



Christmas Crafts from Around the World

RUSSIA

Thirteen days after Western Christmas, on January 7th, the Russian Orthodox Church celebrates its Christmas, following the old Julian calendar. It is nine days of both solemn ritual and joyous celebration. After the 1917 Revolution, Christmas was banned throughout Russia, along with other religious festivals. Christmas is one of the most joyous traditions for the celebration of Eve comes from the Russian tradition.

On Christmas Eve, it is traditional for all family members to gather to share a special meal. The various foods and customs surrounding this meal differed in Holy Russia from village to village and from family to family, but certain aspects remained the same.

An old Russian tradition, whose roots are in the Orthodox faith, is the Christmas Eve fast and meal. The fast typically lasts until after the evening worship service or until the first star appears. The dinner that follows is very much a celebration, although meat is not permitted. Kutya (kutia), a type of porridge, is the primary dish. It is very symbolic with its ingredients being various grains for hope and honey and poppy.

The seed for happiness and peace.

Stacking Russian Dolls

Materials:

- Paper cups
- Gluestick
- Flesh-colored paper
- Scrapbook or patterned paper
- Pens

Instructions:

Cut circles from the flesh-colored paper for faces and decorate with the pens.

Cut shawls, bodies, and tummy panels from the scrapbook paper. Have a look at our photos for inspiration. Glue these onto the cups to make a doll on each cup.