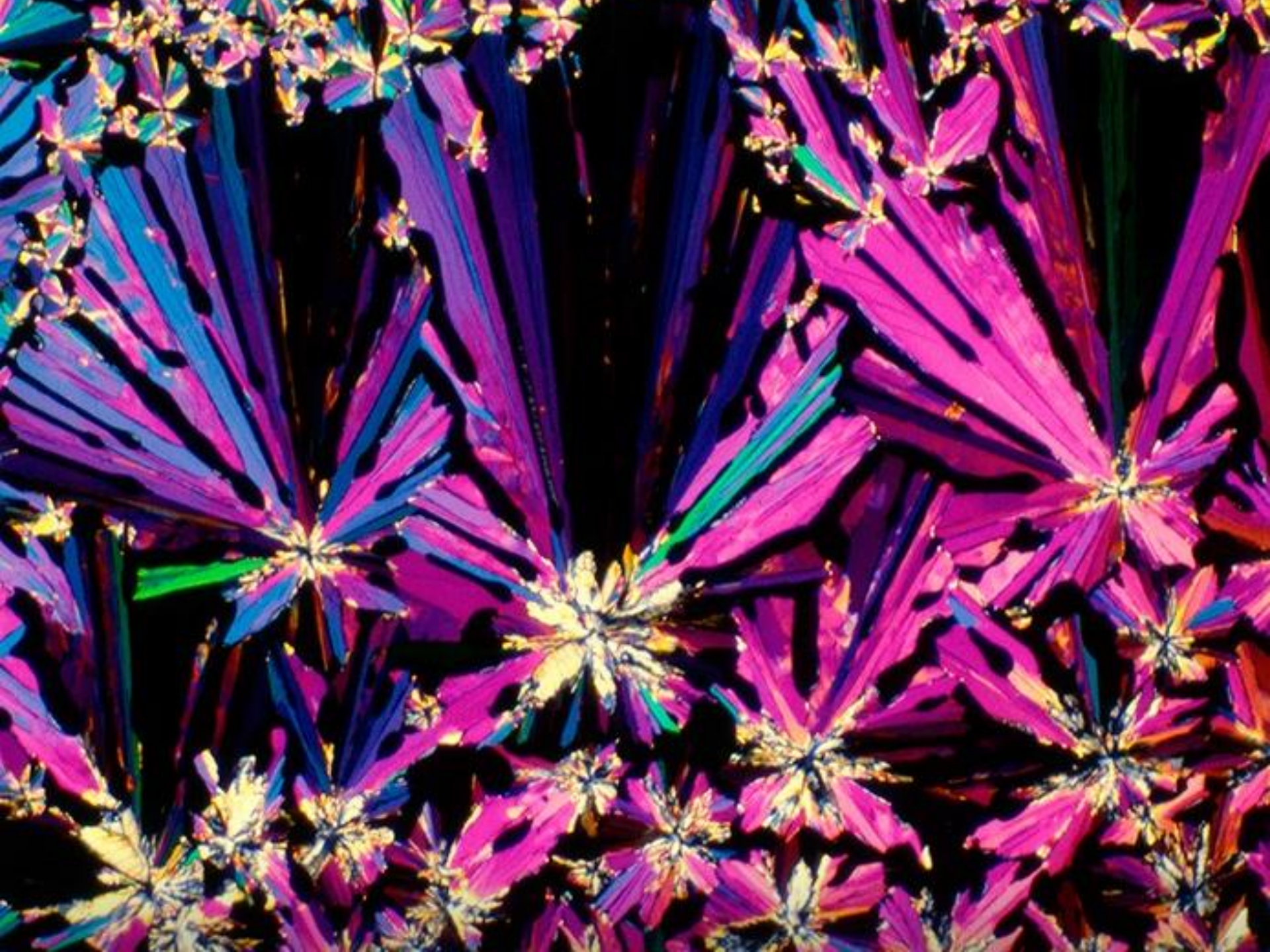




Limbazi Secondary School No 3

Teacher:

Let's start the lesson. Today the topic of our lesson is the period of history in the territory of the present state of Latvia during the time between 9th and 12th centuries. This territory was inhabited by the following tribes – Latgilians, Semigalians, Cours and Livs. The people of the tribes usually lived in farmsteads – families with their relatives and workers who were taken captive while robbing the neighboring settlements. Sometimes even 60 people could stay in a household. Their farms consisted of several buildings – the house, the threshing barn, the cattle shed, the mill, the adjoining fields and pastures and the sauna where the people of the household washed themselves, where mothers gave birth to their children and where the people could stay during the cold winter days. The main person in the family was the father or the master...



Markuss: Hey! Wake up (whispering)

Sanita: Who are you?

Markuss: I'm the master of this settlement. Who are you?

Sanita: Seems like...I'm from another century.

Markuss: From another century? Well...what are you doing here then?

Sanita: I've come to see how you live!

Markuss: Right...Would you like to be my guest?

Sanita: It's my lunch time now. I'm hungry. Do you want some crisps?

Markuss: Crisps? What are they?

Sanita: They're made from potatoes.

Markuss: Potatoes? What are they?

Sanita: We boil potatoes; we also fry and bake them. Potatoes are like our second bread.

Markuss: Oh, bread! We know what that is. So, would you still like to be my guest? Come with me!







Markuss: Here, have a seat.

Sanita: What's that? Ieva: It is porridge. Sanita: Porridge? What is it made from?

Ieva: We make porridge from different kind of grains - wheat, rye, barley, buckwheat and oats. We grind grains in the mill, then we get flour, we mix the flour with milk and boil it, then we get porridge!

Monta: We usually eat it with honey and butter.



Rota: Have you started eating without me?

– Is there any porridge left?

– Then can I at least have bread?

– Thank you.

Sanita: Can I have some bread, too? Thank you.

Where did you buy it?

Raivis: We grow it ourselves! First we harvest different kind of grains. Then we make flour in the mill from grains. After that we mix all grains and flour up in dough. From the dough we make a big loaf of bread. In some time the bread is ready!

There you have it!





Markuss: We're full. Let's go back to work!

Undīne: It's summer. It's haymaking time. How do we make hay....? We wait until grass is long enough to be cut. We cut the grass with a scythe. Then the sun dries the grass and we get hay. /Div' pļaviņas es nopļāvu/ We gather it with rakes and put it in haystacks. In winter, we feed our animals on the hay.

Rota: We have a lot of animals, like /skaņas/
Chickens lay eggs, sheep and goats give wool and milk, cows give us milk and we get meat from all of these animals and pigs as well. Horses are the animals that we take care most, because with horses we plough the fields and on horses men ride to battles. We never use horses for meat, they are our friends and we give them our finest and cleanest water.

Ieva: One of the most precious types of food, which a Latvian farmer is proud of, is honey. Honey is healthy and delicious. We sweeten our food with honey.

Sanita: Don't you have sugar?

Ieva: What is sugar?

Sanita: It is white powder you get from sugar canes or sugar beet and you have it to sweeten food.

Ieva: As you may know, honey is a sweet food made by bees using nectar from flowers. Our people keep bees in swarms, in hollow tree trunks. To lose a bee swarm is a big disaster because honey is of great value.





Monta: In the evening the whole family gathers in the room and spends time doing things they prefer, e.g. older women knit, young maidens make a dowry, that is, make clothes, towels, sheets for their wedding, but young men carve spoons and tell legends and tales. Housewives and maidens cook dinner and sing songs. In the candlelight they also draw different ornaments



Playing games is also a quite common pastime.
/Adiet bēрни, ko adāti.../

Before going to bed, mothers sing lullabies.
/Aijā, žūžū lāča bēрни/

So the people today have not forgotten the ancient traditions, they still accompany us in the celebrations when people sing and dance like they did a thousand years ago. A folksong, which consists of four lines and can be considered the basics of our moral - the Latvian bible, accompanies us in everyday life. Folk songs are the first source of ethic values that a child is taught in the family, mothers pass these over to their children from their birth. It is unbelievable that the number of folksongs is the same as the number of Latvians. They reveal the ancient wisdom and have a secret code in them. Our task is to decode their message and not to lose them but treasure them.

With this we can finish the lesson.



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