

Guides

Activities

- ❖ History of our Link
- ❖ Game - Ivan, Dom, Voyna
- ❖ Language - learn how to say a few phrases in Russian
- ❖ Look at straw craft and make your own 4 straw compass plait (examples available in resource box)
- ❖ Look at lacquerware painting and paint your own design on card or a spoon
- ❖ Food - prepare cook and eat Draniki
- ❖ Discover the Belarusian Guide Promise Badge and promise (badge available in resource box)
- ❖ Dress a girl in Belarusian Guide uniform and look at the National Costume (available in resource box)

History of our Link

Girlguiding Lincolnshire South is proud of its strong connections with Guiding in Belarus. Our link helped to support the development of their Guiding programme after the fall of communism in the country. It continues to grow year by year.

The link was established in 1992 when Lincolnshire South Guide Association hosted a small group from Minsk, Belarus at 'Poacher', Lincolnshire's International Guide and Scout Camp. This group was searching for a worthwhile Youth Association to replace the collapsed Pioneer Movement and came to find out about Scouting and Guiding. On departure, Lyudmila Zybina, their leader asked Phyll Sands if she would promise to take a party out to Minsk the following year. Phyll promised and sure enough the following April an official invitation arrived.

So, in 1993 a County group of Guides visited Minsk for two weeks. They camped in Gomel with children recovering from the Chernobyl disaster, and stayed in homes in Minsk.

Each year from 1994 to 2002 visits were made alternately from the two countries by groups of Guides and Senior Section. Visits to Lincolnshire included trips to the seaside, a novelty for those from a landlocked country, places of cultural interest and adventurous activities that couldn't be done back in Belarus. According to the girls visiting in 1998 it was a 'dream come true' with new friendships developing and guiding skills, crafts and ideas to take back and teach others in Minsk. Our visits to Belarus included reciprocal visits to places of cultural interest and the opportunity to be welcomed to a country very different to our own.

In 2002, the 10th Anniversary year of our link, thirteen girls and three leaders visited Minsk in late July/August followed in the September by a visit of four Minsk leaders to join our celebrations which included a visit by the Belarusian Ambassador to the UK.

In 2003 eleven of our Senior Section members and four Guiders attend the first International Camp held in Gomel. They took part in a ten day camp and stayed with families in home hospitality in Minsk for three days. Since then, alternate visits have continued incorporating elements of Girlguiding UK's Senior Section programme, in particular '4'.

Girlguiding Lincolnshire South supports the visits of our Belarusian friends with fundraising throughout the county. Without these generous donations, and support from Connect Youth International, the link would be unable to exist in the format it does today.

In 2018 another group from Lincolnshire South will be travelling to Minsk. Could you be part of this group?

Games

Ivan, Dom, Voyna

Guides need to learn 3 Russian words to play this game.

Ivan = Ivan (name)

Dom = Home

Voyna = War

Guides stand in groups of 3. The person in the middle is Ivan. The other two people link hands and make a roof over Ivan. They are the home (Dom).

Leader calls one of the three words:

Ivan - The Ivans stand still and the two girls making the home move together to find a new Ivan.

Dom - The two girls forming the home stand still and all the Ivans move to find a new home.

Voyna - Everyone lets go and new groups of three are made. New Ivans and homes must be formed up.

Girls who were formerly Ivan can become a dom and vice versa.

If you wish, the last group to form can be out, until you have a winning three.

Language

These are phonetic and written how they sound! The Russian language is written in Cyrillic and looks very different to English.

Very pleased to meet you	-	orchen preeyatna
Hello	-	zdrastvuytye (formal)
		privyet (familiar)
Good morning	-	dorbroye ootra
Good night	-	spacoini nochi
How are you?	-	Kak dyela
Good	-	harasho
What is your name?	-	kak vas zavoot
My name is ...	-	menya zavoot ...
How old are you?	-	scolka vam lyet?
Where do you live?	-	gudyer voy jevyotche
I live in ...	-	ya jevoo v ...
I'm English	-	ya anglichanka
Friend	-	droog
Yes	-	da
No	-	nyet
Who?	-	kto?
What?	-	shto?
I want	-	ya hachoo
Please / you are welcome	-	pajhalsta
Thank you	-	spaseba
Sorry / excuse me	-	eezvineetyeh
I don't understand	-	ya nye panimayoo
I don't know	-	ya nye znayoo
OK	-	lardna
I like	-	ya lubloo
A little bit	-	nyemnoshka
Tea	-	chy
Coffee	-	corfye
Sugar	-	saccar
Juice	-	sok
Wine	-	vino
What time is it?	-	kutory chass
How much?	-	skolka
Good bye	-	dasvidania
Until we meet again	-	davstriechee

Try it...

- Have a go at learning a few simple words. Try saying hello and introducing yourself... 'Privyet. Menya zavoot Olga!'
- Find out about the Cyrillic Russian alphabet. For starters, it was named after St Cyril.

Straw Craft

Straw weaving is one of the most loved folk arts and crafts in Belarus. Below are some decorative and practical examples.



From early times, Belarusian peasants were decorating their houses with intricate moving straw mobiles. Beautiful and useful objects of everyday life were made out of straw and used for the storage of goods and foods. Even Belarusian children's toys and dolls were often made out of straw.

Try it...

- Have a go at your own straw craft.
- Visit a place or person who makes an English version such as corn dollies or have a go at the examples which follow.

4-straw Compass Plait.

For a simple single loop favour (as shown below left), the 4-straw Compass Plait gives an attractive chunky weave.



Preparation

You will need:

- lengths of straw cut to a similar length
- cotton for tying
- ribbon for decoration

Straw needs to be soaked in water to soften it before use. Place your prepared lengths of straw in a trough full of water and weigh them down with something to keep them submerged. After half an hour, check that the cut end can be bent without cracking. When suitably pliable remove the straws from the water, drain off the excess moisture, and wrap in a damp towel. This will prevent your straws from drying out while you are working.

The plait can be decorated with a simple ribbon bow or a small sprig of dried flowers at the tied point.

Colours of ribbons have symbolic meanings:

WHITE is for purity

BROWN is for the earth

GREEN is for the germinating corn

GOLD is the ripened wheat

ORANGE is for the glowing sun

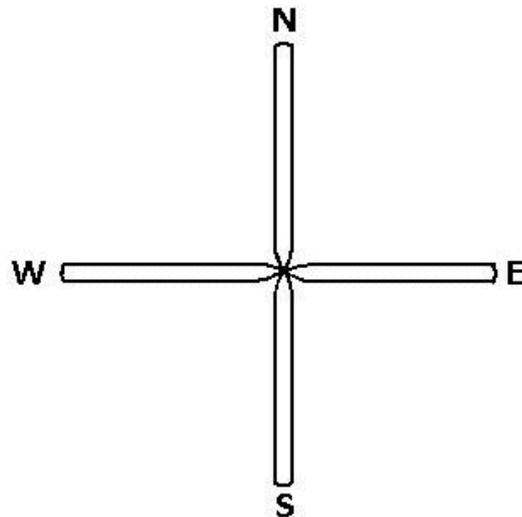
RED is for warmth, and also for the poppy in the corn field

BLUE is the colour of truth, and also the colour of the cornflower

To make a 4-straw Compass Plait

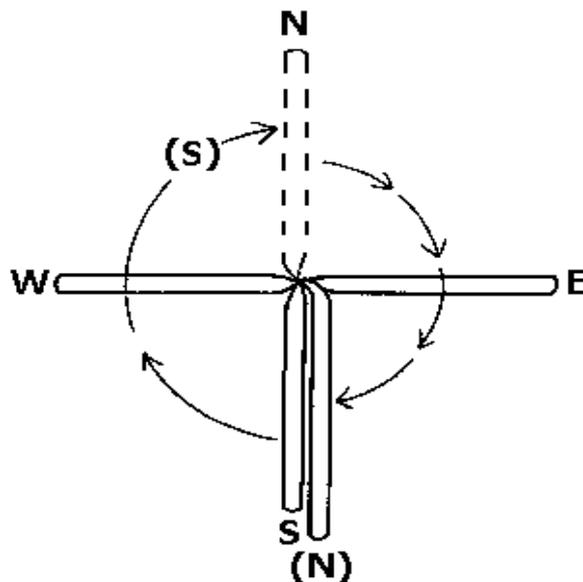
Step 1

Tie 4 straws tightly together under the heads with a clove hitch. Spread out into NESW. View from above with the heads under the central knot:



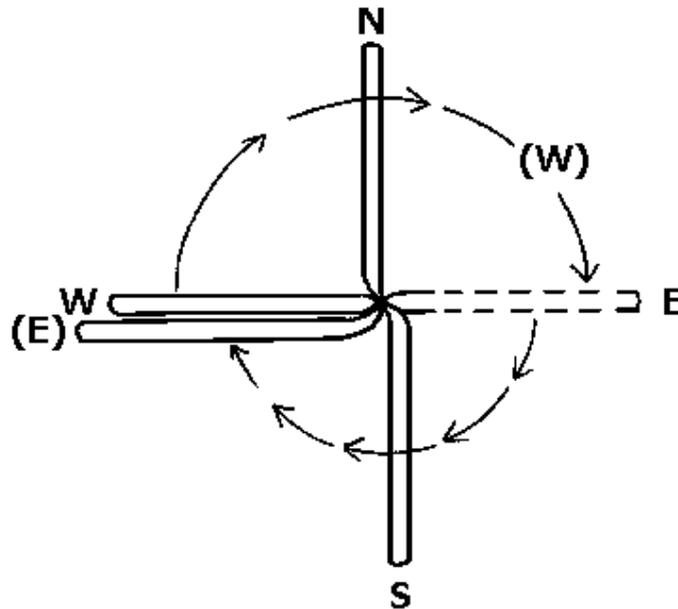
Step 2

Bring N down to lie by S. Take S up to where N was. It is important to keep the straws parallel as they cross over. Looking down on your plait it should look like this:



Step 3

In a similar move, bring E across to lie by W. Take W across to where E was:



Step 4

Continue to plait in this way until you have about 8 cm of straw left.

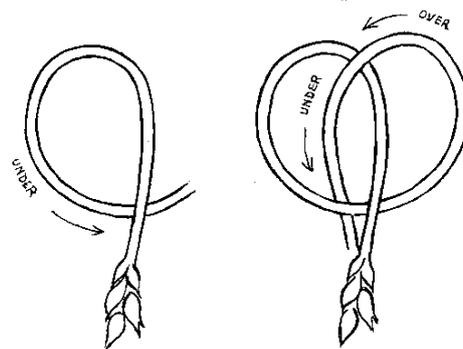
Step 5

Bring the four straws up to meet each other, and tie firmly at the end of the plaited section with another clove hitch. Bring this tied end down to meet the other tie just under the heads - forming a loop of plaited straw as you do so. Tie the two together.

Step 6

Spread the wheat ears out between the wheat stalks and allow to dry flat, preferably under a weight. When dry you can clip the stalk ends decoratively and add a ribbon bow or a small sprig of dried flowers.

With a slightly longer length of plait you can make a fancier looped favour. When you have completed and tied off your length of plait, again leaving about 8 cm of straw, you can intertwine the plait into a double knot (see below). Next take the end straws round to the back and tie to the wheat ears. Again decorate with a ribbon, if you wish.



Food

Traditional cuisine includes: soups such as Borscht, made with beetroot and served hot with soured cream; stews; sausages and pies.

Belarus is well known for numerous recipes for potatoes, especially, Draniki, a potato pancake and Dracheny, a tasty potato dish with mushrooms. Mochanka is a thick soup mixed with lard accompanied by hot pancakes. Mushrooms and berries are favourite side dishes. Regional cooking is often based on potatoes.

Beef, chicken, pork and fish dishes are eaten together with vegetables such as cabbage, carrots, onions, mushrooms, peas, sauerkraut and tomatoes. Dairy products especially eggs and cottage cheese are also part of the Belarusian diet.

Favourite desserts are cakes, apple and berry fruit pies, and ice cream. Fruit is boiled and made into compote - often served at breakfast.

Bread, particularly rye bread, is a staple food and Buckwheat flour is used extensively in Belarusian cooking.

Mineral water is in abundant supply. A traditional drink is birch juice. Herb teas and coffee are popular - a favourite being chai (black tea). Alcoholic drinks are beer, kvas (a Russian malt beer) and vodka.

When joining a Belarusian family for a meal, which often lasts over a long evening, several toasts take place including those for good health (nazdarovia), love and the coming together of friends.

Belarusians are very proud of their hospitality but often have a very limited income, therefore the variety of food may not be as diverse as in this country, but good manners are essential and hosts would be offended if you refuse or leave any food or drink.

Try it...

- Act out being a guest in someone's home. Discuss your food likes and dislikes. How would you overcome this problem if staying in a Belarusian household? Consider how body language and facial expressions can offend other people.
- Try out the recipe below.
- Make non-alcoholic cocktails and drinks and practise toasting each other saying 'nazdarovia'.

Draniki

Ingredients (for 4 portions)

800g potatoes
1 onion
3 tablespoons plain flour
½ cup milk
1 egg
vegetable oil for frying
salt to taste

Method

1. Wash and peel potatoes. Grate them coarsely. Put them in a deep bowl. Add milk so that it covers the potatoes completely. It is done to prevent the potatoes from browning.



Images taken from <http://en.restoran.ru>

2. Peel the onions, slice them into half-rings and fry in pre-heated vegetable oil until transparent.
3. Drain the milk off the potatoes. Press the milk out of the potato mixture (draniki should be juicy, not wet). Add fried onions, flour, egg and salt. Mix thoroughly.
4. Heat vegetable oil in a frying pan. Put spoonfuls of the potato mixture into the frying pan and fry on both sides until a golden colour.

Guiding in Belarus



Guides are 11 - 15 years old
Rangers are 15 - 18 years old

Promise:

On my honour I promise that I will do my best:
To do my duty to my country, the Republic of Belarus,
To aspire to the highest spiritual ideals / God,
To help other people at all times,
To obey the Guide Law.

Law:

1. A Guide's honour is to be trusted.
2. A Guide is loyal, she respects and obeys her parents and her elders.
3. A Guide's duty is to be useful and help others.
4. A Guide is a friend to all and a sister to every other Guide.
5. A Guide is courteous.
6. A Guide is a friend to animals and takes care of nature.
7. A Guide has discipline and respects the interests of the Organisation.
8. A Guide smiles and is optimistic under all difficulties.
9. A Guide is thrifty but not stingy.
10. A Guide is pure in thought and deed.

Try it...

Copy a Belarusian Promise Badge onto paper - a different colour per group helps. Next copy the words of the Promise onto the back. Cut the paper into pieces and spread them out around the room.

Members of each group take it in turns to roll a dice. Each time a six is thrown, a piece of their coloured paper can be retrieved. Assemble all of the pieces of jigsaw together in the centre pages of a magazine.

When the jigsaw is complete, close the magazine and turn it over. When the magazine is opened carefully again, the Promise can be read.