

The Mari Festivals

Starlight 10 Module 3



The Mari Festivals

- Agavairem
 - Kugeche
 - Semyk
 - Surem
 - Shorokyor
 - Shyzhe Pazar
 - Peledysh Pairem
 - Yuarnya
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Shorokyol

- Name - Yule (святки)
- When - 22 December or 6 January
- Why – Magic pulling sheep legs have an aim to have more sheep
- Activities – mummifying, fortune - telling



Semyk

- Name – Semyk
- When – 7 weeks before Easter
- Why – remembrance of the dead
- Activities – asking for fortune in the family and deeds



Yuarnya

- Name - Shrovetide
- When – the end of February – the beginning of March
- Why – the beginning of Spring
- Activities – cooking pancakes, burning the Dummy, playing games



Kugeche

- Name – Easter
- When – spring
- Why – welcome Spring
- Activities – panting eggs, visiting the church



Agavairem

- Name – the Festival of Plough
- When – the end of April – the beginning of May
- Why –beginning of field works
- Activities – painting eggs and putting them into the ground to have a good harvest



Peledysh Pairem

- Name – The Holiday of Flowers
- When – 14 June
- Why – to celebrate the beginning of Summer and distract the Mari from religious festivals
- Activities – dancing, games, singing



Surem

- Name – Purification
- When – 9-12 July
- Why - Ritual festival connected with exorcism (изгнание нечистой силы)
- Activities – playing ritual trumpets



Shyzhe Pazar

- Name – The Festival of new Porridge
- When – 21 November
- Why – the results of autumn harvesting works, ritually legalizes the beginning of consumption of bread from a new crop.
- Activities - thanksgiving, commemoration of the dead ancestors, a ritual meal, a festive celebration, fairs

