

Art and
Culture

$18 - 6 + 2 = \square$

Mardi Gras

Subtraction



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Let's Celebrate!

I am in a great mood! I am packing for a trip with my family to New Orleans. We are going to Mardi Gras (MAHR-dee GRAH). My dad grew up in New Orleans. He thinks Mardi Gras is the best party in the world!

“Dad,” I say as we load the car with our bags. “Can you teach me more about Mardi Gras?”

“Sure!” he says. I sit back and get ready to learn all about this fun **festival**.



Mardi Gras parades feature bright, fun colors.

On Our Way

The car is loaded, and we are on our way! “First,” my dad starts, “You have to learn about the reason for the festival.” My dad tells me about a religious time of the year called Lent. It is when many Christians give up something.

My dad says that some people might give up ice cream or fast food. They promise not to eat those things for 40 days. So, before Lent starts, people celebrate by eating as much as they can.

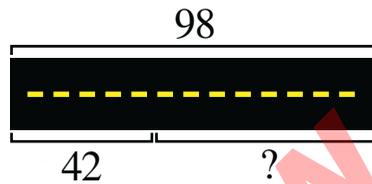
“That is how Mardi Gras got its name,” continues my dad. “*Mardi Gras* means ‘Fat Tuesday’ in French. People eat and play as much as they want before Lent begins.”

In Poland, fluffy pastries called *pączki* (PAHNCH-kee) are often eaten just before Lent begins.

LET'S EXPLORE MATH

I am so excited to get to New Orleans! My mom puts me in charge of keeping track of our location.

1. My mom tells me that we have to travel 98 kilometers. If we drive 42 kilometers before stopping for lunch, how many more kilometers do we still need to travel? Use the part-part-whole model to find the solution.



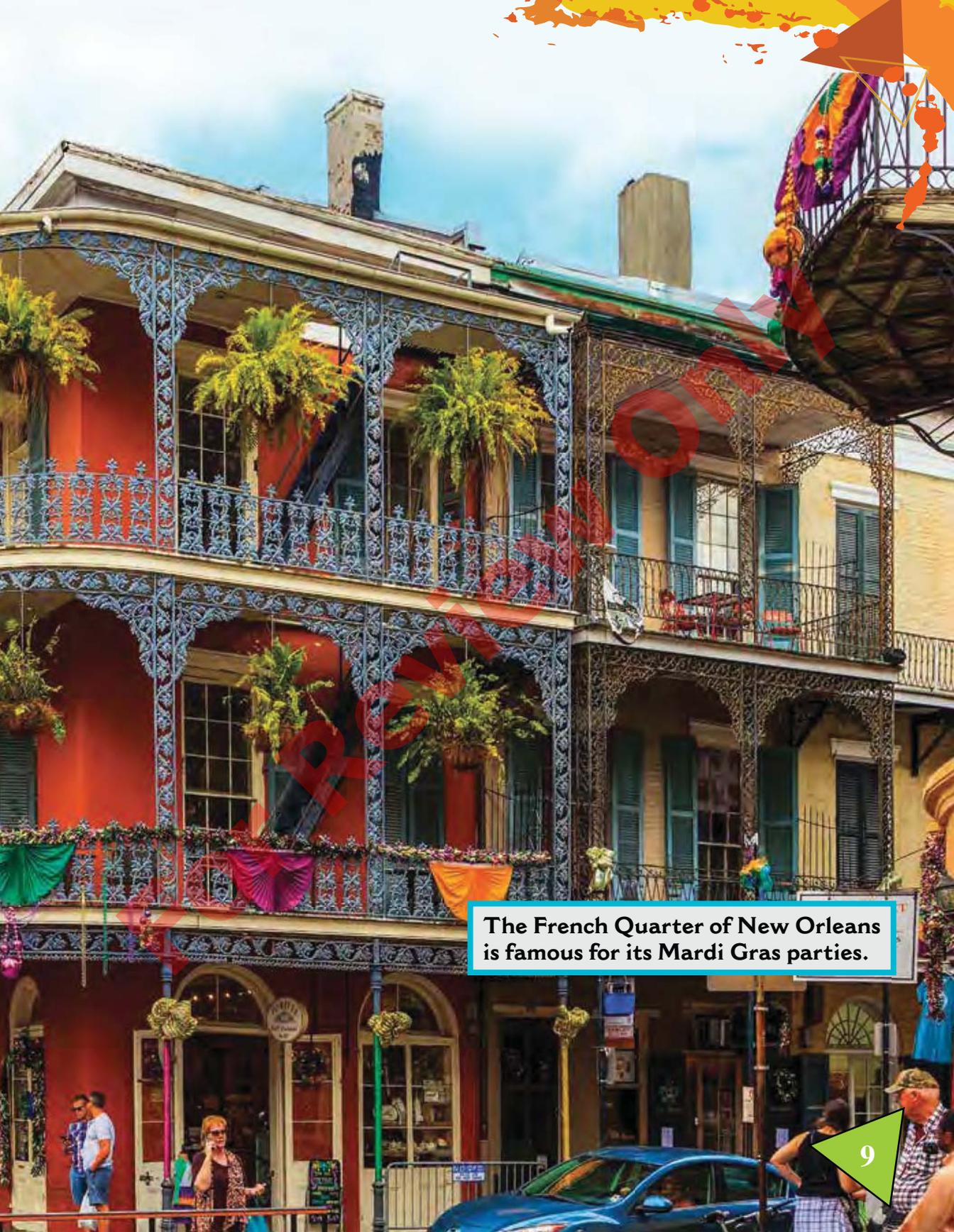
2. Is your answer reasonable? How do you know?





As we pull into New Orleans, I am amazed. The costumes are so bright! And everyone looks like they are having so much fun. I tell my mom that it looks like a carnival is in the streets.

“That is a good name for it,” she says. “In the United States, we have Mardi Gras. But people around the world have their own parties. Some people call it Carnival (kar-nee-VAWL). Mardi Gras starts about two months after Christmas. It ends the day before Lent starts.”



The French Quarter of New Orleans is famous for its Mardi Gras parties.

Math Talk

1. How do you know when information is missing in a subtraction situation?
2. How can you tell whether the solution to a subtraction problem is reasonable?
3. How can a number line help you solve a subtraction problem?
4. Describe a subtraction problem that can be solved in two steps. How is it similar to a one-step subtraction problem? How is it different?
5. Jordan has 80 Mardi Gras trinkets. Chris has 54 trinkets. To find out how many more trinkets Jordan has, which equation would you choose: $80 - 54 = \square$ or $54 + \square = 80$? Why?
6. Imagine you are going on a road trip with your family. Describe some situations when you might need to subtract.