



REEEC

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

Pre-Kindergarten Curriculum

Making your Jāņi flower crown

This unit is designed to allow students to learn more about and the culture and traditions of Latvia.

Required Materials:

1. Flower crown cutouts
2. Scissors
3. Staplers
4. Crayons/markers

Preparation: One piece of paper with two rows of flowers should be placed at each student's seat. The student should also have access to scissors, a stapler, and something to color with.

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 Latvia is on a map/globe.
2. Then show Latvia through a series of photographs. Show them images of the capital city, Riga. Show them pictures of Latvia's famous beaches on the Gulf of Riga.
3. Another point of interest to explore includes the summer solstice festival called Jāņi. Explain that it is a traditional pagan festival that Latvians celebrate to welcome Summer. They celebrate by spending time outside, singing, dancing, eating, and making flower crowns.
4. Today, students will be making their own flower crowns:
 - a. First, each student will cut the two rectangles with flowers out. Then the students will staple the rectangles together on one side.
 - b. Then each student will color in the flowers on the rectangles with markers or crayons.
 - c. Lastly, they will staple the other ends of the rectangles together to make a crown.

