



Traditional Lithuanian sports, games and dances

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Facts from History

- In old times adult people in Lithuania did not have to play games, as they had to work hard in the fields, to grow domestic animals. Women had to weave linen, to make clothes, to take care of children. They could play them during various festivals, and weddings.





What did children use to do?

- Young children used to play with toys made from wood or fabric. They were taught how to make a toy by themselves and those who managed to create the most interesting toy were praised.
- Boys used to carve fifes, wooden horses.
- Girls were taught how to sew, to weave belts.
- 6-8 year-old children used to graze geese, chickens.





The games of shepherds

- 10 year-old children grazed domestic animals.
- Not to be bored while grazing children created various active games or grilled potatoes on the fire.





- While playing traditional games children develop their personality, physical, intellectual and social skills

The most popular traditional games

- Lithuanians had a lot of games, which were played singing songs and dancing roundelays.
- In this presentation we are going to introduce games which are played by big groups of children.
- During our meeting we are going to teach you such games as “Limping roll”, “Limping row”, “Baking a pot”, “Jurgelis-master!”, “Spoiled egg”, “Races in bags”, “Who hits?”, “Clumsy”, “Piggy”, “Hit the leg” and others.



“Limping roll“

- The game is played by a group of 4 – 10 people.
- At first it is necessary to choose one player- a “roll”, he has to catch one of the players hopping on his foot.
- If “the roll” touches the ground with his second foot, he has to catch two players.
- The second caught player becomes “a roll”.
- “A roll” can change his foot, but in such way that only one foot has to be on the ground.
- When he catches the player, he has to shout: This is a roll, give it to somebody else!”.

We are playing: „Limping Row“



How to play “Limping Row”?

- In old times this game was played only by boys.
- According the rules boys have to stand in a row.
- Each player takes the left foot of a player who stands in front of him with his left hand . The right hand is put on the shoulder of the player who stands in front of him.
- All of them have to hop on one foot together.
- To change a foot and a hand during the game is possible only altogether and at the same time. The game can be played by two groups of children. The group which hops longer is a winner of the game.



Baking a pot

- Put chairs in two rows with their backs together.
- The team of players must have one player more than there are chairs in the rows.
- Everybody is sitting except one of the players. He goes around chairs and hits one of the sitting players (any), saying „I am baking a pot! “
- Then he and a player who was touched run to opposite sides around the chairs towards the free chair.
- A player, who reaches the free chair first, sits on it and another one becomes a „potter“ and starts to bake pots again.

The third, run!

- Players have to stand in two circles (with the gap of 2-4 steps between them).
- The players of external circle have to stand just behind the players of internal circle.
- Two players are chosen to be the leaders of the game: one of them is „the third“, another one is – “persecutor“. „The persecutor“ has to catch the third“.
- “ The third” can hide by standing in front of some players and he becomes „the first“ and the last in this group becomes „the third“.
- “The third“ has to find a new place.

... and then?

- “The third” has to run and to stand in front of some people, and then „the new third“ has to run as fast as possible to find a new place.
- „Persecutor“ has to catch „the third“.
- If he manages to catch, „the third“ becomes „ „the persecutor“ and the former persecutor has to stand in front of some people in the circle.



„Storks“

- It is better to play this game outside.
- 4-14 people can play this game, but players have to prepare twigs.
- Twigs are put on the ground (5-8 steps between them).
- All the storks hold their twigs tightly and watches their nests carefully. One of the players has to stand in the middle of the circle without his nest.
- When the game starts, all birds fly (run) and after the sign they try to fly to their nests, and that person who stands in the middle of the circle has to occupy somebody's nest.
- That person who cannot occupy a nest goes to the middle of the circle

Race in bags

- The game is played outside on a flat ground.
- Players have to get into the bags till the waist (or even till the neck) and to stand in a row.
- After the sign everybody has to run to the exact place.
- Person who comes to finish first – wins the race.



Who hits?

- The game is played by the group of 10-30 people.
- Players stand in two rows with the gap 20-30 steps between them.
- One chosen player stands between these two rows.
- One of the players in the rows takes the ball and tries to hit with it the player standing between the rows. (and the player between the rows has to turn away from the ball).
- If the player who throws a ball does not manage to hit the player between the rows, he goes between the rows instead of that player.
- If the player hits, that player, who stands between the rows has to guess who throws the ball.

“Clumsy”

- It is necessary to have sticks and three-legged „Clumsy“ (A big brunch with three twigs) .
- „Clumsy“ is put on the playground and a „watchman“ goes around it.
- Players stand along the line which is 20-30 steps away from „Clumsy“.
- Players throw their sticks trying to hit „Clumsy“.
- .When „Clumsy“ is hit and it is on the ground, everybody runs to take their sticks.
- “A watchman” can hit any of the players but only when “Clumsy” is put in its place again.
- If a „watchman“ doesn't manage to hit the players during the time when „Clumsy“ is on the ground, he is a „watchman“ again.

“Piggy”

- Players stand in a circle, dig the holes and put sticks in these holes, then they stand near this hole guarding the stick.
- „A shepherd“ stands in the centre of the circle . He has a stick and a ball.
- “A shepherd”, saying “go, go , piggy”, tries to hit the ball towards one of the holes, and those players who stand around try to block this ball and don’t let him do that.
- If “shepherd” manages to put his stick into the empty hole or roll the ball into the hole, a player who loses his ball becomes “a shepherd”.

Players are digging holes for the game „Piggy“



“Hit the leg”

- It is a game for 10-20 players. Players have to stand in a circle holding each other's hands.
- One of the players goes into the centre of the circle and tries to kick the ball out of the circle.
- Other players try to kick the ball back into the circle.
- That player who misses the ball and lets it go out of the circle goes into the centre of the circle and starts the game from the beginning.

Let's ride to a market!

- This game was taught by the parents of our students.
- For this game players need two long sticks and to divide the group of children into two teams (three –four children in each team)
- Players put the stick between their legs as if they ride on it.
- Teams have to ride on the sticks along the path which is marked by the big stumps or sticks, and they cannot touch these stumps or sticks.
- The team which reaches finish first is a winner of a game.



Summer skies

- This game was told us by our students' grandparents, but it is becoming very popular nowadays among young and old people.
- Players have to make skies not for one person, but for two or three. So you need two boards and two or three pairs pieces of ropes.
- These pairs of ropes must be fixed on the boards so that players could put the skies on their feet.
- Two or more players (the number of players depends on the number of ropes on the boards) put on the skies on their feet and tries to go together.
- The team which comes to the finish first is a winner.



Hunting

- This game was played by our sport teachers when they were children.
- For this game players need 10 sticks. They are fixed on the ground with the distance 0,5 meter one from another.
- Numbers from one to ten are put on the sticks. Those sticks which are at the furthest distance from the start line are given numbers "10", "9", "8".
- It is possible to put the pictures of animals on the stick too, and players have to hunt as many animals as possible. If pictures of animals are put on the stick, you can choose the pictures of big animals (a lion, a tiger, a bear) on the further sticks, and pictures of small animals (a rabbit, a fox) on the stick which are close to the line.
- Players are divided into two groups, each team is given rings. Players have to throw rings on the sticks.
- A team which catches a bigger number of animals (points) is a winner.

Hunting



Jurgelis- master

- Players go round in a circle and one of them (**Jurgelis**) stands in the middle. While walking around players sing:
- „Jurgeli-meistreli, mokyk savo vaikus.
Jurgeli-meistreli, mokyk savo vaikus“
- **Jurgelis** shows some actions and players repeat his actions singing the words:
- „O, jūs, vaikai, taip darykit kaip Jurgelis daro
O, jūs, vaikai, taip darykit kaip Jurgelis daro“
- After that **Jurgelis** is replaced by another player

Spoiled egg

- All players sit on the ground in a circle.
- One player goes (or runs) around the circle carrying some small thing in his/her hands and saying:“ Iam carrying an egg, I am carrying an egg..“
- Then he puts this thing behind one of the players and runs away. The person who had a thing behind him has to feel it, to run after that player and to try to catch him/her.

A Wolf and a sheep

- All players stand in several rows.
- One of the players is chosen to be a wolf: he chases another player- a sheep.
- A game leader says „op“ and all the players turn left making new rows.
- A “wolf“ still tries to catch a „sheep“

Lithuanian Folk dances

- Lithuanian traditional choreographic heritage consists of dances, round dances and games. Most of them are for entertainment, but there are some interesting ritual roundelays and dances which are related with the calendar, work and wedding ceremony. Many of them are common in Lithuania, but some ethnographic regions have their own characteristics.



- Young people gathered to dance in field parties (in summer) or in farmer houses (in winter).



- Older people and small children also took part in these festivities talking, socializing, and generally amusing themselves.



Ring Dances or Roundelays

- Ring dances have several forms: simple circles, double circles, rows, bridges, chains and gates.
- The number of participants is unlimited.
- The dancer themselves sing the lyrics without any instrumental accompaniment



Ring Dances or Roundelays

- Stepping around in a circle, the participants perform various movements which sometimes illustrate the song's text. But usually, these are just simple movements repeated again and again: linking elbows and turning, weaving circles, and other figures.



- Lithuanian folk dances, roundelays and games are the part of Lithuanian folklore. In ancient villages the new-born child was surrounded by the world of folklore from the first days as using traditional songs, fairy tales and games was very common those days.





**The most important thing is to
recall and to maintain
traditions**



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