**CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS OF BELARUS**

An English proverb says, So many countries so many customs. Words tradition & custom mean a usual manner of doing something from generation to generation (из поколения в поколение).

To know customs & traditions of a country means to understand the people, their art & culture better.

Having a holiday is great fun. Firstly, people have a day off (выходной). Secondly, it’s a variety and change from everyday routine. Every country has got its own national and religious holidays. In our country there are some public holidays and they are official days off. They are New Year, Christmas, Easter, Victory day, Independence Dayб the 8th of March etc.

My favorite holidays are New Year and Christmas (можно поменять, тогда и дальше менять нужно). The preparation for these holidays starts long before they come. About a fortnight before the New Year the streets in our city are decorated with colorful lights, the shop windows show a lots of New Year decorations and Christmas gifts. Of course different people choose different ways of celebrating them. New Year is traditionally a family holiday. People decorate a New Year tree, cook a lot of delicious/ tasty food, buy presents and say good wishes. Some people also take part in festivals arranged in parks and squares or go to parties or restaurants.

(Orthodox -Православное) Christmas comes a week after the New Year. This week in Belarus is called Kalyady. During the Christmas week there are different/ various street festivals in the cities and towns of Belarus. For religious people this holiday is very important. So they go to churches and take part in different religious celebrations.

We are not a religious family and we don’t go to church regularly, but we respect national traditions and my grandmother always makes Christmas cakes and Easter pies and paints eggs.