



Cyber Purim Carnival

The highlight of many communities' Purim celebrations is a Purim carnival. The carnival is traditionally filled with Purim-themed games and prizes. However, sometimes communities are unable to get together in person to celebrate. This collection of activities offers suggestions for creating a Purim carnival in those times. Note that some of the activities are meant to be done with the whole group while others can be done in breakout rooms.

The Four Mitzvot of Purim

1. **מִקְרָא מְגִלָּה**
(*Mikra Megillah*, Reading the Megillah)
2. **מַתָּנוֹת לְאֶבְיוֹנִים**
(*Matanot l'Evyonim*, Giving gifts to the poor)
3. **מִשְׁלוּחַ מָנוֹת**
(*Mishloah Manot*, Giving food to friends)
4. **סְעוּדַת פּוּרִים**
(*Se'udat Purim*, Festive Purim Meal)

Scratch That Itch—Many Purim carnivals include games of skill in which participants try to throw a crown onto Queen Esther's head or hit Haman's head with a water balloon. For the virtual carnival, students code Purim-themed games in [Scratch](#) (or another platform), and everyone gets a chance to play all of the games. Some other possible games might include leading Mordechai on a horse parade, preparing Ahasuerus' feast, and Esther taking over Haman's property.

Fashion Show—Costumes help to bring out Purim's theme of hiddenness and also help to reveal what is inside the costumes' wearers. Can't get together for everyone to show off their costumes? Not a problem. Everyone can still dress up and show their costumes over Zoom or other meeting platform. Make sure that screen names and backgrounds fit the costumes!

Matanot l'Evyonim—One of the four *mitzvot* of Purim is *matanot l'evyonim* (gifts for those in need). Make sure to include links where people can make donations and fulfill this *mitzvah*. Check on whether your institution has a particular *tzedakah* target to link to.

Just Dance—Internet-caused time delays make freeze dance difficult, but that doesn't mean you can't have a dance party. Pick out your favorite Purim [tunes](#) (or just some fun age-appropriate ones) and start dancing. Make sure to leave your video on; it doesn't matter if anyone is watching.

Not Your Bubbie's Purim Treats—You can [debate](#) the merits of Hamantaschen all you want, but there is no debating the joy that comes from eating Haman's hat. Not everyone can make hamantaschen at home, but reshaping other treats works too. Create faux-hamantaschen by cutting your favorite treats into triangles.



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Noisemaker Spaces—Turn your home into a Purim makerspace. Find items from around your home and turn them into *ra'ashanim* (groggers/noisemakers). Use JTeach.org's [Noisemakerspace](#) activity to guide your creativity. Use the noisemakers to drown out Haman's name during Megillah reading.

This Is Jewpardy!—Answer: This contest is sure to have participants engaged in Purim fun as they try to demonstrate everything they remember about the holiday. Question: What is a Purim-themed quiz show. Use Kahoot! or another platform to set up a game that everyone can participate in. Offer prizes like holding up the Stop sign during Megillah reading.

Construction Zone—The palace of Shushan was a lavish residence for the king and queen. Use Legos, boxes from the around the house, and/or other items to build the palace. Want to make it truly virtual? Build the castle in Minecraft or another platform. Remember to include the courtyard; important conversations can happen there too.

Story Time—A creative and fun spiel is an important part of many Purim celebrations. Many spiels present the Purim story in humorous ways or with updated settings. Take advantage of virtual technology to present a multimedia Purim spiel complete with animation, music, and audience participation. Want to get add in the theme of “*Nahafoch Hu* (turning things upside down)”? Make a “Choose Your Own Adventure” spiel that changes depending on how the audience votes to continue. What would happen if Vashti agreed to dance for the king? What if Mordechai refused to allow Esther to enter the contest to become queen? What if Esther didn't have the courage to approach the king?

Keep on Moving—A good Purim carnival encourages participants to get moving. For the remote carnival, get moving around the house. Race to collect the most Purim-related objects you can find. [Pretend](#) you are in a video game and beat the boss.

The Joy of Blessing—Purim is a day of joy. Afterall, when Adar (Purim's month) happiness increases. Take the joy of Purim as an opportunity to offer *berachot* (blessings) to others. Use Google Keep Notes (or another sticky note app) as a place for participants to write *berachot* and see what others have written. Collect all of the *berachot* into a file and distribute to participants.