Государственное бюджетное профессиональное образовательное учреждение

Краснодарского края «Курганинский аграрно-технологический техникум»

"CASTOMS AND TRADITIONS ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES"



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г. Курганинск, х.Красное Поле, 2016

Contentents:

- **♦**Groundhog Day
- **&**Halloween
- **♦**Independence Day
- **&**Christmas
- **♦**St.Patrick 's Day
- **♦**Thanksgiving Day
- **♦**Memorial Day
- **Columbus Day**
- **♦**New Year's Day
- **♦**St.Valentine's Day
- **♦**President's Day
- **&**Easter
- **♦**Martin Luther King Day









CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS









GROUNDHOG DAY

In America there is Groundhog Day, a traditional folk festival in the United States and Canada, celebrated annually on February 2nd. It is believed that on this day you need to watch the groundhog, crawls out of his hole. In his behavior, you can judge the proximity of spring. According to legend, if the day is overcast, groundhog does not see his shadow, and quietly leaves the hole - means that winter will soon end and spring will come early. If the day is sunny, the groundhog sees his shadow and frightened her, hides back into the hole - will be six more weeks of winter. In several cities and towns in the United States and Canada, this day festivals devoted to local meteorologists, marmots, which attract many tourists.



HALLOWEEN

According the Oxford to Dictionary of Folklore, Samhai was a holiday at the same time for all the peoples of the Britis Isles and strongly associated with death and supernatural. At the same time there is no evidence that if pagan times, the holiday had particular significance, any except for agricultural and seasonal.

The most famous festival in the United States and many other stranah- Halloween. The modern holiday tradition dating back to the ancient Celts of Ireland and cotland, whose history began in what is now Great Britain and Jorthern Ireland. Celebrated on October 31 on the eve of All Saints' Day. Halloween is traditionally celebrated in English-speaking countries, hough an official public holiday is not. Halloween is celebrated informally in some other countries, which have close ural ties with the United States Great Britain.



US INDEPENDENCE DAY

US Independence Day - the day of the signing of the US Declaration of Independence in 1776, which proclaims the independence of the United States from the Kingdom of Great Britain; It is celebrated in the United States of America 4th of July. Independence Day is considered the day of birth of the United States as a free and independent country. Most Americans simply call it a holiday for his date -"Fourth of July". The holiday is accompanied with fireworks, parades, barbecues, carnivals, fairs, picnics, concerts, baseball family reunions, games, traditional to the United States. Independence Day - a US national holiday.

CHRISTMAS

In the United States decided to decorate the house, not only inside but also outside. All the houses are shining illuminated, reminding the festively decorated Christmas tree. When covering the streets of cities, so that I can not believe, though per night windows. Before the doors of homes exposed luminous figures. Garlands decorated with trees and bushes. At Christmas the whole of America is resting, so stock up on food, gasoline and other necessities have been made beforehand.

Each owner of the house exposes the front door elegant snowmen, and the doors are hung colorful wreaths of fir.







ST. PATRICK'S DAY

St. Patrick's Day - a cultural and religious holiday, which is celebrated annually on 17 March, the day of the death of Ireland's patron saint Saint Patrick.

St. Patrick's Day was proclaimed Christian holiday at the beginning of the XVII century. This day symbolizes the acceptance of Christianity in Ireland, and Ireland is a feast of cultural heritage in general. Celebrations in the St. Patrick's Day typically include parades and festivals, ceili dance performance and wearing green clothes and shamrocks. Christians in this day and attend church services. On this day, soften restrictions associated with fasting, and allowed the use of alcohol.

St. Patrick's Day is a national holiday in Ireland, Northern Ireland, on the island of Montserrat in the Canadian province of Newfoundland and Labrador. In Canada this holiday lobbying firm Guinness, especially in the UK, Canada, USA, Argentina, Australia and New Zealand.





THANKSGIVING DAY

Thanksgiving Day - a public holiday in the United States and Canada, celebrated on the second Monday of October in Canada and on the fourth Thursday in the US in November.

After independence and the emergence of a single state first US President George. Washington has offered to celebrate Thanksgiving as a national holiday every year on November 26.





MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day - a national day of the United States of memory is celebrated annually on the last Monday of May. This day is dedicated to the memory of American soldiers killed in all the wars and armed conflicts in which the United States has ever participated.

The holiday originated after the American Civil War and was originally dedicated to soldiers-northerners, who died in this war. After the First World War on this day began to remember soldiers killed in other military conflicts. Since 1971, Memorial Day officially became a US national holiday. On this day, Americans visit the cemeteries and war memorials; US flag at half-mast until noon local time. Many Americans consider Memorial Day the actual start of the summer. Traditionally, it is accompanied by family events, picnics and sporting events.

Similarly, the US is the Veterans Day holiday, which is celebrated on 11 November. This day is dedicated to all war veterans, living and dead







COLUMBUS DAY

Columbus Day - a holiday in honor of the anniversary of the arrival of Columbus to America, which took place October 12, 1492

In Spain, October 12 is a festive day and is called "Hispanidad Day". While in most other countries of the Americas Columbus Day is celebrated on October 12 in the United States it is celebrated on the second Monday in October.

On this day, the US population is celebrating the anniversary of the opening of the country, visiting holiday church services and other events. Some cities are special services, parades and large ceremonies. Most celebrations are concentrated around the Italian-American community. Particularly noteworthy are the celebrations, held in New York and San Francisco.

Columbus Day weekend is a public in many parts of the US, but in some states, such as California, Nevada, Hawaii, the day is not marked. Above government buildings raise the state flag of the USA.









NEW YEAR'S DAY

The year begins with the fact that the British and Americans usually celebrate New Year's Day. It was New Year's Eve the British eat roasted turkey with potatoes, Brussels sprouts and oatcakes. However, this is not all the dishes that you can taste. Desserts also have a place: it puddings, and numerous fruit and sweets, as well as the most correct punch. The main gift for the New Year is considered card, which has recently been gaining popularity over the world. When traveling, do not forget to send a card to friends to wish all the best.



MOTHER'S DAY

The official holiday is Mother's Day (Mother's Day), which is celebrated on the first Sunday in Lent. That same day, a woman can relax and have breakfast in bed, a beloved husband and children will prepare a dinner party, and to petition the house.







April Fools' Day

April fun and provocatively begins with the fool's Day (April Fool's' Day). This day can be and should be fun, but remember that jokes should be good. It is not necessary to scare the death of loved ones, think that they are for the next year may be "revenge." In the UK, as well as in Russia, celebrated Holy

Russia, celebrated Holy
Thursday (Maundy
Thursday) and Good Friday
(Good Friday), after which
comes the Easter (Easter).



ST. GEORGE'S DAY

But April 23 is the day of the patron saint of England (St. George's Day). May begins with a May Day the holiday of spring, which was proclaimed in 1955 by President Eisenhower. June notable for Father's Day -Happy Father's Day, which is celebrated on the third Sunday of June. On this day, all dads can rest from your work and do what they like.





ST.VALENTINE'S DAY

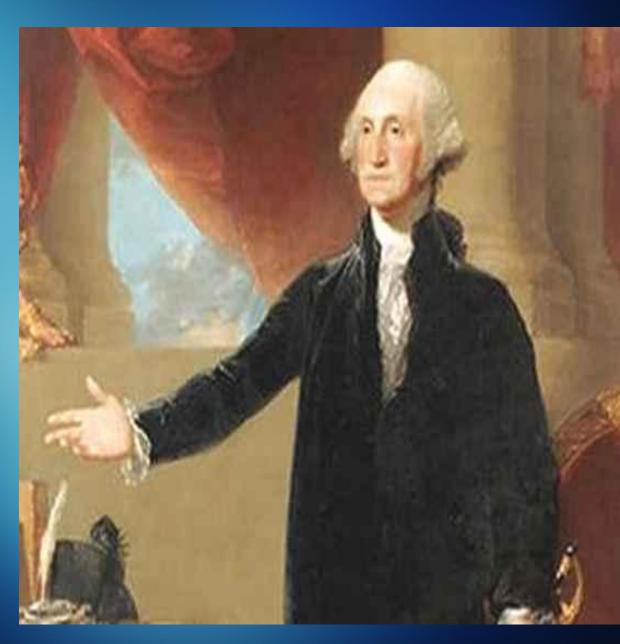
It's that time of the year when couples show their love for each other by sending cards, flowers and chocolates. But Valentine's Day is not only about public displays of affection: in recent years it has also become big business. In the UK alone, more than GBP20 million is spent on flowers, whilst in the United States over \$1 billion is forked out on chocolates.

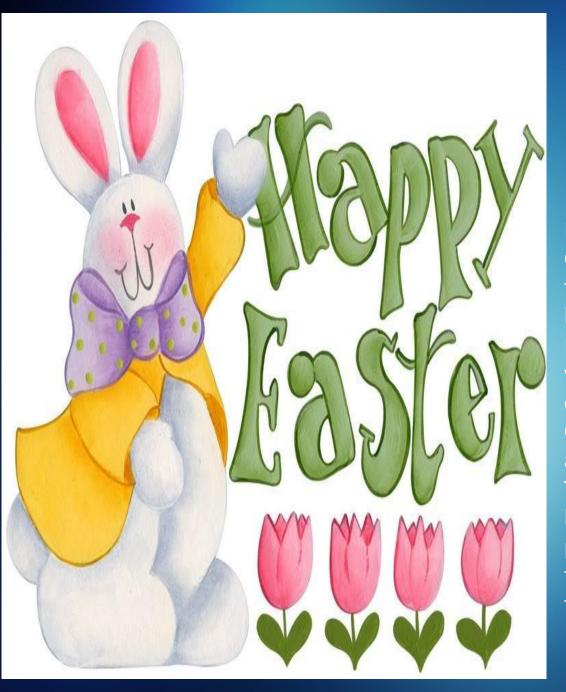


PRESIDENT'S DAY

Every third Monday of February, Americans celebrate President's Day. Historically, this feast was related only to George Washington, whose birthday was the occasion for revelry and festivals even before the president appeared in America. This man was a commander of American troops during the Revolution, and this has earned national recognition and trust.







• EASTER

Easter is one of the most important Christian holidays. The exact date of the holiday changes from year to year but it usually falls on April. Preparation for Easter starts seven weeks before the actual holiday. It's called the advent of Lent. Many Christian people don't eat meat and animal products during this period. The week before Easter is quite busy because people start thoroughly preparing for the holiday. The traditions of Easter celebration vary from country to country.

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

Martin Luther King, Jr., an American priest of African descent, is considered one of the great Americans, because tirelessly fought for the civil rights of all people through nonviolent means. Since 1968, when he was killed on his birthday, January 15 memorial prayers are held annually. In 1986 the festival was moved to the third Monday in January and has been declared national holiday.



