



DIGITAL STORYBOOK

Mosaic of Different Cultures: Cultural Exchange with eTwinning

Dear Students;

We are creating a 'Digital Storybook' as a joint product. Please write your name in the field containing your teacher's name. Read the previous story section and continue it. Thus, when all sections are combined, a common e-Book will emerge.

TEACHER:MEHMET DOĞAN

STUDENT: ENES, ŞULE, TALİHA, SUDENAZ, IRMAK

Once upon a time, students from all over the world decided to meet on a platform where technology eliminates borders. They all had one goal: to share their own cultures, get to know different

cultures, and write an unforgettable story together. Each of them was ready to tell the traditions, food, dances, and lifestyle of their own country with great excitement.

Ayşe from Turkey was the first to speak. “In our country, we welcome the arrival of spring with enthusiasm,” she said. “Every year, we celebrate the Nevruz holiday to celebrate the awakening of nature. We light big fires, jump over them, and build bridges of friendship.”

Ayşe’s story inspired the other participants in the project. Now, another student was eager to tell how spring is welcomed in her own country. Who was next in line?

TEACHER:YEŞİM ÇOLDUR

STUDENT:Tuğba, Kardelen, Esra

Tuğba, Kardelen and Esra were eager to talk about it. Students liked the topic and they were excited. Everybody in Türkiye welcome the arrival of spring with joy and excitement. One of them started to talk.

Tuğba said : “ With the arrival of spring, everywhere is surrounded by colourful plants such as tulips, roses, daisies etc. When we see these plants, we feel fresh and alive. In our country, tulip festivals are organized but they arent common. But if you want to enjoy the riot of colour, you should visit the festivals of tulips in Türkiye.In April, the blossoming tulips make everywhere

look like a huge garden. In these festivals, people sit in outdoor cafes and parks. They take photos of tulips and other plants. In spring, tulips are breathtaking. People attend other activities in the festival and spend their time.

TEACHER:ALİ OKTAY UYGUN

STUDENT:AYÇA, EBRU, SİNAN, YİĞİT, YİĞİT ALİ

Ebru from Bilecik in Türkiye started to talk about how spring is celebrated there. She said:” The arrival of spring is welcomed with joy and celebrated through various traditional events that honor nature's awakening. At the end of March or early April, as the weather starts to warm up, people gather in parks and gardens, spending time outdoors. People jump over the flames, symbolizing the renewal and abundance of spring.

Spring represents both the revival of nature and a time of increased social gatherings and festivities. During these festivals, people play games(tug of war, sack race etc.), dance their traditional dances, cook delicious traditional dishes, and have a big picnic. Children draw amazing pictures on eggs and paint them colourfully. so spring is welcomed with great joy in my country.”

TEACHER:ELİF TOZAR

STUDENT: AHMET, AHMET FURKAN, ALİ, ARDA, ASUDE, ELİF, HİRAGÜL, KAAAN, YAĞMUR, YASEMİN, ZEYNEP

It was Yasemin's turn, from Konya, Turkey. She began her speech, describing her favorite celebration, the "Lantern Procession and Şivlilik."

"The Lantern Procession happens the night before Regaip Kandili. It takes place at the beginning of the Islamic three holy months. It symbolizes light and happiness as we start the holy months. On that night, people meet outside. They light a fire and children jump over it, light colorful paper lanterns they have purchased, and release them into the dark sky."

"The next day is Şivlilik. Children wake up early in the morning and wander door to door to collect candies, chocolates, and small gifts until they fill their bags. They knock on doors, say "Şivlilik!" and celebrate Kandil. They also know if they are late, the candies will run out. At the end of the day, everyone enjoys the cheerful atmosphere, especially the children!"

TEACHER:BERNA BAŞEĞMEZ

STUDENT:EZEL,MERYEM,AHMET

ALP,ALİ

BURAK,ECRİN,ZEYNEP,ASRİN

Ezel was fascinated by reading stories about different cultures around the world. She thought of a festival in her hometown, the town of Ereğli in Zonguldak, Turkey. The name of this festival was "Strawberry Festival" when it first started. Later, it became so famous that they changed its name to “Love, Peace, Friendship International Culture and Arts Festival”. Because guests from all over the world came here and loved seeing the shows, exhibitions, and food market. Even groups from different countries perform dance shows with their local music. The festival, which reveals the existing culture of the city while adding new values to the city, includes activities in many areas of art and sports, from sculpture to painting, music to theatre, sports to competitions, and entertainment. In the evening, famous singers give concerts and fireworks shows. Approximately one million people visit the three-day festival in the city with a population of 180 thousand. "Ottoman Strawberry", which grows only in Ereğli, is very sweet in the first week of June, that's when the fun begins. It is very exciting to attend this festival!

TEACHER:SEDA ALAĞAÇ

STUDENT: YAREN, MELİKE, İREM, SEVDANUR, YELİZ, TUHANNA

Yaren started to talk about Hidrellez. She said: “ Hidrellez is celebrated on the night of May 5. This festival is celebrated in several Turkish provinces. There are many preparations like house-cleaning, clean clothing, food and drink. Everyone cleans their houses because they think that Hızır will not visit houses that are not clean. Rituals are so popular like jumping over a fire, drawing wishes under a rose tree and making wishes and attaching a rag to a tree. People believed that Hızır and İlyas meet every year on this day. I look forward to drawing my wishes and I am sure we will have fun!”

TEACHER:ARZU IŞIK

STUDENT:Osman,Ceren,Kaan,Ahmet

Osman attended Ceren’s newborn sister's hedik party. Osman asked Ceren what a hedik party was and Ceren explained to him as follows: Hedik party is a traditional event in Turkish culture that celebrates the teething of a newborn baby. It is usually done within the first seven days after the baby's tooth erupts. Family, friends and neighbors are invited. Hedik party can be held at home or in a large area, and the surroundings can be decorated with flowers and

balloons as desired. Sweet and salty snacks are prepared. Turkish baklava, Turkish delight, and most importantly, hedik, made from boiled wheat, are served. In particular, a baby cake can be an indispensable part of the celebration. At the beginning of the party, prayers are recited for the baby's health and happiness. Family elders wish the baby abundance and peace, and guests can bring gifts to the baby. At the end of the party, guests are thanked and small gifts are distributed. Osman joined the party. I wonder which parties his friends in other lands were attending. He thought to himself...

TEACHER:SEFA NURAYDIN

STUDENT: MENEKŞE, EFE, YAGMUR, TUGCE, CENNET, EZEL

Nazlı and Görkem, who were attending the same party, had different plans. They were going to go to the riverside where the rose trees were for a ritual held during Hıdırellez.

They collected colorful flowers that bloomed with the arrival of spring along the way. During Hıdırellez, girls would make crowns out of flowers. Nazlı put the crown she made on her head.

They came to the riverside where the rose tree was. Nazlı took off her scarf and closed her eyes. She tied her scarf to a branch of the

rose tree while making the wish she had been dreaming of for years. She had written the same wish on a piece of paper. She left that piece of paper in the flowing water of the river with all her sincerity. Now she would wait for her wish to come true.

When they returned, it was time for dinner. They sat down at the big table set up in the neighborhood where everyone came together. This table was prepared every year by the women of the neighborhood. The table was filled with oruk, sarma, kavurma, aşure, salads, meze and drinks. Everyone who believed that Hıdırellez would bring abundance and prosperity and that all wishes would come true had come together at this table with enthusiasm and joy.

TEACHER:ZEYNEP ERİŞEN ŞAKAR

STUDENT: EYLÜL, ZEYNEB, EBRAR, SERRA, FATMA,BENSU

The group from Kartal, Istanbul came together to decide which tradition they should mention because they had lots of different ceremonies and elements in their culture.

Then, Zeyneb said she wanted to talk about a funny tradition happening at the beginning of a wedding ceremony.

She said: “In our country when families meet to celebrate two young people’s engagement, the girl prepares a “special coffee”

for the groom-to-be. At first, the bride offers Turkish coffee for all the family members keeping that of the groom's to the last. Then she adds salt instead of sugar to the coffee, and optionally she may add some other spices as well. She serves the coffee with a piece of chocolate or delights together with a glass of water.

They say if the man really loves the woman he should chug it down at once, only after that he can eat chocolate or the delight.”

TEACHER: KETEVAN KOBAKHIDZE

STUDENT: Barbare

Students from different countries arrived in Tbilisi for a few days, excited to explore the city and meet new people. The Georgian friends welcomed them with warm smiles as they gathered outside the hotel, eager for the day's adventure.

Their first stop was Narikala Fortress, where they admired the stunning view of Tbilisi and the Mtkvari River winding through the city. After taking photos, they went to a local restaurant to try Georgian dishes like khachapuri and khinkali. The students had fun practicing Georgian words like "gamarjoba" (hello) and "madloba" (thank you), which helped them feel more connected to their hosts.

In the afternoon, they wandered through the narrow streets of the

Old Town, visited the vibrant Dry Bridge Market to pick up unique souvenirs, and took a cable car ride to Mtatsminda Park. There, they enjoyed the fresh breeze and panoramic views of the city. As the sun set, the group gathered in Rike Park, sitting on the grass, playing music, and sharing stories about their cultures. Tired but content, they ended the day looking forward to more unforgettable experiences together in the days ahead.

TEACHER: GIOVANNA ANDREOTTI

STUDENT: Rosmery, Chiara, Silvia, Simona Rita

A group of guys from Avellino, Italy, are questioning about national celebrations in their own country. They are aware that a national festival is a day for the people of a country to come together and share a pride and passion for their home and its traditions. The beautiful thing about having so many countries and cultures around the world is that there is so much to see and explore. One of them, Rosmery, starts saying “Italy owes much of its beauty to its long and rich history. This is also reflected in our calendar, where there is no shortage of anniversaries. Among these, we cannot forget **Labour Day**, which is celebrated on May 1st. It is an occasion to remember the struggles of the past, but also to spend time with friends and family.

May in Italy begins with a public holiday based on an important anniversary: the **Festa dei Lavoratori**. Celebrated in more than eighty countries, in Italy, as in the rest of the world, **International Workers' Day** is an important day created in honour and defence of labourers. This festivity was born with the aim of remembering workers and trading unions who fought to guarantee to the labour force equal rights and benefits.

The importance of this anniversary is underlined by events and initiatives that, just like flowers in spring, bloom in every part of our peninsula.

Events are organised for International Workers' Day all over Italy. If you are travelling to Italy in this period, you should visit the websites of each region to see if there are special or local initiatives taking place. But there's no doubt about it! The most famous national event is organised by the **Italian labour Unions**: il **Concerto del Primo Maggio (May Day Concert)**. It is the largest free live music event in Europe. An experience not to be missed for those who find themselves in the capital in spring! An all-day long concert that takes place in **Piazza San Giovanni** in Rome, as well as other main locations in the country, where people coming from every corner of Italy gather to celebrate and enjoy the performances of some of the best artists in the country and from all over the world.

The First of May is not only a day for events and parades: this

public holiday inaugurates the beginning of May and the weather is usually quite warm, therefore, Italians take it as an opportunity to take some days off and go somewhere, especially if it falls on a long weekend.

The favourite destinations for a typical First of May holiday are cultural towns and the countryside, although some decide to go to sea destinations and enjoy an early taste of the summer to come.

Picnics are the iconic event of Primo Maggio. In Tuscany and Lazio, it's basically obligatory to sit on the lawn and eat fresh *fava beans* with *pecorino* cheese (made from sheep's milk).

A day for workers, a day for those who want to relax, a day for tourists: no matter which category you fall in, the First of May is certainly a day to be taken off while exploring a dreamy corner of Italy!".

TEACHER:SARKA CASLAVOVA

STUDENT:

Elena from Greece raised her hand with a smile. "In Greece, we also celebrate the arrival of spring with a festival called Anthesteria," she began. "It's an ancient tradition where we honor Dionysus, the god of wine, by decorating our homes with flowers and preparing feasts. We dance in the streets, drink wine, and make offerings to welcome the new season with joy and hope." The group listened intently, enchanted by Elena's tale. One by

one, they realized how connected they all were through the universal celebration of spring, despite their different traditions.

TEACHER:MARIANTONIETTA LAPENNA

STUDENT: Giovanni, Antonio, Francesco

Students from San Vito dei Normanni, a small town in Puglia, in the Southern part of Italy discuss about typical italian festival and traditions.

Giovanni says:” There are lots of important festival in Italy, for example in Summer in our town and in other towns near us there are famous folk music festivals. Thousands and thousands of people and tourists play drums and dance together”. Antonio says:”That's true! This awesome dance Is “ Pizzica”, It is very old in fact in the past women bitten by the insects called Taranta were so bad and sick that they needed to dance faster and faster. Francesco adds:” In February there is a funny festival too! It’s Carnival! When we celebrate Carnival people wear strange masks and fancy dresses. Children love throwing coloured paper confetti. In the streets there are parades and funny tricks.

In Venice there are beautiful parties and people wear period costumes and walk along the canals or go on boats called

“gondola”. In other cities like Putignano and Viareggio enormous allegorical floats with big statues go round the streets.

TEACHER: SALOME BOKHUA

STUDENT: EKA

While thinking about reaching Emre, something very extraordinary happened. First, they heard a very scary voice. It was neither a human or animal, more like the floor beneath their feet were growling! Arda and Miray looked at each other with confused and scared faces, suddenly a thick layer of fog capped everywhere. Miray was nowhere to be found. As they were calling for their names, Arda and Miray lost each other. Arda was looking everywhere but he couldn't see anybody, now he came to realize he lost connection to Miray's world.

The fog was getting thicker and thicker there was only dark. Arda was thinking where were the other people? Was he alone in this scary world? After a brief moment he thought this, a lightning struck the city. It created a huge explosion. As he was closing his eyes, the last thing he saw

was people running around in a haze.

He opened his eyes about an hour later.

TEACHER: ANGELA ANNA PREZIOSI

STUDENT: Michele, Federica, Sharon

After reading about the beautiful traditions reported by their colleagues, the students from Mugnano del Cardinale also want to make known one of the most important and heartfelt by the inhabitants of the town: the Maio, a traditional festival of pagan origins that takes place on January 10 to commemorate the birth of Saint Philomena. An event where the sacred and the profane merge. A festival eagerly awaited by the citizens, but which attracts the curious and the faithful from all over Italy. Men, women and children participate in the festival that develops along a route where some organized "teams" drag carefully selected beech or chestnut trunks, by hand, with ropes, from the Litto mountain to the Sanctuary, to pay homage to the Saint.

The students reflected on the importance of the world as a mosaic of different cultures. Men have always built walls in every place of the world to separate people but today the most impenetrable walls are those we have built around our lives to separate ourselves from 'others'. But men have also built wonderful

bridges to join and connect lands , people and cultures.

All agree that the task of young people is the construction of new bridges towards the ‘other’ to enrich our culture,our society and all of humanity