

## Brownies

### Activities

- ❖ Game - Masha and the Bear
- ❖ Look at lacquerware painting and paint your own design on card or a spoon
- ❖ Discover the Birds (Belarusian Brownies) Promise Badge and promise (Badge available in resource box)
- ❖ Dress one of the girls in National Costume (available in resource box)
- ❖ Taste a fruit compote drink (this will need to be prepared before the meeting)
- ❖ Wordsearch

## Fairytale Game

### How to play

- ◆ Girls sit in circle.
- ◆ Name each one after the following characters in order: Masha, Grandma, Grandpa, the bear, forest.
- ◆ Read the story. As each girl's character is read out, she runs clockwise around the circle and sits back in her place.

### Masha and the Bear

Once upon a time there lived an old man and woman who had a granddaughter named Masha. One day some friends of Masha's decided to go to the forest to gather mushrooms and berries and they came to Masha's house to ask her to go with them.

"Please, Grandma and Grandpa," said Masha, "do let me go to the forest."

"You may go but see that you keep close to the others and do not lose sight of them or you might get lost," the two old people replied.

Masha and her friends came to the forest and began to hunt for the mushrooms and berries. From bush to bush, from tree to tree went Masha. Before she knew it she had strayed away from her friends. When at last she saw that she was all alone she began to halloo and call to them, but her friends did not hear her and made no answer. Masha went here and there, she walked all over the forest, and there before her she saw a little hut. Masha knocked on the door but there was no answer, so she gave the door a push and lo! The door opened. Masha went into the hut and sat down on a bench by the window.

"I wonder who lives here?" she thought. Now in that hut lived a great big bear, only he was out walking in the forest just then. It was evening by the time he came home and when he saw Masha he was very pleased.

"Aha", said he, "now I'll never let you go! You will live here in my house as meek as a mouse, and you will cook my dinner and my breakfast too, and be my servant, faithful and true."

Masha grieved and sorrowed for a long time, but it could not be helped, and so she stayed with the bear and kept house for him. Every day the bear would go into the forest for the day and before leaving, he would tell Masha to stay in the hut and wait for him.

"You must never go out without me," he told her, "for if you do I will catch you and eat you up."

So Masha sat thinking of how she could get away from the bear. All around was the forest and there was no one to ask which way to go.

She thought and thought until she knew what to do.

That day, when the bear came back from the forest, Masha said to him, "Bear, Bear do let me go to my village for a day. I want to take something good to eat for my Grandma and Grandpa."

"No, that won't do at all," said the bear, "you will get lost in the forest, but if you give me what it is you want to give your Grandma and Grandpa, I will take it myself."

Now, that was all that Masha wanted to hear. She baked some pies, put them on a plate, and getting out a very large basket, said to the bear, "I'll put the pies in the basket and you can take them to my Grandma and Grandpa. But mind you are not to open the basket on the way and you are not to eat any of the pies. I am going to climb to the top of the big oak tree and watch that you do not open the basket."

"Very well," said the bear, "give me the basket."

The bear went out on the porch to make sure that it was not raining. When he did, Masha crawled into the basket and covered herself with the pies.

The bear came in, and there was the basket all ready to go. So he strapped the basket on his back and started off. Tramp-tramp went the bear amid the spruce trees. Clumpity-clump he went amid the birch trees, up hill and down dale went his long winding trail and on and on he walked. At last he was tired and sat down to rest.

"If I don't rest my bones I think I will die, so I will sit on a stump and I'll eat a pie," said the bear.

But Masha called out from the basket,

"I see you, I see you, don't sit on the stump and don't eat my pie but take it to Grandma and Grandpa, say I."

"Dear me, what sharp eyes Masha has," said the bear. "She sees everything." He picked up the basket and went on. He stopped again and said, "If I don't rest my bones, I think I will die, so I'll sit on a stump and eat a pie."

But Masha called out again from the basket,

"I see you, I see you! Don't sit on the stump, and don't eat my pie, but take it to Grandma and Grandpa, say I."

"What a clever little girl Masha is," said the bear. "She is sitting high up in a tree and she is far away, but she sees all I do and she hears all I say."

He got to his feet and walked on and on even faster than before.

He came to the village and finding the house where Masha's Grandpa and Grandma lived he began to bang away on the gate with all his might.

"KNOCK, KNOCK, open the gate," he cried. "I have brought something for you from Masha."

But the village dogs scented the bear and rushed out at him from every yard, yelping and barking. The bear was frightened, he set down the basket by the gate and away he ran as fast as he could without looking back.

The old man and woman came up to the gate and saw the basket.

"What is in the basket?" the old woman asked.

The old man lifted the top and looked and he could not believe his eyes.

For there in the basket sat Masha alive and well. The old man and woman were overjoyed. They kissed and hugged and embraced Masha and they said she was as clever as clever can be, as indeed all of you will surely agree.

# Lacquerware



Lacquerware is common in Belarus. Wooden utensils are painted in rich colours with luxurious designs of leaves, berries and flowers. Traditional colours are black, gold and red, with each colour having its own meaning (see below). Blue, yellow, white and green occur less frequently. The final product is lacquered with layers of varnish to give it a shiny, tough finish.

red  
yellow and gold  
blue  
white

happiness, hope and passion  
harvest  
sky  
purity

## Try it...

- Create your own lacquerware design
  - Cut out a circle of black card or paper and decorate using traditional colours.
- Decorate a wooden spoon in Belarusian style.
  - Paint a wooden spoon black and leave it to dry thoroughly. Then using traditional designs and colours, such as red and gold, decorate the spoon. When dry, you can coat with varnish to make a long lasting souvenir.
  - **Extra tips** - spoons with holes in their handles are easier to hang to dry. Try painting the spoons black one week and then decorating the next.

# Guiding in Belarus



**Birds** are 7 - 10 years old

**Promise:**

I will try to improve myself,  
To bring joy and help to others.

**Law:**

1. A Bird always tells the truth.
2. A Bird respects and obeys her elders.
3. A Bird is always clean.
4. A Bird thinks first of others.

**Bird Motto:**

I'll try to be good.

## *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.

# 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. Mushrooms and berries are favourite side dishes. Regional cooking is often based on potatoes.

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.

## **Fruit Compote** (A drink, delicious served chilled)

### *Ingredients*

1 packet mixed dried fruit (containing prunes, apricots etc)  
(600ml) boiling water  
sugar to taste

### *Method*

1. Chop up the dried fruit into small pieces and place in a bowl.
2. Pour on the boiling water and leave to stand covered, at room temperature, as long as possible and preferably overnight.
3. Chill in the fridge.
4. Pour into glasses, ensuring there is some fruit in the bottom of each glass.
5. Serve. 'Nazdarovia!'

## All Things Belarusian - Wordsearch

R	I	P	F	M	D	B	F	C	F	L	D	W	T	C
A	M	R	I	O	E	R	H	L	A	N	S	H	F	D
Y	K	N	V	L	O	E	A	C	A	A	C	I	A	J
K	S	H	A	I	R	T	Q	N	K	G	I	T	R	O
K	S	R	S	N	N	U	B	I	I	C	L	E	C	L
R	U	B	O	O	E	G	A	A	O	K	L	R	W	G
S	O	B	E	R	I	L	B	N	L	E	I	U	A	A
N	Y	U	W	T	A	R	X	E	M	L	R	S	R	K
L	A	A	B	L	I	Y	T	O	R	L	Y	S	T	O
D	R	S	A	E	Q	V	G	A	D	L	C	I	S	R
E	P	B	V	E	L	I	G	O	M	O	I	A	K	B
L	L	A	G	A	H	C	C	R	A	M	H	N	F	U
G	Y	M	N	A	S	T	I	C	S	Q	L	T	Q	T
B	R	E	S	T	A	E	H	W	K	C	U	B	R	O
D	R	A	C	H	E	N	Y	O	N	D	O	R	G	O

balalaikas  
Belarus  
Brest  
buckwheat  
Chernobyl

Cyrillic  
dracheny  
draniki  
flag  
football

Gomel  
Grodno  
gymnastics  
icon  
Irving Berlin

lacquerware  
Marc Chagall  
matrioshka  
Minsk  
Mogilev

Olga Korbut  
orthodox  
straw craft  
Vitebsk  
White Russia