



ES Mūžizglītības programmas

Comenius daudzpusējais projekts „The treasure chest and ICT or ICT in reading and writing”

Līguma nr. 2013-1-BG1-COM06-00006 2

Similarities and differences between Latvian and Bulgarian ancient wedding traditions

Latvia and Bulgaria are different countries with different culture, nature, people and geographical disposition. But it doesn't matter in a count of wedding traditions because these two countries have many similar traditions with different variations.

Various rituals, which had symbolic and practical significance, evolve over the time. These rituals were mostly related to transition between age periods called as initiation, progeny and partnerships, including marriage. Marriage it's like one part of initiation in person's life.

Both cultures have Godfather and Godmother like very important part of weddings. They have a symbolical meaning - like guardians who need to protect young couple. Also Latvians and Bulgarians need to have special wedding clothes. Bulgarian clothes are decorated and embroidered with rich colours, Latvian – bride have beautiful and gorgeous white dress, groom – handsome suit (in white, grey, dark blue or black colour). Some centuries ago they went to their weddings in Latvian national costume. Every guest who is coming to weddings need to take with themselves some gift for new couple.

After the determination of the wedding date, the young Latvian couple drove to the church to sign up. It was usually done on Friday or Saturday, 2-3 weeks before the wedding. Bride drove to the church to get her with her godfather and godmother, groom drove together with his godfather. Each party drove from their homes with their cart.

After a week on Sunday in the church announced the young couple. Bulgarians celebrated the wedding day also on Sunday.

The Latvian wedding was organized by the groom's family, bride's family prepared dowry. Lot of flowers and a small bunch of flowers for each guest is prepared in Bulgarian wedding. One flower is typical for every settlement in Bulgaria, its geranium. Nowadays Latvian wedding had not very many old traditions used.

Sarmīte Gaidule