

CLIL: Your lesson plan

Topic/Lesson Title:

Exploring Bulgarian Festivals and Traditions

Aims/Goals or SWBATs (Students will be able to.....)

- Understand and describe the significance of Bulgarian festivals such as the Rose Festival and Baba Marta Day.
- Practice listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills through activities related to Bulgarian traditions.
- Use specific vocabulary related to Bulgarian festivals and customs.

Age group:

16-18 years old

Level:

Intermediate (B1-B2)

Time (Lesson duration):

90 minutes (5+5+5+15+15+20+25)

Materials:

computer and projector; worksheet; notebooks; audio clips; videos; images; texts (interviews) authentic materials.

Lead-in *What's going to happen here to introduce your students to the topic?* **Time 5 min**

Stimulus Material: Present some images of the Rose Festival and provoke discussion about it. Help students connect their personal experiences to the new content.
(DOC. 1)

What can students predict or do to get started with the lesson? **Time 5 min**

Predictive Questions: Ask students to make predictions about the topic based on the stimulus material. This could involve discussing what they already know or think they will learn.
Group Discussions: Divide students into small groups to share their thoughts and predictions, fostering collaboration and critical thinking.

What vocabulary could teachers focus on? What needs to be pre-taught? **Time 5 min**

Pre-teaching Vocabulary: Identify Key Terms and select vocabulary that is crucial for understanding the upcoming lesson. Words should be relevant to the topic and potentially challenging for students. This activity will help reinforce understanding of key terms related to the Rose Festival in Karlovo.

Pre-teaching Strategies: Use methods like matching words with definitions to introduce these terms before diving into the main content.

(DOC. 2)

*What kinds of texts can students **listen** to or **read** to deepen their knowledge? Time 15 min*

Topic: Cultural Events - Rose Festival in Karlovo (May 31)

Activity: Listening to Audio Clips

Materials: Audio clips of interviews with local farmers discussing the Rose Festival, including descriptions of activities, significance, and personal experiences.

Task:

Listening Comprehension: (DOC.3)

- Play the audio clips for the students. Ensure that they listen attentively to capture key details.
- Provide students with a set of comprehension questions to answer while listening.

Extension Activity:

- As a follow-up, students can write a short reflection on what they learned from the audio clips and how it relates to their own cultural experiences with festivals.

*What kinds of questions can students answer from the **listening** or **reading**? How many should they answer? What should they notice or analyze? Time 15 min*

- What surprised you about the Rose Festival?
- How do you think this festival impacts the local community?
- Can you think of any similar festivals in your own culture?

*What will students **read** and/or **speak** about in pairs or in small groups? Time 20 min*

Topic: Traditional Customs - Baba Marta Day (March 1)

Activity: Reading/Speaking

Materials: A short text or article about Baba Marta Day that includes:

- An overview of the holiday and its significance.
- A description of Martenitsi (the red and white yarn bracelets) and their symbolism.
- Information on how the day is celebrated in Bulgaria.

Task:

1. Reading Comprehension:

- Students read the provided text (DOC. 4) individually or in pairs.
- After reading, they will answer comprehension questions (DOC. 5).

2. Discussion Prompts:

- After answering the comprehension questions, students will engage in a group discussion using the following prompts:

How is Baba Marta Day celebrated in Bulgaria, and what are some common practices?

What are some similarities or differences between Baba Marta Day and spring celebrations in your own culture?

Can you share any personal experiences or traditions your family has during springtime?

Other **optional** Speaking Activities:

Sharing Stories

- Each student will take turns sharing one interesting fact or story they learned about Baba Marta Day with the class.

- Encourage students to ask follow-up questions to their peers to foster a deeper understanding of different cultural practices.

Role Play

- As an extension, students can engage in a role-play activity where they simulate a conversation between two friends discussing their spring traditions. This can help them practice using relevant vocabulary and expressions.

*What will students **write** about during class time or for homework? Time 25 min*

Topic: Writing Letters about Baba Marta Day

Activity: Writing Letter

Objective: Students will write letters to a friend explaining the custom of Martenitsi and the significance of Baba Marta Day.

Task:

1. Introduction to the Task:

- Explain to students that they will be writing a letter to a friend who is unfamiliar with Bulgarian traditions, particularly focusing on Baba Marta Day. Provide a guideline. (DOC. 6)

2. Guidelines for the Letter:

- Structure:

- Start with a friendly greeting.

- Introduce Baba Marta Day and its significance.

- Describe what Martenitsi are and their symbolism of health and happiness.

- Explain how the day is celebrated, including any personal experiences.

- Conclude with well wishes for spring and an invitation for their friend to learn more about the tradition.

3. Writing Prompts:

- Encourage students to include:

- A brief history of Baba Marta Day (e.g., its origins and connection to spring).

- Personal reflections on how they celebrate this day.

- Descriptions of making or gifting Martenitsi.

*What are other **follow up** (or homework) activities that can be included?*

Peer Review:

- After completing their letters, students can exchange letters with a partner for feedback. They should check only whether the letter effectively communicates the significance of the tradition.

Final Submission:

- Students will make any necessary revisions based on peer feedback and submit their final letters (online classroom).

Other **optional follow-up** activities:

1. Research another Bulgarian festival or tradition and prepare a short presentation for the class.
 2. Create your own Martenitsa using red and white yarn and explain its meaning in a short paragraph.
 3. Create a small poster or digital presentation about Baba Marta Day, incorporating their letters and additional research on the holiday's customs and significance.
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Language Activities

Games with Bulgarian Vocabulary

Activity 1: Bingo

- Create Bingo cards with Bulgarian words related to festivals and traditions (e.g., "rose," "bracelet," "spring," "festival").
- Call out definitions or descriptions for students to match with their cards.

-Activity 2: Pictionary

- Students draw cultural items or symbols (e.g., roses, Martenitsi) while others guess the word in English or Bulgarian.

Other thoughts about this lesson plan:

This plan integrates listening, reading, speaking, writing, and interactive activities to engage students while exploring Bulgarian culture.

Some documents to be used in the lesson.

DOC. 1



DOC. 2

1. Match each word in the left column with its correct definition in the right column.
2. Write down the word of the definition in the blank.

WORD	DEFINITION
Harvest	A public procession, often celebrating an event with music, floats, and costumes. _____
Ritual	Traditional beliefs, customs, and stories of a community passed through generations.
Parade	The title given to a young woman representing the festival, often crowned during the event. _____
Folklore	A ceremonial act performed in a customary way, often with symbolic meaning. _____
Rose Queen	The process of gathering mature crops from the fields.

DOC. 3

The **Rose Festival in Karlovo**, celebrated on May 31, is a vibrant event that honors the beautiful Bulgarian rose, particularly the *Rosa Damascena*, known for its fragrant oil. The festival includes traditional rose-picking rituals, a parade featuring the Rose Queen, folk dances, and various local products made from roses, such as rose liqueur and jam.

- What activities are featured during the Rose Festival?
- Why do farmers participate in the festival?
- What do the participants say about the significance of roses in Bulgarian culture?

OR This text can be used according to students' age and/or proficiency in EFL.

Month of May - Rose Festival in the Rose Valley of Karlovo - an Unforgettable Experience

Each year, on the last Saturday of May, Karlovo becomes the capital of the most beautiful and fragrant flower - the rose, one of the symbols of Bulgaria. For centuries, the Rose Valley of Karlovo has been a centre for the cultivation of the oil-bearing rose and the production of rose oil and rose water. For the inhabitants of the valley, besides a poetic symbol, the rose is a livelihood whose traditions are rooted in the centuries. During the Revival and the first decades after the Liberation, rose production became one of the main livelihoods of the people here, and the Karlovo region became the leading producer and exporter of rose oil. The glory of Karlovo as the centre of rose production and the processing of rose flowers originates even before the Liberation. The rich history, the rose gardens, the beautiful nature and architecture, the local rose industry are extremely attractive and very interesting for Bulgarians and visitors from all over the world. The Rose Festival is a celebration of the regions livelihood, blooming spring, beauty and labour. It is popular with the numerous and diverse events and rituals. The festival is accompanied by folklore concerts and performances, concerts of rock bands, procession of the Queen of Roses, rituals: rose picking, demonstrations of traditional technology for rose oil extraction and old crafts, etc.

DOC. 4

Baba Marta Day is a special holiday in Bulgaria, celebrated on March 1st to welcome the arrival of spring. According to Bulgarian folklore, Baba Marta, or "Grandma March," is a mythical figure who controls the weather. When she is happy, the sun shines, but if she is upset, winter stays longer. This day is all about saying goodbye to winter and hoping for warmer, brighter days.

What Are Martenitsi? On Baba Marta Day, people exchange *Martenitsi*—red and white yarn bracelets or decorations. These are symbols of health, happiness, and protection from bad luck. The red stands for life and strength, while the white represents purity and new beginnings. People wear Martenitsi until they see signs of spring, like a stork or blooming flowers. Then, they tie them to a tree for good luck.

How Do Bulgarians Celebrate? On this day, people greet each other with "Chestita Baba Marta," meaning "Happy Baba Marta." They wear Martenitsi on their wrists or clothes and sometimes even decorate their homes or animals with them. These traditions are meant to bring good fortune and encourage spring to come quickly. Baba Marta Day is a joyful way for Bulgarians to welcome the new season!

DOC. 5

Answer the following questions:

What does it celebrate? (The end of winter and the start of spring.)

What do Martenitsi symbolize? (Health, happiness, and protection.)

How do people celebrate? (By wearing Martenitsi, exchanging them with loved ones, and tying them to trees when spring arrives.)

DOC. 6

Guidelines for the Letter:

- Structure:
 - Start with a friendly greeting.
 - Introduce Baba Marta Day and its significance.
 - Describe what Martenitsi are and their symbolism of health and happiness.
 - Explain how the day is celebrated, including any personal experiences.
 - Conclude with well wishes for spring and an invitation for their friend to learn more about the tradition.