

PROJECT WORK

An agrarian custom, structured after carols, going with the '*buhai*' (a special drum caused to boom by pulling on a tuft of hair attached to it) is a tradition kept for centuries in Romanian villages. The *buhai* custom is practiced on New Year's Eve, between dusk and midnight. The object itself is a churn with one of the ends covered by a stretched piece of sheepskin, from the center of which hangs a horsehair mane, which produces a solemn, strange and unmusical sound, reminiscent of a bull's roar. Sometimes the *buhai* is adorned with ram's horns wrapped in colorful paper, and tassels. The groups of well-wishers wear traditional costumes adorned with hats, whips and bells, being fondly received by the hosts, who reward them with apples, nuts, pretzels and knot-shaped breads.

Source: <https://www.romfilatelia.ro/en/new-year-customs/>

Step 1

Get together in the groups of 3-4 people. Discuss the tasks that you have to perform, their order, and the division of work.

Step 2

Here are some additional questions that may help you work on the content of your presentation:

- What is the main difference between going with the '*buhai*' and singing carols?
- What is this old type of instrument made of?
- How do people use it? What is its purpose?
- What part of Romania does this tradition originate from?
- How did the tradition change over the years?
- On what occasions is the custom performed today?

Step 3

Here are some sources to develop your presentation but you may search on your own as well:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas_in_Romania

<https://www.romania-insider.com/impressive-christmas-traditions-in-romania-the-bear-the-goat-the-star-and-drumming-bands/>

<https://www.whychristmas.com/cultures/romania.shtml>

<http://en.turism-transilvania.ro/traditions>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=15&v=EEXkE8cP4ew

Step 4

Prepare a 10-minute long presentation on the topic. Have visual materials to support your arguments (photos and/or even video of the dance). We especially encourage you to try Prezi if you haven't had a chance before as it is a lot of fun and the effects are amazing!

Step 5

Present your outcome as a group in front of other students. Discuss your ideas together.