



REEEC

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

Pre-Kindergarten Curriculum

Violet Flowers (Slovakia)

5 minutes prep, 30 minutes of class time

This unit is designed to introduce students to the country of Slovakia and the Slovak folktale *Twelve Months*. Students will learn about the folktale and what meaning the folktale gives a violet flower. Students will create their own violet flower.

Required Materials:

1. Violet and green construction paper
2. Green pipe cleaners
3. Glue
4. White pom poms

Preparation: Cut out flower petals from the purple construction paper and heart-shaped leaves from the green construction paper. Place five purple petals, half of a green pipe cleaner, and three green leaves at each student's desk.

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 Slovakia is on a map/globe. (2 mins)
2. Use the Power Point to introduce the class to Slovakia. Show them several photos of the landscape and culture. (5 mins)
3. Then use the Power Point to share the shortened version of *Twelve Months*. Explain that the craft for this lesson will be making the violet flower from the folktale.
4. Explain the activity to the class (10 mins):
 - a. First, each student will take the purple flower petals and make a circle with the narrow end towards the middle. Then they will glue the petals together in the center.
 - b. Next, the student will glue or tape the end of the pipe cleaner to the back of the petal circle.
 - c. Then the student will tape or glue the curvy side of the leaves running up the stem.
 - d. Then for a snow effect put on the petals shredded white pom poms.

