



# Crowds: Yes, I'm in! ... or ... Nope, I'm out!

By Jen Caruso



<https://media.istockphoto.com/vectors/multi-colored-vector-illustration-of-group-of-stylized-people-vector-id1153621019>

Are you a person that likes big crowds? Some people do and some people don't. Depending on your personality, a large crowd of people can be either EXHILARATING (exciting or thrilling) or overwhelming. From festivals to funerals to concerts, a wide variety of events can produce unexpectedly large crowds. And the locations of the events are as DIVERSE (assorted or varied) as the types of events. The top 10 list of the largest crowds ever recorded in human history includes events from INDIA, FRANCE, BRAZIL and the US. Let's explore a few!

Spell: EVENT HISTORY LOCATION Today  
 we are talking about big \_\_\_\_\_ CROWDS "Assorted" and  
 "varied" are synonyms for what word? DIVERSE What is a  
 synonym for exhilarating? EXCITING, THRILLING  
 Name an event listed in the lesson that may produce a large crowd. FESTIVAL, Name a country  
 FUNERAL, CONCERT listed in the lesson that has been the site of one of the largest events in history.  
 INDIA, FRANCE, BRAZIL, US What is another event that  
 may produce a large crowd? WEDDING, SPORTS EVENT, INAUGURATION,  
 PROTEST

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<https://images.news18.com/ibnlive/uploads/2019/01/Kumbh-2019-3.jpg>

The 2019 KUMBH MELA festival, held in India in the city of PRAYAGRAJ, is considered the largest gathering of humanity with an excess of 150 million attendees. The Kumbh Mela is a two-month-long massive HINDU (a follower of the dominant Indian religion Hinduism) PILGRIMAGE (a long journey made to a sacred place as an act of religious devotion). The Hindu pilgrims gather from across India and the globe to perform ritual bathing in the sacred Indian rivers to cleanse themselves of past sins (mistakes or wrongdoing). In addition to ritual bathing, the festival includes education, religious discourse by saints, mass feedings of monks by the poor and entertainment.

Spell: HUMANITY          PILGRIM          SACRED

In what country is the Kumbh Mela festival held? INDIA          A long journey made to a sacred place as an act of religious devotion is called a

\_\_\_\_\_ PILGRIMAGE          The Hindu pilgrims gather to perform ritual \_\_\_\_\_ in the sacred Indian rivers. BATHING

What is another word for sins? MISTAKES, WRONGDOING

Name one other event mentioned in the lesson that occurs at the festival besides ritual bathing. EDUCATION, RELIGIOUS DISCOURSE, MASS FEEDINGS, ENTERTAINMENT

How many million people attended the 2019 Kumbh Mela? 150

Name another major world religion. CHRISTIANITY, JUDAISM, BUDDHISM

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WORLD YOUTH DAY (WYD) is a youth festival organized by the CATHOLIC Church. It is designed to be a worldwide encounter with the Pope (head of the Catholic Church) that is celebrated approximately every 3 years in a different country. World Youth Day 1995 makes the top 10 largest crowd list with an attendance of 5 million people at the closing mass (central act of worship of the Catholic Church). The 1995 WYD was held in MANILA, PHILIPPINES, and it was the first time an ASIAN country hosted the event. Young pilgrims (devotees, believers) gathered from all over the world to celebrate God together, to learn other cultures and to speak as “brothers and sisters” among themselves.

Spell: YOUTH WORLDWIDE CATHOLIC  
What is the title for the head of the Catholic Church? POPE The \_\_\_\_\_ is the central act of worship of the Catholic Church. MASS 1995 was the first time a WYD was held on what continent? ASIA What is another word for pilgrim? DEVOTEE, BELIEVER Name one of the purposes listed in the lesson for why the young pilgrims gathered together. CELEBRATE GOD, LEARN OF OTHER CULTURES, SPEAK AS “BROTHERS AND SISTERS”.  
Name one of the other 6 continents. NORTH AMERICA, SOUTH AMERICA, EUROPE, AFRICA, AUSTRALIA, ANTARCTICA If WYD is celebrated every 3 years, what year was the next one after Manila?  $1995 + 3 = 1998$ . 1998

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[https://images-cdn.9gag.com/photo/aXE78Pd\\_700b.jpg](https://images-cdn.9gag.com/photo/aXE78Pd_700b.jpg) Rod Stewart, Brazil 1994, 4,200,000 people

When does a rock concert make the GUINNESS Book of World Records? When its attendance level puts it on the top 10 list of largest crowds ever! A free concert staged by rock superstar ROD STEWART at COPACABANA Beach, RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL, on New Year’s Eve 1994 was reported to attract an audience of 4.2 million people. Rod Stewart, a British singer-songwriter who has a distinctive raspy voice, is one of the best-selling musicians of all time selling over 100 million records worldwide. Still, there are sceptics (doubters or questioners) who say Rod Stewart is not the reason for the standout crowd. They believe the traditional fireworks display that happens every New Year’s Eve and draws millions of people *every year* was the true draw to the beach that night. I guess we will never know!

Spell: ATTENDANCE

SUPERSTAR

AUDIENCE

In what country was the free concert held? BRAZIL

Who is the superstar we are talking about? ROD STEWART

What type of display may have been the real reason for the crowd size?

FIREWORKS

What is

another word for sceptic? DOUBTER, QUESTIONER

Name one

phrase or term from the lesson that was used to describe Rod Stewart. ROCK

SUPERSTAR, BRITISH SINGER-SONG WRITER, DISTINCTIVE RASPY VOICE, BEST

SELLING MUSICIAN

If

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the concert was held on New Year's Eve 1994, what would be the date of the concert in standard date format? 12/31/94

Who would you most like to see perform on a beach in Brazil on Year's Eve?

VAKT: In the picture of the crowd at Copacabana Beach, use your finger to trace all the way along the coastline.

We won't be surprised to find an international multi-sport event on the top 10 list. The 1996 Summer OLYMPICS held in ATLANTA, GEORGIA recorded 8.3 million tickets sold! The Atlanta Olympics marked the centennial (hundredth anniversary) of the 1896 Summer Olympics in ATHENS, the inaugural (first, initial) edition of the modern Olympic Games. Atlanta staged one of the most extravagant Games in Olympic history. With a five-hour opening ceremony and the creation of a "country fair" atmosphere complete with booths, amusement park rides, and concerts, the 1996 Olympics cost nearly \$1.7 billion. A record 197 national Olympic committees (NOCs) sent more than 10,000 contestants. The number of events reached 271 in 26 sports

Spell: INTERNATIONAL SUMMER CEREMONY

What international multi-sport event are we talking about? OLYMPICS  
What is another name for a hundredth anniversary? CENTENNIAL  
In what city were the 1996 Summer Olympics held? ATLANTA

What is a synonym for inaugural? FIRST, INITIAL

Name one of the elements mentioned in the lesson that created the "country fair" atmosphere at the 1996 Olympics. BOOTHS, AMUSEMENT PARK RIDES, CONCERTS  
Name a sport

that would have appeared at the 1996 Summer Olympics. BASEBALL, GYMNASTICS, BOXING, FENCING, CYCLING

If you had attended the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia, where would we have found you hanging out?

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[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/c/c2/CN\\_Annadurai\\_1970\\_stamp\\_of\\_India.jpg/220px-CN\\_Annadurai\\_1970\\_stamp\\_of\\_India.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/c/c2/CN_Annadurai_1970_stamp_of_India.jpg/220px-CN_Annadurai_1970_stamp_of_India.jpg)

Would you be surprised to learn that the funeral of a much-loved political figure makes the list of top 10 largest crowds? C.N ANNADURAI, popularly called ANNA, which means “elder brother”, was a former Chief Minister of the South Indian state of TAMIL NADU. He is remembered for his reforms (improvements or betterments), his righteousness, and his determination to serve the TAMILIANS. After his death on FEBRUARY 3rd, 1969, millions made a beeline to MADRAS (the capitol city of the Indian state Tamil Nadu). Mourners perched on trees, lamp posts and the top of buildings along the flower-strewn procession. Though it was a tearful occasion, Madras claimed its first Guinness record for the ‘most attended funeral’. Fifteen million people congregating for a funeral was a testimony to the charisma (charm or presence) of the person they would miss.

Spell: POLITICAL REFORMS RIGHTEOUSNESS We are talking about the \_\_\_\_\_ of a much-loved politician. FUNERAL C.N ANNADURAI was called \_\_\_\_\_, which means “elder brother”. ANNA What was the name of the capitol city of Tamil Nadu (where the funeral was held)? MADRAS

What is a synonym for reforms? IMPROVEMENTS, BETTERMENTS Name a place the mourners perched to better see the flower-strewn procession. TREES, LAMP

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POSTS, TOP OF BUILDINGS  
CHARM, PRESENCE

What is a synonym for charisma?  
VAKT: Look at the Indian stamp of

C.N. Annadurai, and point to the year that he was born.



<https://www.climbbybike.com/images/Tour de France 2012.jpg>

On a more cheerful note, how many people do you suppose are willing to stand along the side of the road to watch bicyclists whiz by? Well in the 2012 TOUR DE FRANCE that number was 12 million, putting this sporting event on the list of top 10 largest crowds. The Tour de France is the world's most PRESTIGIOUS (respected, esteemed) and difficult bicycle race. Staged for 3 weeks each July, the Tour typically includes 20 teams of 9 riders each and covers some 3,600 km (2,235 miles), mainly in FRANCE, with occasional and brief visits to such countries as BELGIUM, ITALY, and GERMANY. Part of the difficulty cyclists face in the Tour is that it is divided among time-trial racing and racing stages covering both flat land and great stretches of mountainous inclines. It is a rare cyclist who can perform well at both time trials and climbing, and those who can usually wear the yellow

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jersey (*MAILLOT JAUNE* in French) of victory at the end of the race in PARIS, France.

Spell: FRANCE VICTORY PRESTIGIOUS  
 What kind of race are we talking about in the lesson? BICYCLE  
 The racing stage of the Tour de France covers both flat land and also great stretches of \_\_\_\_\_ inclines. MOUNTAINOUS What color jersey does the victor wear? YELLOW In which French city does the race end? PARIS Name a synonym for prestigious. RESPECTED, ESTEEMED Name one of the other countries that the Tour may pass through. BELGIUM, ITALY, GERMANY  
 If 20 teams of 9 riders race in the Tour, how many racers are there in all?  $20 \times 9 = 180$ . 180 VAKT: Let's pretend we are spectators along a mountain road in France, and here come the cyclists! Let's use our bodies to cheer them on!

Although they may not make the top 10 list, there are many other types of gatherings that draw large crowds. Some favorite holidays to gather in the US are Christmas, Thanksgiving, Easter, Independence Day, and New Year's Eve. We also like to gather for birthdays. Interesting fact, when the SULTAN (the king of a Muslim country) of BRUNEI (a small country in Asia) celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1996, he began the blow-out celebration with a military march, followed by a polo match with GREAT BRITAIN's PRINCE CHARLES. He then gathered together several thousand of his best friends for a dinner that included the finest champagne and caviar available, *and* he flew in MICHAEL JACKSON to sing a tune or two for his guests. Several thousand best friends?? Wow ... that's a party!

Spell: HOLIDAY CHRISTMAS EASTER  
 The king of a Muslim country is called a \_\_\_\_\_ SULTAN  
 Name one holiday from the lesson that is celebrated in the US. CHRISTMAS, THANKSGIVING, EASTER, INDEPENDENCE DAY, NEW YEAR'S EVE  
 What was one of the ways the Sultan and his guests celebrated his birthday. MILITARY MARCH, POLO MATCH, DINNER, MICHAEL JACKSON CONCERT  
 If you could celebrate your birthday anywhere in the world, where would you celebrate?



### Creative Writing:

1. What was the setting of the largest crowd you have ever been in? Describe your experience.
2. If you are a crowd seeker, what draws you to them? If you are a crowd avoider, what repels you?
3. What helps you to successfully navigate crowds?



Jen Caruso is currently a PIT in the S2C program, living in sunny Phoenix, AZ. Hmmmm ... Crowds ... Yay or Nay? Jen says she has enjoyed many a large crowd in her life including concerts, professional sporting events, Super Bowl parades, marathons, and 4th of July celebrations. These days, however, a secluded hike in the mountains of South Phoenix with her husband and Australian Shepherd top the list of favorite things to do!

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