

Russian Winter Festivals



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Why do I choose this theme?

- *At our English lessons, we speak about different customs, traditions and holidays of English-speaking countries.*
- *The knowledge of Russian customs, traditions and holidays expands our knowledge about the native country and allows us to understand its history and culture.*
- *I'd like to know if British people like Russian Winter festivals or not.*
- *I've read a lot of materials about Russian Winter festivals in Trafalgar Square, London in the Internet.*

The aim of the project:

- *To get acquainted with the history and the ways of celebrating Russian Winter festivals in my country.*
- *To find out the popularity of Russian Winter festivals in Great Britain.*
- *To improve my English.*
- *To practice in English grammar.*

Tasks of the project:

- *To describe Russian Winter festivals.*
- *To make lists of traditional activities and foods.*
- *To find out the popularity of Russian Winter festivals among my classmates.*
- *To sum up about the role of customs, traditions and holidays in people's life and the culture.*

A vibrant winter scene featuring a dense forest of evergreen trees heavily laden with snow. The ground is covered in a thick layer of white snow, and a stream is visible in the foreground, its surface reflecting the bright light. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The overall atmosphere is crisp and serene.

Neath lucid skies of cleanest asure

The winter's rich and dazzling treasure,

Her gorgeous rugs of snow are spread.

The wood is etched against them darkly,

The firs, rime-starred, are green and sparkling,

In shiny mail the stream is clad...

Alexander Pushkin

December 31
New Year's Eve

January 1
New Year's Day

***Russian
Winter
Festivals***

January 7
Christmas

late February – early March
Shrovetide (Maslenitsa)

January 19
Epiphany

January 13
Old New Year's Eve

New Year's Day

New Year is considered the most popular holiday in almost all Russian families. The decoration of New Year Tree is one of the oldest traditions. One more tradition is to put gifts under the fir tree. The symbols of the holiday are Father Frost and the Snow Maiden. They come to wish children "Happy New Year!"



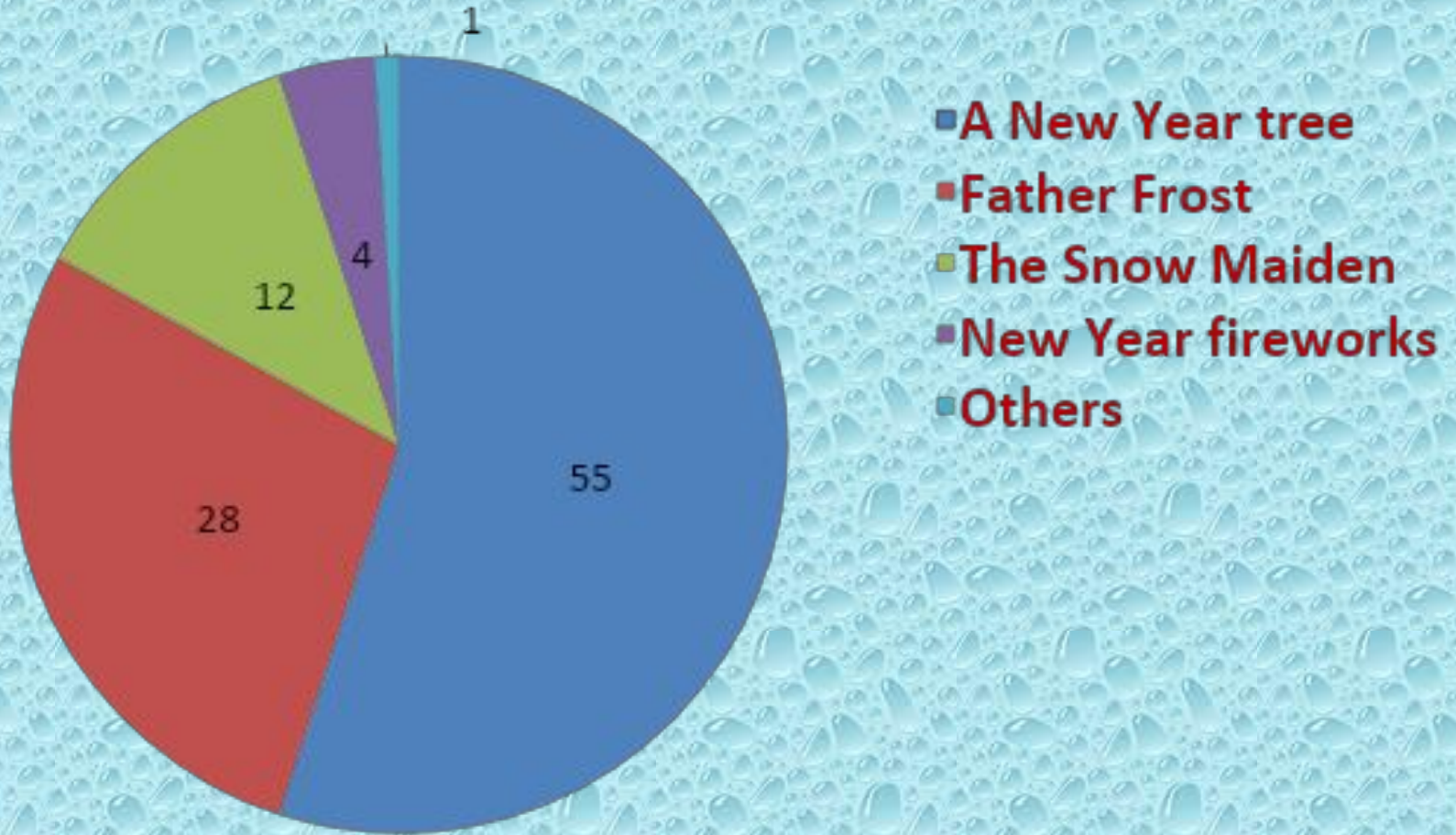
The Father Frost looks very much like Santa Claus. Traditionally they come in a sleigh drawn by three white horses.

New Year's Day

Russian people see the New Year in sitting round a festive table and enjoying their holiday dinner in a good company. They are addressing New Year's greetings and good wishes to one another. At twelve o'clock people can see the president on TV listens to his New Year congratulation. At midnight when the chimes beat 12 times, everybody makes one's most cherished wishes.



New Year's Symbols



The History of the New Year in Russia

- Formerly in Old Russia, the year began on March 1;
- Later the New Year was marked on September 1;
- In 1700, Peter the Great ordered to celebrate the New Year on January 1;
- In 1918, the new Gregorian calendar was introduced in Russia. And, on the night of January, the 14th the Russians mark the Old New Year.



Old New Year's Eve



The Old New Year or the Orthodox New Year is an informal traditional holiday, celebrated as the start of the New Year by the Julian calendar. In the 20th and 21st centuries, the Old New Year falls on January 14 in the Gregorian calendar. The traditional large meals of the holiday are vareniki and pelmeni. Many Russians are happy to have the opportunity to celebrate New Year twice.

Russian Christmas

Christmas is one of the most important holidays in Christianity. A lot of people consider that Jesus Christ was born on this day many years ago.

On Christmas Eve (January 6), there are several long services. The family will then return home for the traditional Christmas Eve "Holy Supper", which consists of 12 dishes, one to honor each of the Twelve Apostles.

In the evening some people in fancy costumes go from house to house and sing carols.





Christmas-tide

The days from Christmas to the Epiphany are called Christmas-tide. They are celebrated for 12 days. People wear fancy costumes, have carnivals, sing carols, ride a troika, build snow townlets. Young girls and women “tell fortunes”.



Epiphany

Christmas-tide ends with a colourful holiday called Christening or Epiphany. The church consecrates some local water. After the service believers then consecrate their own houses with sacred water. In addition, those who wish to accept Christianity put into the ice water to be formally christened.



Shrovetide (Maslenitsa)



Maslenitsa or Russian Shrovetide is the last Sunday before the seven weeks of Lent that proceeds Easter.

On the day people have a lot of fun. They ride a troika, climb a pole for a gift, traditionally a cockerel, burn the figure of the Winter. Eating pancakes on that day is a pagan tradition. It is connected with glorifying the sun: pancakes are oval as the sun.

Russian people say goodbye to winter and welcome spring.



My Maslenitsa in Moscow





Russian Winter Festival in London



London is home to different festivals. The Russian Winter Festival is a unique event in the Russian-British calendar showcased the diversity and richness of Russian culture. It has now become an important annual event for the London public. Each year, it has attracted record crowds who are interested in Russian culture.





Russian Winter Festival in London



On the 15th of January, 2005, Trafalgar Square became the site of London's first Russian Winter Festival. The festival shows music, theatre, entertainment, food and drink, as well as traditional festival activities. This high profile public event was organised by the Russian British Cultural Association (RBCA). It is a non-commercial organization aimed at developing cultural ties between Russia and the UK.





Maslenitsa Russian Festival in London



Maslenitsa is a free public and family-friendly festival of Russian culture to take place on the banks of the River Thames. The Maslenitsa Russian Festival London event comes to Trafalgar Square in February or March for a week, celebrating Russian culture in London.



Maslenitsa Russian Festival in London

Russian influence has made a significant impact on London and indeed the UK over the past few years, both economically and culturally. This is reflected in strong business and financial links, as well as in the city's ever increasing Russian community and the number of our tourists who visit Great Britain each year.

RUSSIAN FESTIVAL
MASLENITSA

Sunday 26 February 2012

Trafalgar Square
1.00pm - 7.00pm

Free public event including:
live bands, singers and dancers,
authentic Russian food,
souvenirs, children's activities
and street entertainment



*Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, said,
“London is jammed packed with cultures
from across the globe
and the week-long Maslenitsa festival
is the perfect opportunity for Londoners
to find out more
about the rich cultural diversity
of the Russian community in the capital.”*



**Thank you
for your attention**

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