

Iwan Kupala Day

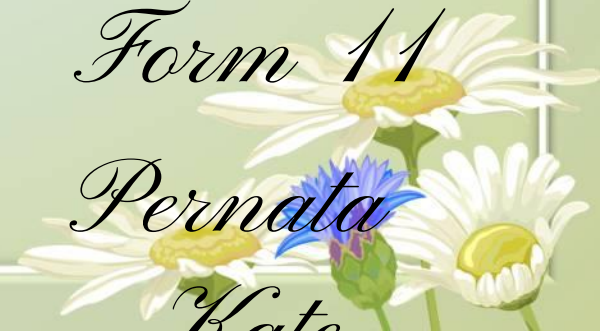


Project

Form 11

Pernata

Kate



Ivan Kupala Day is celebrated
in Ukraine, Belarus and Russia currently
on the night of 6/7 July in the Gregorian
or New Style calendar, which is 23/24
June in the Julian or Old Style calendar still
used by



On Kipala day, young people jump over the flames of bonfires in a ritual test of bravery and faith. The failure of a couple in love to complete the jump while holding hands signifies their destined separation.



Girls may float wreaths
of flowers (often lit with candles)
on rivers, and would attempt
to gain foresight into their
relationship fortunes from the flow patterns of the
flowers on the river. Men may attempt to capture the
wreaths, in the hope of capturing the interest of the
woman.



There is an ancient Kupala belief that the eve of Ivan Kupala is the only time of the year when ferns bloom. Prosperity, luck, discernment and power would befall on whoever finds a fern flower. It is to be noted, however, that biologists have held the persistent scientific opinion that ferns never and will never bloom.



The Ukrainian, Belarusian and Russian name of this holiday combines "Ivan" (John – the Baptist) and Kupala which is related to a word derived from the Slavic word for bathing, which is cognate. However, the tradition of Kupala predates Christianity.



Due to the popularity of the pagan celebration, with time it was simply accepted and reestablished as one of the native Christian traditions with



The holiday is still enthusiastically celebrated by the younger people of Eastern Europe. The night preceding the holiday (Ivorila night) is considered the night for "good humour" mischiefs. On Ivan Kupala day itself, children engage in water fights and perform pranks, mostly on someone.



In 2012, the most large-scale and colorful Kypala celebrations are expected on the island of Khortytsya, near Zaporozhye (June 23 - 24, 2012), and in Kiev: in the Pirogovo Museum of Folk Architecture and Rural Life and the Mamayiv village (July 6 - 7, 2012).



If you have not celebrated it, you haven't seen Ukraine, and you have not discovered

