



MACEDONIAN HOLIDAYS

UNIFICATION IN DIVERSITY



Средно оџштинско училиште
„Ѓорче Петров“ - Прилеп

KOLEDE

According to Macedonian tradition, the celebration of the Christmas holidays begins on January 5th. The first one is called Koleda.



During this holiday, nowadays and in the past in the villages and towns in all parts of Macedonia, larger or smaller groups of people gather around fires and sing songs. In this way the evil spirits are "expelled" from the earth.

The next day, on the great Christian holiday of Christmas Eve, little children go to their neighbors' homes, knock on doors, and sing carols.



According to tradition, the hosts treat them with cakes, nuts, candy, apples and small change.

SV. KIRIL I METODIJ

The Day of the All-Slavic educators and teachers or The Day of the Holy brothers Cyril and Methodius – is a national Macedonian holiday which is celebrated on May 24th.



The holiday is in honor of St. Cyril and St. Methodius, the founders of the first Slavic alphabet - Glagolitic. The day of the Macedonian Saints has been declared a national holiday.



Traditionally, in Ohrid, the cradle of Slavic literacy and culture, many festivities have been held. Numerous citizens, educators and cultural figures, students and representatives of public and political life from the municipality come to pay their respects by laying flowers at the monument. Also, there is a ceremony and scientific conferences at the University St. Cyril and Methodius in Skopje, the capital city of Macedonia. Starting from the 1960s, every year in Rome this holiday is traditionally celebrated with a visit of a state and church delegation from Macedonia which pays homage to the grave of the all-Slavic educator St. Cyril in the Church "St. Clement."



This is preceded by an official visit to the Vatican and the Pope. The head of the Macedonian Orthodox Church officiates with a prayer on the tomb of St. Cyril.

ILINDEN



Ilinden, or The Day of St. Ilija - a great Macedonian holiday, which is celebrated on August 2nd. Ilinden has a special significance for the history of the Macedonian people, because the Uprising against Ottoman rule started on Ilinden (August 2nd) in Krushevo – a small Macedonian town.

This Uprising, gave the Macedonians their first independent Republic in the history, which only lasted for 10 days. Ilinden as a national holiday is a non-working day in Macedonia.



The President and the Government of Macedonia are organizing various festivities at several locations throughout Macedonia. The most authentic event for Ilinden is the traditional festival „10 days of Krushevo Republic“.



During this festival the whole town is in the spirit of the year 1903, the people are wearing traditional costumes from that period, some of them are riding horses to the place of the battle, women are preparing traditional food, and there are concerts and many other interesting performances which nowadays attract tourists from all parts of the country.

VODICI

Vodici is called the day when, according to Christian tradition, St. John the Baptist baptized Jesus Christ in the Jordan River.



Today, traditionally, in Macedonia in almost all towns and villages, local priests throw the cross into some larger water - river, lake or pool, and people jump and swim into the water trying to catch the cross.

It is believed that on this day all the waters are healing and also the one who finds the cross will be happy and in good health through the next year.



This ritual symbolizes the entry of Christ into the Jordan River.

GALICHKA SVADBA



The weddings in this village were traditionally held on Petrovden (St. Peter's Day, 12th July). This tradition is kept alive, mostly thanks to the people from Galichnik.

Starting on Petrovden in 1963, an annual event began in the village of Galichnik where a bride and a groom are married according to traditional marriage rituals and practices..

Each year a couple that chooses to be a part of this well-known wedding is chosen.



During the ceremony, the mountain echoes the sounds of drums and the yelp of zurla (traditional instrument similar to oboe); people sing old folk songs and dance well known folk dances, among which, the most beautiful one is Teshkoto.



The beauty of the wedding is complemented by the traditional clothes of the groom, as well as the well-known Galichnik dress of the bride, made by tailors with filigree precision and accuracy. You should see in person this wedding that is accompanied with ancient customs. It is a wedding that you will not experience anywhere else.

These are some of the most popular Macedonian holidays and traditions. There are also some more, but we invite you to come to Macedonia and experience them by yourself.

We are very happy to be a part of this project. THANK YOU!

A decorative graphic in the bottom right corner of the slide, featuring the colors of the Macedonian flag (red and yellow) in a stylized, overlapping, geometric pattern that suggests the sun or a flag.