

12. HOLIDAYS IN LITHUANIA

TASK 1. Match the pictures with the names and dates of the holidays.



1.



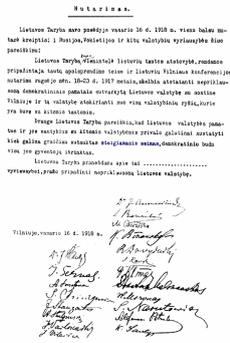
2.



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10.



11.



12.



13.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ All Saints' Day / All Souls' Day ➤ Assumption Day / Žolinė ➤ Christmas ➤ Christmas Eve ➤ Easter ➤ Father's Day ➤ International Labour Day ➤ Mother's Day ➤ New Year's Day ➤ St. John's Day / Rasos (The Day of Dew) ➤ State Day / The Coronation of King Mindaugas Day ➤ The Day of the Restoration of the Independence of Lithuania (from the Soviet Union, 1990) ➤ The Day of the Restoration of the State of Lithuania (1918) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 1 • February 16 • March 11 • The first Sunday and Monday of Spring with a full moon • May 1 • The first Sunday in May • The first Sunday in June • June 24 • July 6 • August 15 • November 1 / 2 • December 24 • December 25, 26
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TASK 2. Read the sentences and group them according to which holiday they refer to.

NAME/DATE OF HOLIDAY	SENTENCE NUMBER
February 16th / The Restoration of the State of Lithuania	
March 11th / Re-establishment of Independence	
Shrove Tuesday / Užgavėnės	
Easter	
Mother's Day	
St. John's / Joninės / Rasos	
State Day / The Coronation of King Mindaugas Day	
Assumption Day / Žolinė	
All Saints' Day / All Souls' Day	
Christmas Eve	

1. This is a religious holiday, its traditions are associated with dyeing eggs.
2. This day is a perfect occasion to let your mother know how much you love her.
3. Celebration of this holiday comes from Pagan times – traditionally, it was a holiday on the completion of the late summer harvest.
4. This is a winter holiday when people ask the winter to leave and the spring to come.
5. This holiday recalls the 1990s when the Lithuanian parliament declared an end to the Soviet occupation, causing the collapse of the Soviet Union.
6. On this day, all Lithuanians go to cemeteries to put candles on the graves of their loved ones as well as on unvisited graves, and to say a prayer.
7. The traditions include jumping over bonfires and at midnight searching in the forest for the magic fern blossom.
8. Many people go to Parliament Square to watch the ceremony of the raising of the Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian flags.
9. In the evening, the whole family reunites to eat a special vegetarian (fish permitted) supper that must include at least 12 meals.
10. There is also a tradition to compete by rolling eggs to see which one will go furthest.
11. On this day in 1918, the Act of the Declaration of Independence was signed.
12. In the pagan religion this "search" had a different meaning, but now it is used as a metaphor for spending the night with one's girlfriend or boyfriend away from the others.
13. On this occasion, people often remember what life was like before World War II.
14. Lithuanians believe that this will help to keep the link between the living and the dead, as this day is a special time when souls come back home.
15. It is the day to acknowledge her love and support, and the efforts in raising her children.
16. On this day in 1253, the first and only Lithuanian King, Mindaugas was crowned.
17. Masquering as beggars or gypsies, or wearing masks of animals (bears, cranes, goats), people visit their neighbours.
18. This is the opportunity for everybody to learn more about the glorious past of Lithuania and the times when it was a powerful state.
19. Nowadays it has become a Christian tradition, and on this day Lithuanians attend church services where plants and flowers are used in rituals.
20. The first course always consists of flatbread wafers (Lithuanian: *Kalėdaitis*).

TASK 3. Complete the gaps. Use the words given below.

- On Shrove Tuesday, people eat a lot. The most common food is _____. At the end of the feast, a straw effigy (AmE – a jackstraw) of Morè, the symbol of winter, is _____.
- In Lithuania, Easter eggs are traditionally _____ with wax; this technique is a part of Lithuanian cultural _____.
- On Mother's Day, traditionally, mothers are _____ with a cake, flowers, and small gifts. This is followed by a family _____.
- Midsummer _____ involve singing and dancing until the sunset, searching for the magic flower, greeting the _____ sun and washing one's face with the morning dew.
- Christmas Eve in Lithuania is a quiet and solemn dinner with family and _____ friends. Traditional _____ and fortune-telling is part of the occasion.
- All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day are quiet and _____ days and have nothing to do with Halloween, the feast of _____, celebrated in other parts of the world.

burned celebrations close decorated ghosts heritage honoured
meal pancakes peaceful presents rising rituals

ANSWERS

12. HOLIDAYS IN LITHUANIA

TASK 1.

1. New Year's Day / January 1
2. Christmas / December 25,26
3. The Day of the Restoration of the Independence (1990) / March 11
4. International Labour Day / May 1
5. The Day of the Restoration of the State of Lithuania (1918) / February 16
6. State Day / The Coronation of King Mindaugas Day / July 6
7. Assumption Day / Žolinė / August 15
8. Mother's Day / The first Sunday in May
9. Christmas Eve / December 24
10. Easter / The first Sunday and Monday of Spring with a full moon
11. All Saints' Day / All Souls' Day
12. Father's Day / The First Sunday in June
13. St. John's Day / Rasos (The Day of Dew)

TASK 2.

February 16th / The Restoration of the State of Lithuania / 11, 13

March 11th / Re-establishment of Independence / 5, 8

Shrove Tuesday / Užgavėnės / 4, 17

Easter / 1, 10

Mother's Day / 2, 15

St. John's / Joninės / Rasos / 7, 12

State Day / The Coronation of King Mindaugas Day / 16, 18

Assumption Day / Žolinė / 3, 19

All Saints' Day / All Souls' Day / 6, 14

Christmas Eve / 9, 20

TASK 3.

- On Shrove Tuesday, people eat a lot. The most common food is pancakes. At the end of the feast, a straw effigy (AmE – a jackstraw) of Morè, the symbol of winter, is burned.
- In Lithuania, Easter eggs are traditionally decorated with wax; this technique is a part of Lithuanian cultural heritage.
- On Mother's Day, traditionally, mothers are honoured with a cake, flowers, and small gifts. This is followed by a family meal.
- Midsummer celebrations involve singing and dancing until the sunset, searching for the magic flower, greeting the rising sun and washing one's face with the morning dew.
- Christmas Eve in Lithuania is a quiet and solemn dinner with family and close friends. Traditional rituals and fortune-telling is part of the occasion.
- All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day are quiet and peaceful days and have nothing to do with Halloween, the feast of ghosts, celebrated in other parts of the world.