

Задание 6. My culture

MY CULTURE 1

RUSSIAN VILLAGE

- 1 Look at photos A–E of a village. Have you ever been to a village? Did you like it there? Say why? Match the activities below to the pictures.
 - Celebrate the village day
 - See the cow parade
 - Live in a wooden house
 - Take water from a well
 - Cooking on Russian stove
 - Go by cart
 - Collect typical berries: raspberry, sour cherry, gooseberry
 - Have a village laundry day
 - Admire rural landscapes
- 2 In pairs discuss the following questions:
 - What does a typical Russian village look like and what do people do there?
 - What is life in the country like?
 - Is life in the Russian village different from life in other countries villages? Why?
- 3 Read the text and compare your answers (Exercise 2) to Vera's answers in her blog.

A REMOTE RUSSIAN VILLAGE ISN'T THE PLACE TO BE, OR IS IT?

Jenny's blog

There are a lot of remote even isolated villages in Russia – the country is vast and in some part scarcely populated. I am going to use a village of Baruta in Pskov Region, as an example of a remote village. I am an absolute city dweller, but when I was a little girl – this village used to be the best place on earth, the place I belonged to. This place is special because of the people I met there and holidays I celebrated with them, this is the place where my granny lives, my mum was born, where I used to spend my summers. I would not like to live in this village but I am happy to have all the sweet memories of childhood and early youth.

One of memorable events is Village Day, a massive yearly celebration, which is a combination of a street fair, with a **cookout**, kid's attractions and a concert at the local cultural center. Festive clothes, tasty homemade food, loud

music and singing "chastushki" – short funny songs – these are the memories I will cherish forever.

Such holidays are a rare occasion in the village of Baruta. Most of the time villagers are busy struggling to cope with all the chores they have. Daily life of a typical villager is pretty hard and **monotonous**. The unemployment is rather high and even if you are lucky to have a job, the wages are rather low. This is the main reason why a lot of young people leave for the nearest cities. Most of the cooking is still **done from scratch**. A lot of villagers rely on their livestock and kitchen gardens for food: meat from their cows, pigs, chickens or ducks; milk, cottage cheese, and cream from the cows, vegetables and fruit from their gardens.

Most villagers own cows and other animals. In spring and summer, the cows are **pastured**. At around 5 am all the cows in a herd and the cowboy keeps an eye on them until 9 pm. In the evening the herd parades through the village. During the cold months, the cows stay in the stalls and eat hay. The pigs are also very common, they are usually fed **table scraps**: any food **leftovers** and things such as potato and carrot peels, bread, egg shells, etc. Children usually have to help parents with **chores** from an early age.

All of winter provisions, such as potatoes, jams and pickled goods, are stored in an underground cellar. There are one or two stores in villages. Villages that are big enough have a kind of a culture club, where all cultural events and celebrations take place.

Common accommodation for villagers is a wooden house without running water or sewer communications. So washing and cleaning pose a lot of difficulty because first some water should be brought in a **bucket** from a **well**. However, in some villages the situation **has taken a turn for the better**. Self-employed people have come to settle down in the country creating better conditions for promoting social progress and better standards of life.

With winding dirt lanes framed by **ilacs**, **quaint** wooden houses and graceful **onion-domed** churches, the tiny Russian villages look charming, however, most parents want an easier life for their children, though villagers wouldn't like their rural lifestyle to disappear.

GLOSSARY

yearly (adj) /jɪərli/ ежегодный
cookout (n) /kʊkəʊt/ пикник, барбекю
pasture (v) /ˈpæʃtʃə/ пастись
stall (n) /stɔːl/ стойло
table scraps (n) /ˈteɪbəl skræps/ остатки от еды
leftovers /ˈleftəʊvəz/ остатки, обидки
chores /tʃɔːz/ работа по дому
bucket /ˈbʌkɪt/ ведро
well (n) /wel/ колодезь
take a turn for the better – меняться к лучшему
monotonous (adj) /məˈtɒnənəs/ монотонный
do from scratch /kɪˈfrɒm skrætʃ/ делать с начала
cellar (n) /ˈselə/ подвал, подполье
ilac (n) /ˈɪləs/ сирень
quaint (adj) /kwɪnt/ причудливый, замисловый
onion-domed /ˈɒniən-dəʊmɪd/ с куполом в форме лукавицы

- 4 Complete the sentences using the Glossary.
 - 1 You can get some water from the ...
 - 2 People store food in a ...
 - 3 Though the situation is very bad, it seems to ... now.
 - 4 In a village people have very many ... to do.
 - 5 It takes place every year, so it is a ... event.
- 5 REFLECT | Culture In groups, answer the questions.
 - Where do people live in the country?
 - What do people have to do in the country?
 - What are the advantages of living in the country?
 - What are the benefits of living in the city?
 - Would you like to live in the country or in the city? Why?
- 6 Read the quotes. In pairs, explain what they mean using your own words.

“Country things are the necessary root of our life and that remains true even of a rootless and tragically urban civilization. To live permanently away from the country is a form of slow death.”
Esther Meynell

“City people make most of the fuss about the charms of country life.”
Mason Cooley
- 7 WRITING Read the statement. Express your opinion. Do you agree/disagree? Why?
Life in the country is much better than life in the city.

Учащиеся, которые занимаются по новой линии учебников по английскому языку Team Up! (Вместе), знакомятся с особенностями англоязычной культуры, а также читают и обсуждают тексты о традициях своей страны. Это дает возможность рассказать о своей культуре иностранцам, обсудить сходства и различия культур разных стран. Один из разделов учебника для 10 класса Team Up! (Вместе) My Culture посвящен специфике быта и образа жизни российской глубинки. Автор с большой теплотой рассказывает о деревне в Псковской области, традициях, укладе, проблемах. Прочитайте текст, обратите внимание на большое количество реалий, которые встречаются в тексте, и выполните задание.

Задание. Why is Baruta village so special for Jenny?

1. Because she lives there
2. Because her dad was born there
3. Because she used to spend summers there