



DAYS OF RUSSIAN CULTURE IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

THE LECTURE PROGRAMME ‘GREAT RUSSIA’ WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE PROJECT ‘DAYS OF RUSSIAN CULTURE IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA’

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TALKING POINTS

1. Introduction

Today we shall present you the wonderful world of Russian culture and also tell you about Russian historical ties with Papua New Guinea.

Russia is the largest country in the world, its area is more than 17 million sq. km. For example, New Zealand can fit almost 63 times on the territory of the country. Russia is located in Eurasia. On the territory of the country there are unique flora and fauna. Russia has the deepest and oldest lake – Baikal, the largest forest in the world – the Taiga and the highest mountain in Europe – Mount Elbrus.

In addition, Russia is a multinational country, as well as Papua New Guinea. There are almost 200 peoples who speak more than 150 languages in Russia.

Most of the Russian population lives in the European part of the country.

As we know, following the national traditions, history and culture is very important for the development of any country. Moreover, traditions and customs represent a unique link between generations. Russian culture is extremely diverse and Russians are carefully safe it.

Russia has a rich culture, many customs of different epochs and bright folklore.

Russia and Papua New Guinea Historical Ties

The history of ties between Russia and Papua New Guinea comprises almost 150 years. It started from a research expedition of great Russian humanist and traveler N.N. Miklouho-Maclay to the North-East of New Guinea Island, where he has lived 2.5. years with the inhabitants of the Rai Coast which is known The Maclay Coast in Russia. Miklouho-Maclay gathered invaluable material through which Russians remember many stories about the culture and lifestyle of New Guinea Island inhabitants.

Much has changed since the expeditions of N.N. Miklouho-Maclay. Soviet scientists under D.D. Tumarking leadership visited Papua New Guinea in 1971 and 1977.

Russian traditions of Papua New Guinea research were continued by N.N. Miklouho-Maclay Jr., the descendant of the eminent scientist. He has held research expeditions together with Russian and Papua New Guinea scientists in 2017 and 2019 During the expeditions many developments have occurred. For example, a meeting of descendants of Miklouho-Maclay and his first New Guinean friend Tui took place in 2017 and 2019 Also in 2017, the first Papua New Guinea Prime-Minister Michael Somare has come to the Maclay Coast for meeting with the descendant of N.N. Miklouho-Maclay.

2. Birch – a symbol of Russia

Birch is a symbol of Russia. Moreover, it is the most famous tree in our country. From ancient times Russians considered the birch a symbol of life and wisdom.

Frequently the image of the birch widespread in folk legends as the form of an enchanted beauty or guardian of wisdom.

3. Brown Bear

The brown bear inhabits almost the entire territory of Russia, and the Russians from ancient times attached special importance to bears. Bear is a popular character of Russian folk tales. The image of the bear in various Russian legends is quite interesting. Frequently the bear embodied a strong and honest defender of the weak.

Nowadays, the image of the bear is still preserved by Russians. Bears are depicted on the coats of arms of three Russian cities and on the coat of arms of one of the Russian region – Khabarovsk Krai. For example, the coat of arms of Veliky Novgorod depicts two bears guarding the city.

Despite the huge strength of bears (they weigh more than 500 kg), they cannot be called evil predators, because 2/3 of their diet is vegetable food.

4. Lake Baikal

In addition to flora and fauna, the huge scale of the natural sights surrounding it had a special impact on the development of Russian culture.

There is demonstrated the biggest and oldest Lake Baikal on the photo. It was reflected in the folklore of local inhabitants.

5. Ballet

During the long history, Russia has absorbed the culture not only of many peoples on its territory but also the culture of the surrounding countries. For example, French-Italian ballet has become so popular in Russia that it has developed on a global scale in Russian theatres. Moreover, many Russian folk dances have been reworked for performance in a ballet performance.

6. Russian Folk Dance

Folk dance is one of the most ancient ways of expressing our emotions associated with various expressions of life. Men's Russian folk dances differ in scale, dynamism, complex tricks and happiness. Dances of Russian ladies are often soft and elegant. One of the most popular folk dances in Russia is the round dance.

7. Honor guard

The capital of Russia is Moscow, which was founded more than 850 years ago. The city was a large fortress, which is called 'the Kremlin' in Russia. Fortified centers of the cities. Nowadays, there are administrative buildings in the Moscow Kremlin. Also, Kremlin is the official residence of the President of the Russian Federation.

The most successful young people are selected there, which is a special honor for them and their parents. This tradition is rooted in the 19th century and preserves to this day.

8. Russian Folk Festivities

As we know, the holidays are extremely important for all generations. The word 'prazdnik' came from the old Slavic word 'prazd', which means rest. Most part of holidays are associated with the change of seasons or harvest seasons.

9. Russian Folk Dance

Russian folk dance has a rich and deep history. It originates from ancient Russian times. Folk dances were an essential part of Russian lifestyle. Russian folk dances have some features:

- accompanied by numerous jumps and dynamic;
- included national costumes;
- accompanied by a smile, laughter and positive emotions.

10. Round Dance

The round dance is a traditional Russian mass dance accompanied by a song.

The participants of the dance walked in circles and created all sorts of shapes, speeding up or slowing down. In different parts of Russia, dances were conducted in different ways.

11. Young Villager

The Russians followed the ancient traditions, listen to the signs and tell their children and grandchildren the ancient stories and legends. Russian fairy tales originate from ancient Russian legends, which is well-known by many generations of Russians.

12. Wheat Field

Agriculture has a special role in Russian culture because it provided the Russians with food from ancient times. Moreover, the first Russian dishes were pancakes and bread, which were also made from flour. In Ancient Russia, bread was considered a great gift of the earth.

According to 2016 data, Russia had a planted area that is equal in size to 2.5 the size of New Zealand.

13. Loaf

Speaking about Russian culture, we need to mention the Russian national cuisine. It is very original and interesting. Its history cannot be separated from the history of Russia. The development of Russian cuisine was influenced by climate, lifestyle, politics and religion.

Since ancient times, Russian cuisine has been characterized by strict rules and traditions that were followed by every family. The basis of Russian cuisine is flour, dairy, meat, fish and vegetable products.

The first Russian dishes were made of flour.

The loaf depicted on this photo was often baked for holidays and important events. The most magnificent and carefully decorated loaves were the main dish at weddings.

14. Russian Pancakes

Russian pancakes — the most popular traditional Russian flour dish, rooted in ancient times. It is believed that pancakes were the first product of flour. Pancakes are flat and round flour products prepared from batter by frying in a frying pan. Pancakes are used as a separate dish and with fillings (meat, caviar, condensed milk, etc.). Pancakes are an indispensable attribute of one of the oldest Russian holidays – Maslenitsa.

15. Russian Villages

Russian villages are traditions, fields, gardens and an important part of Russian history. Villages often located in the most ecologically clean and historically significant areas of Russia. Most Russians have memories of beautiful moments spent in the village with relatives.

Moreover, in Russian villages you can find objects of different historical epochs: from the stone age to the Middle Ages.

In ancient times, village life was filled with hard work, but, on the other hand, it was famous for bright festivities.

Nowadays there are more than 150 thousand villages in Russia, the rural population of the country is more than 37 million people.

16. Russian Cities

Russian culture has a special development in cities. The population of the cities grew due to the expense of people from smaller settlements, who always made various innovations with the culture of the citizens.

Nowadays there are more than 1000 cities in Russia, and the urban population of Russia is more than 109 million people. The population of the largest city and capital of Russia – Moscow has more than 16 million people. Urbanization is rapidly gaining both in Russia.

Culture of Russian cities continues to develop rapidly and there are more than 600 theatres and more than 2000 museums in the country.

17. Winter

Everyone has ever heard about Russian frosts in winter, but not everyone knows the true value of winter. Even in the traditional culture of Russian villagers, snow was associated like symbol of future prosperity. Moreover, the mid-autumn snow was served as a guarantee of a good harvest. The appearance of snow also marked the beginning of the marriage season in Russia, and most weddings were held in January or February.

Russian winter was glorified by Russians writers, which are famous all over the world. For example, by Alexander Pushkin, Nikolai Gogol, Mikhail Lermontov, Lev Tolstoy, Boris Pasternak.

We need to mark that the Russian winter is a wonderful time of year. Despite cold, you will see sparkling snow that reflects the bright sun. Also, the masterpieces of Russian architecture have a magnificent and special image.

18. Summer

Summer in Russia has been associated with warm weather, fruitfulness of the land and fields of blooming flowers.

Traditionally, the Russian summer generously warms and accompanied by rare rains. The inhabitants of ancient Russian State believed that when summer ends, autumn rewards them by rich harvest so for the patience and work.

19. Matryoshka

Folk crafts make the culture richer and more unique. Every part of Russia has its own kind of traditional folk art as well as in Papua New Guinea. A special place in the folk crafts of Russia is occupied by painted objects, toys, amulets, products made of fabric, wood and iron.

Speaking of folk paintings every part of Russia has its own unique variations of paintings.

20. Motanka-doll

Fabric arts are also popular. There is represented montanka-doll, which also popular in the region where Nikolay Miklouho-Maclay was born.

21. Balalaika

Russian folk musical instruments are known all over the world. Balalaika is one of them. It became widespread in the 18th century and almost immediately became the most popular instrument in Russia. In the 19th century, the balalaika was perceived not only as a musical instrument, but also as a symbol of the country.

22. Rocking-horse Toy

Wood carving is a traditional craft for Russia and Papua New Guinea. Moreover, wood is one of the most common materials in the production of Russian folk arts and crafts. Since ancient times, wood was used for making plates, spoons, wooden rocking horse etc. Folk crafts are closely associated with Russian folk painting.

23. Wooden Architecture

Traditionally, Russian architecture is seen as a means of expressing the uniqueness and identity of the peoples living in the country. The origins of Russian architecture lie in wooden architecture.

Russian wooden architecture is a unique heritage of world architecture. Its origins lie in the architecture of the Slavic tribes. Wood was used as the main building material of the old Russian state until the end of the 17th century. Wooden architecture is the main style of Russian medieval architecture. It implies an optimal combination of beauty and functionality of buildings.

Most of the buildings of Russian wooden architecture is located in the North of Russia.

24. Festivities during the Maslenitsa

Many traditional Russian holidays also have their roots in ancient times. For example, Maslenitsa is one of the most spectacular Russian holidays, marking the end of the winter period and the onset of spring.

25. The Celebration of Graduates ‘The Scarlet Sails’

Based on centuries-old traditions, festive culture constantly developed and new holidays appeared. For example, the holiday for school graduates and their parents – ‘The Scarlet Sails’ - has become a kind tradition in St. Petersburg. The holiday is celebrated at the end of June with fabulous fireworks and great celebrations.

26. National Library of Russia

Russian language is an integral part of Russian culture. The letters used in the Russian language were invented by the Byzantine Greeks Cyril and Methodius in the 9th century. Due to the written forms our ancestors were able to save and immortalize ancient legends, which set the stage for strong links with future generations. There are 33 letters in the modern Russian alphabet.

In the mid-19th century, the attention of the Russian intelligentsia attracted folklore. The great Russian writer and ethnographer Vladimir Dahl collected rare and dialect words throughout Russia. As a result, in 1863, Vladimir Dahl’s ‘Explanatory dictionary of the living great Russian language’ was published. It included about 200 thousand words. The Dictionary of Vladimir Dahl is a symbol of the wealth of the Russian language.

Russia is the Motherland of great artists, writers and scientists. Russian writers (Alexander Pushkin, Fyodor Dostoevsky, Lev Tolstoy, Anton Chekhov, Mikhail Bulgakov, Boris Pasternak), artists (Karl Bryulov, Viktor Vasnetsov, Isaac Levitan, Mikhail Vrubel, Ilya Repin, Ivan Shishkin), composers (Pyotr Tchaikovsky, Sergei Rachmaninov, Mikhail Glinka, Modest Mussorgsky) and scientists (Mikhail Lomonosov, Alexander Popov, Ivan Pavlov) are known all over the world.

27. Baikonur Cosmodrome

Baikonur Cosmodrome is a unique place in the world. On 12 April 1961 at the Baikonur Cosmodrome was held the first launch of the 'Vostok-1' spacecraft with Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin on board. He has become the first human who flew into space and circled the Earth. Spacecraft's speed was about 28 thousand kilometres per hour.

28. Coin Production at the Imperial Mint

The first Russian Mint was founded more than 500 years ago (1534) in Moscow. Later, at the beginning of the 18th century (1724) Peter I founded the Mint in St. Petersburg.

Nowadays, the St. Petersburg Mint is one of the largest mints in the world minting. There are made memorable coins dedicated to anniversaries and medals.

29. Conclusion

Russian culture has been developing for thousands of years. It reflects the Russian character and mentality. For more than a thousand-year history of the development of Russian culture, it is based on morality, respect for the memories of ancestors, as well as love to the world.

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