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Winter Holydays from ROMANIA

Education and Culture
Lifelong learning programme
COMENIUS



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In Romania winter is the happiest moment of the year due to the bigest christian celebration- the Birth of |Jesus, God's Son.

However, romanian winter traditions gather ancient pre-chirstian traditional rituals from the dacians, kept and mixtted with relligios elements, resulting a multitude of customs that last until after celebrating the New Year.

Some winter traditions are particulary only to some regions, or have particular aspects. The customs related to winter traditions are also performed in our days, mainly in villages, but also in traditional shows in cities. People dress in popular costumes and have traditional objects iven particular costumes related to each ritual, dances or songs. Carrols are also performed without popular costumes by kids, when going to neighbors, relatives, institutions or at shows in school.

Other activities enjoyed for winter holydays are winter sports in the Charpatien Mountins, and for kids also skating, sleghing and making snowmans. Cities dress in lights and are organised amusment parks untill after the new year.

Following religeos bellives, winter celebrations are considered a symbol of love between us and there for people even in our days respect manny of winter traditions. On Christmas we make gifts to each other and also children receive gifts from Santa Claus under the tree. Godsons bring to godfathers gifts as a symbol of appreciation.





First winter celebration is **Saint Andrew, on 30 November**

This is a Christian celebration, very important because Saint Andrew is the protector of Romania, the holy apostle that broth here Christianity.

From pre-Christian times had also been kept some ancient rituals of god Andrew, personification of a wolf, worshiped by the Dacians. It said that on this day you must not sweep or throw anything, otherwise the wolves will eat your animals. Also that wolves at night can speak, but those who hear them may die, and that evil ghosts try to steal people's minds, land's crops and uses of animals. People use to hang garlic on windows. Girls where guarding carefully the garlic for next year the entire night so it would not be stolen by boys, while celebrating. In our days the rituals are only kept in some villages, but the religious holy day is still celebrated by those named Andrei and Andreea.







Saint Nicholas celebrated on 6 December.

Foreign legend says that he was a priest and cardinal on the territory of Turkey from our days and that he has a white horse, announcing the first snow, also that he helped poor people.

In Romanian tradition he stands next to God and guards the sun that tries to run away, he is a spying the devil and he rules waters and defends sailors. He is like a Santa Claus bringing money or presents to kids in their boots and for the disobedient an apple tree stick. If placed in water, it blossoms until Christmas, legend says that the saint helped the child to be forgiven by God.





Christmas (25 December) the most important religious celebration, representing the Birth of Jesus, the Son of God. Special services are performed in churches, where believers also bring bread and food to be blessed, so they can give it to poor people on the name of their dead relatives. Traditional carols are sang in church and from house to house. People celebrate with traditional meals, wine and cookies.









ROMANIAN WINTER TRADITIONS

Christmas carols have relligios themes related to the birth of Jesus, are performed by groups, and it says they bring the blessing of God upon the house. Hosts pay them with coils, apples and many.



ROMANIAN WINTER TRADITIONS

The most popular carol for Christmas, "The star rises above"

It reminds of the birth of Jesus and it uses a hand-made star from colored paper , having in center the icon of Vergin Mary with the baby Jesus.

It is used in our days in villages and in cities, but not necesarely with costumes and played only voccaly.





ROMANIAN WINTER TRADITIONS

Traditional carols are performed by adults or by children, dressed in popular costumes in villages from house to house, or in cities at traditional shows. As instruments are used bells and drums. In cities carols are also performed from house to house but without popular costumes by children.

The our days carols are also played solo and acopanied with quitar being very appreciated, as well as in musical arangments or in chorus.







The religios theatre“The Herods”or“ The tree kinds from sunrise”

reminds also the story of the birth of Jesus as well as in other countrys.

It is performed in ourdays in vilages with traditional costumes but also in cities by kids in carnaval costumes as a skech-play in school at Christmas.









Saint Basil (Vasile) and first day of the new year

In ancient Romanian traditions on this day where made rituals of health, prosperity for the new year.

In our days where kept only the custom of little plow, and the flowered branch. But on this way all people celebrate, with abundant meals, drinks and music.

In Oltenia kids are also taken to their old mom for the beam lifting custom. She is a bread coil with money on the child's head and she lifts hwomen chose by her parents to protect the child. She puts aim up in her arms tree times so he will grow healthy and lucky.







ROMANIAN WINTER TRADITIONS

The flowered branch custom "Sorcova" is specific for the early new year and enjoyed by children. They carry a budding tree twig or stick around which were woven colored paper flowers. Tradition says that like a magic wand it transmits force and youth, helth and abundance to ones tached with it.





“The goat” custom symbolizes the expected fertility of coming year. Reminding the holly birth, few shepherds are singing or teling comic texts.

The bear’s custom symbolizes the triumph of life over death and of spring over winter. Therefore the bears are beaten with big sticks and held in chains. They die and surprisingly revive and dance happily using sticks for old people.

The little horses custom has rhythmic moves in a circle or in line, as a symbol of energy and youth and dancers who sometimes also play at flute







“Boboteaza”(Baptizing) and Saint John, 6 and 7 January.

On this day waters are sanctified by throwing a cross that is broth back by the bravest men from the cold waters. Believers take holy water from church, which is considered to have beneficial powers.





In winter **traditional food** is pork meat along with wine and pickles.



Verry apreciated are also the traditional stuffed cabbage leaves with polenta and yogutr cream and meatballs soup.









For desert traditional is a pan-cake filled with cocoa and nuts or with raisins and jelly, alog with fresh milk.

Christmas Celebration in our kindergarten









Singing carols and telling poems to Santa Clause












Romanian winter traditions remind us
of our encesters, and our life principes
making us able to build valuable future.

Winter DICTIONARY -DICȚIONAR de iarnă



TRADIȚIE- TRADITION;
CRĂCIUN- CHRISTMAS;
COLINDE- CARROLS;
STEA- STAR;
DRAC- DEMON;
CAPRĂ- GOAT;
CAL- HORSE;
MURĂTURI- PICKLES;
CÂRNAȚI- SAUSAGES;
IARNĂ- WINTER;

OBICEI- CUSTOM
AN NOU- NEW YEAR
MASCĂ- MASK
ZĂPADĂ- SNOW
URS- BEAR
CERB- DEAR
PORC- PORK / PIG
MĂMĂLIGĂ- POTENTA
FRIPTURĂ- ROAST
COZONAC- PAN-CAKE

SARMALE- STUFFED CABAGE LEAVES
POM DE CRĂCIUN- CHRISTMAS TREE
SĂRBĂTORI FERICITE- HAPPY HOLLYDAYS

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Hope you enjoyed it !
Romanian project team.

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