

**Skills obtained during the masterclasses in Latvia, Short-term exchanges of groups of pupils in Riga, Latvia, C2 (09.05.2016 – 13.05.2016.)**

**Masterclass Baltic ornaments/symbols**

1. Participants of the masterclasses learned a little bit about Baltic Mythology and small facts from the History.
2. They have got information about the main **Baltic deities**.
3. The surprise for the team was our Folk songs or The Dainas (Latvian Folksongs) which are little quatrains of ancient Latvian wisdom captured in song. Created well over a thousand years ago. There are more than 1.2 million Dainas, with references to them in all forms and layers of culture. The collection of Dainas under the name “The Cabinet of Folksongs” is inscribed in the UNESCO Memory of the World. The youngsters heard the rhythm of the song in Latvian and English translation.
4. Participants learned about the main Baltic symbols (ornament ) and their meaning:
  - a. The sign of God or heaven
  - b. The sign of Mother of Earth, Mother of Water
  - c. The sign of Human destiny
  - d. The signs of the main Deities.
5. After the main presentation about the signs, they had possibility to find their own sign on very old waved belt with ornaments (Lielvades josta). They had to find ornament which is warmest for them among others. The cooperation, listening deep inside -was the skills to develop. Also they had to be brave to



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act in front of all others, to express their feelings they learned during this small activity.

6. Then there were practice to draw the main ornaments and to make the protection amulet for themselves. (drawing, trying to remember the signs, put them into circle or triangle).

The main skills:

- to learn something new about other country culture, history, mythology;
- to co-operate, to express their feeling in English, to speak in front of others;
- to ask questions, to listen to others.
- to participate actively.

## **2. Midsummer Fire Ritual**

The ritual was carried out on the 10<sup>th</sup> century city hill.

1. The participants learned about midsummer festival in Latvia, they heard very old songs with the most popular refrain Līgo Līgo.
2. They developed the skill to listen to the songs which they do not understand
3. Small activities, like games – developed co-operation skill, felled down language barriers, they became more open, friendly with others
4. The crown making skill from flowers was learned.
5. Participation, listening, obeying rules regarding fireplace were obtained.