town, and people throw beads and wave to friends. The spirit of music and togetherness fills the area.

Many musicians got their start in New Orleans. The city's music has traveled across the world, making it a true home for jazz. New Orleans is a place where music and celebration never fall silent.



Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### The Sounds and Celebrations of New Orleans

New Orleans is a city famous for its music and (10)  
colorful festivals. People from all over travel to (18)  
see the bright parades, hear joyful jazz, and eat (27)  
tasty foods. Music is a big part of life there. (37)  
You might hear a brass band play in the morning or (48)  
see people sing and dance in the street. (56)  
One special event is Mardi Gras. During this (64)  
festival, people dress in bright colors and wear (72)  
masks. Parades pass through town, and people throw (80)  
beads and wave to friends. The spirit of music and (90)  
togetherness fills the area. (94)  
Many musicians got their start in New Orleans. The (103)  
city's music has traveled across the world, (110)  
making it a true home for jazz. New Orleans is a (121)  
place where music and celebration never fall (128)  
silent. (129)

### Comprehension Questions:

#### Literal Question:

What is one festival celebrated in New Orleans?

#### Answer:

Mardi Gras

#### Student Answer:

\_\_\_\_\_ Correct \_\_\_\_\_ Incorrect

#### Inferential Question:

Why do you think music is important to people in New Orleans?

#### Answer:

It brings people together and helps them celebrate.

#### Student Answer:

\_\_\_\_\_ Correct \_\_\_\_\_ Incorrect

#### Vocabulary Question:

What does 'parade' mean in this passage?

#### Answer:

A group marching and celebrating in the street

#### Student Answer:

\_\_\_\_\_ Correct \_\_\_\_\_ Incorrect

### Notes:

### Scoring Guide

Text Level: F&P GRL R Grade Level: 4 Word Count: 129

Total Words Read: \_\_\_\_\_

Errors: \_\_\_\_\_

WCPM: (total words read — errors = WCPM) \_\_\_\_\_

WCPM: Below grade level At grade level Above grade level

Prosody: 1 2 3 4

Comprehension: \_\_\_\_\_ / 3 correct

## How to Administer the Fluency Passage Assessment

### Assess Oral Reading Fluency

- Give the student a copy of the passage. **Set a timer or stopwatch for 1 minute.**
- Ask the student to begin reading. As the student reads aloud, assess prosody and mark errors and self-corrections on the evaluation copy using the following guides.
- **Stop the student when one minute has passed.** Take note of the last word the student read.
- Score the passage on the evaluation copy according to the **Scoring Guide**. Use the following chart to compare grade level norms for words correctly read per minute.

Marking Conventions	
Attempted Word = Substitution Error	✓ = Accurate Word Reading
^ = Insertion Error	Attempted Word S/C = Self Correction
— = Omission Error	R = Repetition
— = Omission Error	R = Repetition
T = Intervention Error (telling student the word)	

Prosody Rubric	1	2	3	4
<b>Expression and Volume</b>	monotone or quiet	some expression	appropriate expression	varied, natural expression
<b>Phrasing</b>	word-by-word reading	some phrase groupings	generally smooth phrasing	natural, meaningful phrasing
<b>Smoothness</b>	frequent pauses, starts and stops	occasional breaks	mostly smooth reading	fluent and confident
<b>Pace</b>	too slow or too fast	uneven pace	generally appropriate pace	consistent, conversational pace

Grade Level Norms (WCPM) *							
Grade	Fall	Winter	Spring	Grade	Fall	Winter	Spring
<b>First</b>	0 - 10	10 - 50	30 - 90	<b>Fourth</b>	70 - 120	80 - 130	90 - 140
<b>Second</b>	30 - 80	50 - 100	70 - 130	<b>Fifth</b>	80 - 130	90 - 140	100 - 150
<b>Third</b>	50 - 110	70 - 120	80 - 140	<b>Sixth</b>	90 - 140	100 - 150	110 - 160

\* Rasinski Words Correct Per Minute Target Rates

## Fluency Builder: The Sounds and Celebrations of New Orleans

### Passage Details

Grade Level: 4

Reading Level: F&P GRL R

Word Count: 129

### High-Frequency Words

across, area, fall, friends, morning

### Suggestions for Use

Increase Exposure to High-Frequency Words

- Before reading, introduce the list of high-frequency words in the passage.
- Find the words in the passage. Highlight or underline the words.

Illustrate and Label Extension Activity

- Have students draw and label items mentioned in the passage.

Link to Writing or Discussion

- Encourage knowledge transfer and personal connection by asking:  
"Describe a celebration you would like to attend."  
"How do you think music makes people feel in a parade?"

Use for Repeated Readings

Day 1: Teacher reads aloud, then echo read

Day 2: Partner reading

Day 3: One-minute fluency timing and WCPM tracking

Day 4: Performance reading (with expression!)