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| MUNICIPAL BUDGETARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONODINTSOVO SECONDARY EDUCATIONALSCHOOL №8 (143000, Moscow region, Odintsovo, Vokzalnaya st., 35А) tel. 591-07-79COMPETITIVE WORKNomination "World without borders" (English) «Decorating New Year and Christmas trees in different countries of the world» (project)  Completed:  Matasova Sofya Kirillovna, form 4Moscow region, Odintsovo, st. Mozhaisk highway, 44, apt. 25 Research supervisor:Olga Reznova English teacherOdintsovo Secondary School №8Odintsovo2021 |

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**Introduction**

 Learning foreign languages is a vital necessity. Knowledge of English is important not only as a way of communication, but also as a way of learning different cultures: it is quite difficult to communicate and understand each other if you look at the world only from the point of view of your own culture. The study of the culture and customs of another country is primarily the development of the cultural level of the person himself. Holidays and traditions are an important part of the life of any nation. After all, this is the history and heritage of the country. Communicating with my parents, grandparents, classmates and friends, I came to the conclusion that few people know about how New Year and Christmas trees are decorated in different countries of the world. In my work, I tried to make a virtual journey through the Christmas and New Year traditions of the peoples of the world and collect ideas how to decorate a house for the New Year in an unusual way. In order to solve this problem, I studied a certain amount of literature on this topic, using mainly Internet resources.

Relevance.

Often, being abroad, people do not know the traditions and customs of the country in which they are staying. This can lead to problems in communicating with foreigners. Moreover, each person should know about the traditions and customs of his people, so I believe that this work is of interest to a wide range of people.

The aim of the project: creating an animated presentation to show how New Year and Christmas trees are decorated around the world.

The object of the research: New Year and Christmas trees.

The subject of the research: decorating of New Year and Christmas trees in different countries of the world.

The tasks of the project are:

• to collect information about decorating New Year and Christmas trees in different countries of the world,

• to find images of decorations and attributes of New Year and Christmas trees,

• to create an animated presentation.

Research methods:

• Study of literature, various Internet sources;

• Generalization of the material and analysis.

**The tradition of decorating a Christmas tree**

The tradition of decorating a Christmas tree came from medieval Germany. Then, however, the tree was not put in the house, but was chosen in the forest and hung on it rags, ropes and simple objects. This tradition came to Russia in the XIX century during the period of fascination with German culture and literature. The first public Christmas tree was installed in 1852 in the building of the St. Petersburg Ekateringofsky railway station. One side of it was against the wall, and the other was decorated with scraps of colored paper. Soon, public Christmas trees were installed in the buildings of clubs, theaters and other places. Today, in every country in the world, you can buy a Christmas tree and toys and dress up the tree as you like. But at the same time, the peoples of different countries retain their interesting traditions, which we will tell you about.

I conducted a survey among people aged 10 to 60. I asked the respondents whether they know how to decorate New Year and Christmas trees in different countries of the world. The majority answered negatively (82 %). From this we can conclude that most people do not know the answer to the question asked.

**Decorating of New Year and Christmas trees in different countries of the world**

**Russia**

Usually the Christmas tree is brought from the forest and placed in the main room of the house. It is decorated with colorful garlands, balls and other toys. Also, a Christmas tree is placed in the main squares of cities. The top of the Russian Christmas tree is decorated with a red star. At the time of Peter I, houses were decorated with spruce, juniper or pine branches. The branches were supposed to be decorated not with toys, but with fruits, nuts, vegetables and even eggs.

**Europe**

**Great Britain**

The Christmas tree is placed before Christmas and is decorated with colorful garlands, balls and handmade toys. The top of this tree is decorated with an angel. Spruce is a symbol of life and fertility.

**Scandinavia**

 Scandinavians, in particular, the Swedes prefer wooden figures of animals to standard Christmas balls. Also, the Swedes, ardent patriots, hang small flags of their favorite country on the Christmas tree. Danes make paper hearts from white and red paper and fill them with nuts or sweets. Finns historically used straw as a symbol of the harvest and decorated not only the Christmas tree, but also the house with it, and now they often dress up the Christmas tree with geometric toys that visually resemble the fruits of the autumn harvest.

**Iceland**

 In Iceland, it is not Santa Claus who comes to children, but 13 Christmas gnomes. They leave gifts in the shoe, which the children put on the windowsill. It is the figures of these gnomes that Icelanders most often decorate the Christmas tree.

**Germany**

Germany, as you know, is divided into many regions, and each city has its own completely different customs-from what drinks residents drink to how they decorate the Christmas tree. But the ubiquitous tradition, known throughout Germany – is to decorate the Christmas tree with real candles. This not very safe "design technique" dates back to the XVI century, when Martin Luther was the first to decorate a Christmas tree with candles in order to recreate the lights of the Christmas sky.

**France**

 In Paris (and in general in all of France), it is customary to hang on the Christmas tree... red apples. As a symbol of the harvest, they bring prosperity to the house, and also remind of the biblical symbols - Adam, Eve and the Garden of Eden. Hundreds of years ago, real apples were used, but one day, in a year of poor harvest, they were replaced by glass replicas. Since then, it has been the case.

**Greece**

In Greece, along with the Christmas tree, a pomegranate tree is decorated. And pomegranate fruits and other fruits and nuts decorate the table. In ancient times, in island Greece, boats and ships were decorated instead of Christmas trees, and this tradition, by the way, has survived to this day.

**Asia**

**China**

Instead of Christmas trees in China, they dress up orange and tangerine trees – trees of the Sun. And decorations are very popular from paper, candied fruits and flowers, which imply well-being and love. Peonies symbolize wealth, and daffodils-harmony in the family. Also in China, it is customary to hang handwritten wishes on a festive tree.

**Japan**

 In Japan, due to the shortage of Christmas trees, dwarf pines and bonzai are decorated. Japanese people are Shinto, and symbolism is important to them: they believe in numbers, signs, and symbols. So for them, the pine symbolizes longevity and the bamboo ─ resistance. It is from these plants that the Japanese set up near the house kadomatsu-a New Year's composition using berries and algae, but if they dress up a Christmas tree or a dwarf pine, then decorate the tree with origami bird figures, bells, fans and lanterns.

**Australia and New Zealand**

 In Australia and New Zealand, charitable organizations and church communities are engaged in growing Christmas trees specifically for New Year's holidays. For them, this activity is one of the ways to raise funds for their needs. Since the New Year falls in Australia in the summer, the Christmas tree is decorated with summer symbols-shells, starfish and flowers and, of course, figures of local symbols-koalas and kangaroos.

**South and North America**

**Brazil**

In Brazil, where the New Year also falls in the summer, the Christmas tree is decorated with pieces of cotton wool, thereby imitating snow. In Rio de Janeiro put one of the most unusual Christmas trees in the world, included even in the Guinness Book of Records – floating. Its height exceeds 85 meters, its weight is 530 kilograms, and it is installed on Lake Lagoa.

**USA**

In the United States, almost every home has a Christmas tree. In addition to the standard red and green decorations, Americans often hang lollipops in the shape of the letter J on the Christmas tree. According to history, the first pastry chef who made this candy wanted to perpetuate the letter with which the name Jesus begins.

**Mexico**

Mexicans and many Caribbean island countries don't dress up a tree, but a palm tree. Decorations in the form of Christian symbols are not hung, but put around this palm tree - Christmas tree.

A virtual journey through the Christmas and New Year traditions of the peoples of the world helps to collect ideas how to decorate the house for the New Year in a non-banal way.

**Practical part**

**Сreating an animated presentation to show how New Year and Christmas trees are decorated around the world.**

To implement the practical part, I decided to make an animated presentation to show how New Year and Christmas trees are decorated in different countries of the world.

Material and technical support of the project: to create an animated presentation, Microsoft PowerPoint software, a computer and information about decorating New Year's trees around the world, contained in the practical part of the work, were required.

An animated presentation is convenient and safe to use.

The project product does not have a cost estimate, as it was made by me independently.

The product is environmentally friendly.

**Step-by-step description of creating an animated presentation.**

To create an animated presentation, I used the PowerPoint program. To begin with, I added slides to my presentation. Then I found a picture of the Christmas tree, inserted it into all the slides. Then, using the information I found about how to decorate Christmas trees in different countries of the world, I found the right pictures. Using the "animation" function, I decorated my Christmas trees. On each picture, I signed the name of the country. At the end, I added music.

**The practical significance of my work lies in the fact that the data of my project and the animated presentation can be used both in the World Art lessons and in the English lessons.**

**Conclusion**

In every country in the world, people celebrate the New Year and Christmas. Today, you can buy a Christmas tree and toys and dress it up as you like, but at the same time, different countries of the world retain their interesting traditions. While researching this topic, I came to the conclusion that in many countries of the world, Christmas trees are decorated with garlands, balls, figurines of animals, fruits of the harvest, fruits, sweets, candies, country flags, gnomes, candles, flowers, shells, starfish. In some countries, it is not Christmas trees that are decorated, but other trees - pomegranate, orange, tangerine, dwarf pines, bonsai, palms.

Often, being abroad, people do not know the traditions and customs of the country in which they are staying. This can lead to problems in communicating with foreigners. Moreover, each person should know about the traditions and customs of his people, so I believe that this work is of interest to a wide range of people. Having made a virtual journey through the Christmas and New Year traditions of the peoples of the world, you can get ideas for yourself on how to decorate the Christmas tree in an unusual way for the New Year.

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**Appendix**

**Sociological survey**

«Do you know how to decorate New Year and Christmas trees in different countries of the world?»

Interviewed 100 people aged 10 to 60 years

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| Positively | Negatively |
| 18 people | 82 people |
| 18 % | 82% |