



# Cape Minstrels

## Written Notes for Learners:

### Origins of the Cape Minstrels/Cape Carnival

During Apartheid, the festival was called the 'Coon Carnival'. This festival has since been renamed as the term 'coon' is racist and derogatory.

The Tweede Nuwe Jaar carnival is a tradition which has its social roots in colonial slavery, racial prejudice and segregationist policies whilst highlighting the ways in which oppressed people resisted such notions.

The Dutch celebration first included South African slaves in 1674 when Governor Isbrand Broke, included slaves in 1st January celebrations. Farmers travelling from the interior into Cape Town to spend time with their relatives brought their slaves along for the celebrations. By the early 19th century New Year was the most joyous occasion of the year as it afforded the slaves an opportunity to engage in festivities. When slavery was abolished in 1834 and the apprenticeships ended in 1838, it was greeted with much celebration, street processions, music and songs. The celebration formed the foundation on which the subsequent New Year festival of Cape Town would develop.

Adapted from: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaapse\\_Klopse#:~:text=](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaapse_Klopse#:~:text=)