



REEEC

Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center
University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign

Pre-Kindergarten Curriculum

Decorating your own Romanian spoon

20 minutes prep, 30 minutes of class time

This unit is designed to allow students to learn more about Romania and the culture and traditions found there. Students will be introduced to the practice of decorating spoons with bright colors, a popular craft and souvenir to find throughout Romania. They will have the opportunity to decorate their own wooden spoons using marker sets.



Required Materials:

1. Small wooden spoons. We purchased ours in bulk through Amazon.
2. Marker sets for students to use. If you have multiple days to work on this craft, you may also use paint and have students decorate one side of the spoon, leave it to dry, and revisit the other side another day.

Preparation: Place one wooden spoon at each student's

assigned seat. Have two small boxes of markers available at each table, allowing students to share once they begin decorating their eggs. Be sure to write names/initials of each student on each spoon.

Lesson Plan:

1. Begin by asking the children what country we live in, and then help them locate that country on a map or globe. Then show them where Romania is on a map/globe. (2 mins)
2. Use the printed images to introduce the class to Romania, showing pictures of the capital city, Bucharest and smaller towns and villages, such as Bucovina. Students are often interested in pictures of the Peles castle, as well. (5 mins)
3. Explain to students that throughout the country, you will find painted spoons both for sale and hanging in kitchens. These spoons are thought to be good luck-if you have a spoon hanging in your kitchen, painted with its bright colors, you will be able to cook well and your food will always be tasty. Show students pictures of these spoons, emphasizing the different colors and designs that are found on them. Tell students that they will be decorating their own spoons today to take home for good luck!
4. Explain the activity to the class (10 mins):
 - a. First, they are each going to receive their own wooden spoon, found at their assigned seat.
 - b. Next, they are able to select the colors with which they wish to decorate their spoons. Emphasize the patterns and colors found on the eggs in the printed pictures. Tell them that lines and small shapes work well for creating such patterns.
 - c. Students will have the remainder of the time together to work on their spoon, designing it however they choose. When finished, the spoon is ready for them to take home at the end of the day!