

Webquest “Intangible Heritage of Latvia”

Introduction

Regarding the intangible heritage of Latvia, people celebrate numerous festivals and cherish lots of different traditions and rituals; some of the festivals are similar to those celebrated all over Europe like Christmas and Easter, however there are significant differences too, as the history of Latvia is rather complicated. Therefore some of the traditional festivals have unusual elements, borrowed from pagan rituals that date back to ancient history.

This task focuses on the ancient, pagan ways of celebrating Latvian festivals.

Festivals to be celebrated: Christmas, Easter, Līgo, Martin’s day, Harvest festival and Cemetery festival, which is probably one of the most unusual traditions, observed in Latvia.

Information about the festivals: their origin, ancient rituals, things to be done and prepared, special clothes and / or masks; foods and drinks, etc.

Aim

To learn more about different cultures, focusing on similarities and differences between celebrating festivals; observing ancient traditions and rituals in Latvia and your country.

To enrich the vocabulary, develop the language skills, reading, speaking and presentation skills in particular.

You can learn it by doing the following task:

Task

Work in small groups of 4 people. Each group must gather information about the chosen festival, prepare a presentation, make conclusions, give an explanation why it is worth visiting this particular festival in Latvia.

Process

Find the appropriate web sites (the teacher will be ready to assist) with the necessary information to complete the task.

Conclusion

You have done extensive research and learned much about the intangible cultural heritage of Latvia. You have experienced the advantages and disadvantages of working cooperatively, you had to make common decisions. The task made you think about the traditional ways of celebrating festivals and honouring ancient traditions of Latvia and your country. You made comparisons, thought of similarities and differences between various cultural aspects.

Web support

Easter:

<http://www.latvia.eu/lv/blog/great-days-easter>

<https://comeniusimaginefuture.wordpress.com/2013/04/02/easter-in-latvia/>

<http://smileline.lv/easter-the-latvian-way/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/lollynel/latvian-easter-traditions/?lp=true>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-8J-7ovV__k

<https://www.letthejourneybegin.eu/coloring-easter-eggs-latvian-style/>

Līgo the Midsummer night festival:

<http://www.latvia.travel/en/article/summer-solstice-celebrations>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-18614119>

<https://latvianwanderer.wordpress.com/2018/08/16/ligo-latvian-midsummer-festival/>

<https://eng.lsm.lv/article/culture/culture/bonfires-fern-blossoms-and-beer-latvia-prepares-for-summer-solstice-holiday.a88816/>

<https://theexpatrunner.com/2015/06/24/summer-solstice-latvias-all-night-party/>

Martin's Day in Latvia:

<https://www.baltictimes.com/news/articles/29911/>

<http://www.turaida-muzejs.lv/2018/11/the-ancient-latvian-folklore-celebration-martindiena-martins-day/>

<https://travel.ldz.lv/en/zinas-celotajiem/martidienas-svinsana-rga>

<http://femmeaufoyer2011.blogspot.com/2014/11/the-latvian-holiday-martini-and-its.html>

Harvest festival in Latvia:

<http://www.latvia.travel/en/news/here-comes-mikeldiena>

https://www.inyourpocket.com/riга/mikelis-day-harvest-festival_2484e

<http://www.latvia.travel/en/news/mikelis-day-fair>

<https://www.rct.lv/en/events/harvest-festival-to-be-celebrated-at-riга-central-market/>

<http://www.drawnground.co.uk/2011/10/harvest-festival-in-riга/>

Cemetery festival in Latvia:

<https://www.dw.com/en/cemetery-celebrations-in-latvia/av-17839592>

<https://eng.lsm.lv/article/culture/culture/photo-book-captures-latvias-cemetery-festivals.a196708/>

http://www.anothertravelguide.com/destinations/europe/latvia/riga/icons/icons/latvian_commemorative_cemetery_rituals_kapu_svetki/

Christmas:

<https://comeniusimaginefuture.wordpress.com/2012/12/25/christmas-tradition-in-latvia/>

<https://www.tripsavvy.com/latvia-christmas-traditions-1501730>

<https://www.letthejourneybegin.eu/winter-solstice-traditions-latvia/>

<http://friendinriga.blogspot.com/2010/12/latvian-christmas-traditions.html>

<http://m.baltictimes.com/article/jcms/id/126625/>

<https://eng.lsm.lv/article/society/society/why-do-latvians-wear-masks-on-christmas.a161179/>