# My country: SLOVENIA









Gradivo za poučevanje nacionalnih vsebin k učbenikom *Project Explore, Project, English Plus in Harmonize* 

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**Deveti razred** 

# **Contents**

Lesson 1:	
Slovenian customs and traditions	. 1
Lesson 2:	
Going Our Way	. 3
Lesson 3:	
National symbols	. 5
Lesson 4:	
Made in Slovenia	. <b>7</b>
Answer kev	. 9

# Slovenian customs and traditions



# KURENTOVANJE IN PTUJ

very year, thousands of people visit the town of Ptuj to take part in the Kurentovanje carnival and celebrate the ancient customs and traditions of Slovenia. The first carnival took place in Ptuj in 1960. It was the idea of the local historian Drago Hasl. He thought that it is important to preserve Slovenian customs and traditions, so he suggested organizing an annual carnival in the town. He called the carnival Kurentovanje, after the most famous of the costumes – the Kurent.

The celebrations continue for ten days, but the most interesting one is the parade on Shrove Tuesday, which is the last day of carnival. People wear traditional costumes, dance, sing and celebrate the end of the winter season.

The central figure in the parade is the Kurent. In the past, only unmarried men used to wear the Kurent costume, but today women and children can be Kurents, too. However, most women prefer to wear a Gorenjska noša – a white <sup>1</sup>\_\_\_\_\_\_, a brightly coloured silk <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ and a black <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_ over it. This used to be the traditional costume

for women in Carniola only, before it became the national costume in the 19th century.

On Shrove Tuesday, groups of Kurents go from house to house and chase away the evil spirits. They wear sheepskin  $^4$ \_\_\_\_\_\_ and chain  $^5$ \_\_\_\_\_\_ with huge bells around their waists. The Kurent's head is covered with a scary mask and a  $^6$ \_\_\_\_\_\_, also made of sheepskin. Sometimes there are bird feathers or animal horns, too. Each Kurent has got a long red tongue — in the past, this used to be made of leather, but today it's usually cotton or other fabric. The Kurents wear red or green  $^7$ \_\_\_\_\_ and black  $^8$ \_\_\_\_.

The ježevka (a wooden club with hedgehog spikes at the top) is a weapon they use to scare winter and the evil spirits. It's an old tradition for young girls to give the Kurents colourful handkerchiefs to decorate the ježevka.

Over the years, the carnival has become so popular that people from other countries, like Croatia, Austria, Italy and even Japan, travel to Ptuj to see the Kurents. In 2013, the Slovenian community in Cleveland, USA, organized a local version of Kurentovanje.

1 Check the meaning of these words in a dictionary. Then complete the text with the correct (singular or plural) form of eight of the words.

belt coat skirt blouse boots scarf dress hat trousers vest apron gaiters

2 Read the article. Choose the correct words.

Kurentovanje is a costume / carnival.

- 1 Drago Hasl was / wasn't from Ptuj.
- The carnival starts nine days before / after Shrove Tuesday.
- 3 It celebrates the beginning / end of winter.
- 4 Today, women can / can't wear a Kurent costume.
- 5 Gorenjska noša is a traditional costume from Ptuj / Carniola.
- 6 All / Some Kurents have bird feathers on their heads.
- 7 The Kurents' coats are made of sheepskin / leather.
- 8 The ježevka is a wooden mask / club.
- 9 There's a Slovenian community in Japan / the USA.
- Work in pairs. Choose a Slovenian custom or tradition and make notes about it. Then describe it to your partner.
- 1 Is it an old tradition or a new one?
- 2 When and where does it take place?
- 3 Who can take part?
- 4 What do people wear?
- 5 How do they celebrate?
- 4 Read the sentences. Then choose the correct answers to complete the rules.

I went to Ptuj every year when I was a child.
I used to go to Ptuj by train, but now I take the bus.
I went to Ptuj to visit my cousins last Saturday.

1 We can use \_\_\_\_\_when we talk about a past

habit or state which is different now.

- a the past simple
- **b** used to
- c the past simple or used to
- 2 If something happened only once in the past, we use \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a the past simple
  - **b** used to
  - c the past simple or used to

Read the article again. Answer the ques	stions.
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Did children use to wear Kurent costumes in the past?

No, they didn't. In the past, only unmarried men used to wear Kurent costumes.

- 1 Did Drago Hasl use to organize carnivals before 1960?
- 2 Did Gorenjska noša use to be the official national costume before the 19th century?
- 3 Did they use to make the Kurents' tongues from cotton in the past?
- 4 Did a lot of Japanese people use to come to Ptuj in the 1950s?
- 5 Did they use to have a Kurentovanje carnival in Cleveland before 2013?
- Write a description of the Slovenian national costumes or the traditional costumes that people wear in your region.





# GOING OUR WAY

Original title Gremo mi po svoje

**Director** Miha Hočevar

**Producer**Danijel Hočevar

**Screenplay** Miha Hočevar and

Miha Hočevar and Matevž Lužar

Cast Jurij Zrnec Tadej Koren Šmid Jure Kreft Matevz Štular Jana Zupančič

**Music** Mitja Vrhovnik Smrekar Going Our Way is a comedy by director Miha Hočevar. The film, which is set in the Slovenian Alps, tells the story of a group of teenagers at a summer camp. It is about growing up, friendship and adventures.

The story is interesting, although it is not very original. Teenager Aleks and his friends are at a summer camp by the river Soča, in the Triglav National Park. The camp leader, Starešina, is a man who takes scouting very seriously. He wants to teach the boys useful skills. The boys, however, just want to have fun and are not interested in learning. Things get even worse when a group of girls arrive in another camp nearby. The camp leader decides to organize a competition for the boys. He knows that they like adventures, so he suggests camping in the wild – small groups of scouts will spend a night in the wilderness in shelters that they have to make themselves. Aleks volunteers, together with Zaspanec and Jaka, who is the camp leader's son. They just want to escape the boredom of the camp, but the competition soon turns into more than an exciting adventure.

The actors who play in the film are very good. Jurij Zrnec stars as the camp leader and Tadej Koren Šmid plays the role of Aleks, the main character. My favourite characters are Jaka (Matevz Štular) and Zaspanec (Jure Kreft) because they are so funny.

Going Our Way won the Best Picture award at the Slovenian Film Festival in 2010. Overall, it is a great film which I would recommend to anyone who likes comedies and adventure stories. Going Our Way will really make you laugh. Don't miss it!

Work in pairs. Check the meaning of these words in a dictionary. Then write the title of a Slovenian film for each genre.

drama thriller comedy western musical fantasy science fiction romance adventure

drama – Cvetje v jeseni

1 Read the film review and answer the questions.

What is the title of the film?

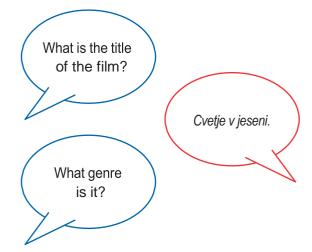
Going Our Way (Gremo mi po svoje).

- 1 What genre is it?
- Where is it set?
- 3 What is it about?
- What does the reviewer think about the story?
- 5 Who plays the main role in the film?
- 6 Who are the reviewer's favourite characters? Why does she like them?
- 7 What is the reviewer's opinion of the film? Would she recommend it?
- 8 Has the film won any awards?
- Work in pairs. Have you seen the film Going Our Way? Do you agree with the review? Why / Why not?
- 3 Look at the blue words in the film review. Complete the rules with who and which.
- 1 We use \_\_\_\_\_when we refer to things.
- 2 We use \_\_\_\_\_when we refer to people.
- 3 We can sometimes use *that* instead of *who* and *which*.

- 5 Match 1–6 with a–f. Then write sentences with who or which.
- 1 Going Our Way is a Slovenian film. <u>d</u>
- 2 Starešina is the camp leader. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 The camp is in the Triglav National Park. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Jurij Zrnec is a famous actor. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Jaka and Zaspanec are teenagers. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Mitja Vrhovnik Smrekar is a composer.
- a It's in the Slovenian Alps.
- **b** They are friends with Aleks.
- c He plays the role of Starešina.
- d It won the Best Picture award.
- e He writes music for films.
- f He organizes a competition for the boys.
- Going Our Way is a Slovenian film which won the Best Picture award.

_	
3	
4	
5	

6 Work in pairs. Think about a Slovenian film that you have seen recently and make notes. Use the questions in exercise 2 to help you. Then tell your partner about the film.





# **OUR FLAG**

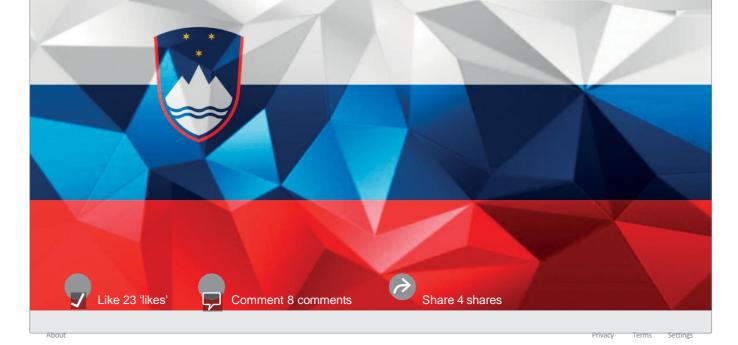
National symbols are the signs, colours and objects that represent a country and its people. A lot of countries have a motto or an anthem, a national bird, an animal, a tree and a flower. These symbols are not always official, but everyone in the country recognizes them. If you show a picture of a golden eagle, a lynx, an olm, a linden leaf or a red carnation to a Slovenian, they will immediately know what these are. If you ask about the national anthem, they will start singing *Zdravljica*. However, the most important symbol of a country is its flag.

The government of a country decides what the flag should look like. The Slovenian flag has got three stripes: white, blue and red. At first, these were the colours of Carniola. The poet Lovro Toman, together with a group of students, raised the white, blue and red flag on a building between Congress Square and Prešeren Square in Ljubljana during the Revolution in 1848, on 7th April. Slovenians celebrate Flag Day on this date.

After Slovenia became an independent country in 1991, the flag represented the whole nation – all Slovenians living in the country and those living abroad. The artist Marko Pogačnik designed the Slovenian coat of arms and it was added in the upper left-hand corner of the flag. The coat of arms shows the highest mountain in Slovenia: Mount Triglay. There are three six-pointed golden stars above it. The two wavy lines represent the Triglav Lakes Valley and the Adriatic Sea. The inspiration for the design came from the poem The Baptism at the Savica by France Prešeren:

> Mož in oblakov vojsko je obojno končala temna noč, kar svetla zarja zlatí z rumen'mi žarki glavo trojno snežnikov kranjskih siv'ga poglavarja, Bohinjsko jezero stoji pokojno, sledu ni več vunanjega viharja ...

A similar design appears on the column in front of St Martin's Parish church in Bled. The column, created by the architect Jože Plečnik in 1934, shows the Virgin Mary. If you look carefully at her coat, you will see the shape of Mount Triglav carved in the stone, and a single six-pointed star above it. The coat of arms of the Counts of Celje, an old Slovenian family, also had six-pointed golden stars. The rule of the Counts in the 14th and 15th centuries united almost all territories of present-day Slovenia, so the stars could represent unity.



1 Work in pairs. How much do you know about the national symbols of Slovenia? Complete the table.

National symbols of Slovenia			
anthem	Zdravljica		
colours	1		
coat of arms	2		
bird	3		
animals	4		
tree	5		
flower	6		

- 2 Read the article and check your answers in exercise 1.
- 3 Read the article again. Choose the correct answers.

According to t	he author, the	e most powerful	national
symbol is			
	the flag		
a the motto	b	c the anthem	

- 1 The Slovenian Flag Day is on \_\_\_\_\_.
  a 3rd April b 5th April c 7th April
- 2 Slovenia became an independent country
  - a 1848 **b** 1934 **c** 1991
- 3 Marko Pogačnik was \_\_\_\_\_.
  a an artist b an architect c a poet
- 4 The coat of arms shows \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a an animal
  - **b** a mountain
  - c a flower
- 5 The idea for the design of the coat of arms came from .
  - a a famous painting
  - **b** a literary work
  - c an old song
- 6 The column in front of St Martin's Parish Church in Bled is made of .
  - a stone b gold c wood
- 7 The Counts of Celje lived about \_\_\_\_\_\_years ago. a 100 b 300 c 500

4 Complete the table with words from the text. What suffixes do we use to make nouns from verbs?

Verb	Noun
govern	government
1	decision
inspire	2
3	designer
baptize	4
5	appearance
6	creator
unite	7

Write first conditional sentences. Use the correct form of the verbs and *if*.

you / visit the Najevnik farm / see the oldest linden tree in Slovenia

If you visit the Najevnik farm, you will see the oldest linden tree in Slovenia.

- 1 I / stand up / hear the national anthem
- you / find the building where Lovro Toman raised the flag / walk down Wolfova Street in Ljubljana
- 3 he / ask someone from Ljubljana about the symbol of their city / learn it's the dragon
- 4 we / have an amazing view of Lake Bohinj / climb Mount Triglav
- 5 you / see a golden eagle / look at the coat of arms of Carniola
- Find information about the symbols of your village, town or city. Make a poster and present it to the class.
- 1 What are the symbols of your village, town or city?
- 2 What do they represent?
- **3** Who created them?
- 4 Are there any stories or legends about them?



#### The Knafelc blaze

The Knafelc blaze is used to mark paths in the mountains so that climbers and hikers can find their way. It was designed by the Slovenian mountaineer Alojz Knafelc in 1871. The blaze - a white dot inside a red ring - is painted on trees or rocks. The white dot must be between 4 and 5 cm wide, and the red ring must be between 8 and 10 cm. The first route that was marked with the Knafelc blaze was the trail to the top of Mount Triglav. Since then, the blaze has become one of the symbols of the Slovenian Alps.



#### Slide frames

Slide frames were invented in 1963 by Peter Florjančič. They were made of plastic. A small piece of photographic film was put in the frame and projected on a wall. Slide frames were very popular in the past, but they aren't used by many people today. However, they weren't Florjančič's only invention. He invented a lot of things, like the perfume atomizer and the plastic zip. The zip wasn't successful at first because it melted when it was ironed, but it was improved by other inventors later on.



### **Talking Tom and Friends**

The first Talking Tom app was created by Iza and Samo Login in 2009. Tom, who can talk and sing, is described as 'the world's most popular cat'. This invention didn't change the world, but it has certainly entertained a lot of people - the apps in the series have been downloaded more than 5.4 billion times! Since 2010, the company OUTFIT7 has created more characters - Angela, Ginger, Ben and Hank. There are animated web series and YouTube music videos, too. The company's motto is 'We take fun seriously'.



## Advanced light aircraft

The award-winning Pipistrel planes are made in Ajdovšcina, in Slovenia. The first Pipistrel was flown in the 1980s by Ivo Boscarol, an aircraft designer and entrepreneur. The shape of the wings gave the aircraft its name - people thought it looked like a bat, and so it was named Pipistrel, from the Latin word 'pipistrellus'. The most successful models so far have been the Sinus, the Virus and the Taurus G4, which was the first all-electric four-seat aircraft in the world.

- 1 Read the texts. Which of the four inventions is the most useful, in your opinion? Why?
- 2 Read the sentences and write *true* or *false*. Correct the false sentences.

The Knafelc blaze is a red dot inside a white ring. false

The Knafelc blaze is a white dot inside a red ring.

- 1 Knafelc designed the blaze in the 1870s.
- 2 Slide frames are very popular today.
- 3 Peter Florjančič invented only one thing.
- 4 Talking Tom is the only character in the apps and series.
- 5 Billions of people have downloaded the Talking Tom apps.
- 6 Pipistrel planes haven't won any awards.
- **7** Pipistrel planes were named after a bat.
- 3 Complete the sentences with *is, are, was* or *were*.

The Rex chair <u>was</u> designed by Niko Kralj in 1952. It <u>is</u> produced by the Slovenian company Impakta Les – they have sold more than 2 million Rex chairs worldwide.

- 1 Herman Potočnik's book The Problem of Space Travel \_\_\_\_\_published in 1928. Designs for a space station and satellites\_\_\_\_\_ included in the book.
- 2 The Puch automobile plants \_\_\_\_\_ founded by the Slovenian mechanic Johann Puch. The Einserwerk production plant is now a museum. Many of the Puch models \_\_\_\_\_exhibited there.
- 3 The popular Slovenian drink Cockta \_\_\_made from eleven different herbs. It \_\_\_created by Emerik Zelinka and \_\_\_first sold in 1953.
- 4 The largest research institute in Slovenia \_\_\_ named after Jožef Stefan, a mathematician and physicist. Jožef Stefan \_\_\_\_best known for the Stefan-Boltzmann law.

4 Complete the text with the correct active or passive form of the verbs in brackets.

The HP-35, which <u>was invented</u> (invent) in		
1972, was the world's first scientific pocket		
calculator. The idea <sup>1</sup> (come) from		
William Hewlett, the owner of the company,		
who <sup>2</sup> (want) to have a calculator		
that fits into his pocket. However, Slovenian		
engineer France Rode was the lead inventor		
on the project. The calculator's processor and		
the algorithms <sup>3</sup> (design) by him.		
Some of these algorithms <sup>4</sup> (still /		
use) today, and many modern calculators		
5(base) on France Rode's model.		
The name HP-35 <sup>6</sup> (choose)		
because of the number of keys the calculator		
had. It was very popular, although it		
<sup>7</sup> —————(cost) \$395. More than 100,000		
HP-35 calculators <sup>8</sup> (sell) in the first		
year alone!		
The HP-35 calculator <sup>9</sup> (travel) to		
the top of Mount Everest and it has also been in		
outer space.		
In 1975, the calculator <sup>10</sup>		
(replace) with a new model, but in 2007, HP		
11 (make) a revised HP-35s in		
memory of		
the original.		
Two years		
later, the HP-35		
12		
(win) the		
prestigious		
IEEE Milestone		
in Electrical		
Engineering		
and Computing		
award.		

- 5 Find information about a Slovenian invention or product and write a description of it.
- 1 What is it called?
- 2 When was it invented / designed / created?
- **3** Who was it invented / designed / created by?
- 4 What was it used for? Is it still used today?
- 5 What does it look like? What is it made of?
- 6 Has it won any awards?

## **Answer key**

#### 1 Slovenian customs and traditions

#### Exercise 1

- 1 blouse
- 5 belts

2 skirt

- 6 hat
- 3 apron
- 7 gaiters
- 4 coats
- 8 boots

#### Exercise 2

1 was

- 6 Some
- 2 before
- 7 sheepskin

3 end

8 club

4 can

- 9 the USA
- 5 Carniola

#### Exercise 3

Students' own answers.

#### **Exercise 4**

1 c 2 a

#### Exercise 5

- 1 No, he didn't. He organized the first Kurentovanje carnival in 1960.
- 2 No, it didn't. It used to be the traditional costume for women of Carniola only.
- 3 No, they didn't. They used to make them from leather.
- 4 No, they didn't. They started coming after the carnival became popular.
- 5 No, they didn't. They celebrated for the first time in 2013.

#### **Exercise 6**

Students' own answers.

#### 2 Going Our Way

#### **Exercise 1**

Students' own answers.

#### Exercise 2

- 1 It's a comedy.
- 2 It's set in the Slovenian Alps / Triglav National Park.
- 3 It's about a group of teenagers at a summer camp. / It's about growing up, friendship and adventures.

- 4 The reviewer thinks that the story is interesting, but not very original.
- 5 Tadej Koren Šmid plays the role of Aleks.
- **6** The reviewer's favourite characters are Jaka and Zaspanec. She likes them because they are funny.
- 7 The reviewer thinks that the film is great. She would recommend it to others.
- 8 The film won the Best Picture award at the Slovene Film Festival in 2010.

#### Exercise 3

Students' own answers.

#### **Exercise 4**

1 which 2 who

#### Exercise 5

- 2 f Starešina is the camp leader who organizes a competition for the boys / Starešina, who is the camp leader, organizes a competition for the boys.
- **3** a The camp is in the Triglav National Park, which is in the Slovenian Alps.
- 4 c Jurij Zrnec is a famous actor who plays the role of Starešina / Jurij Zrnec, who is a famous actor, plays the role of Starešina.
- 5 b Jaka and Zaspanec are teenagers who are friends with Aleks / Jaka and Zaspanec, who are teenagers, are friends with Aleks.
- 6 e Mitja Vrhovnik Smrekar is a composer who writes music for films.

#### Exercise 6

Students' own answers.

#### 3 National symbols

#### Exercise 1

Students' own answers.

#### Exercise 2

- 1 white, blue and red
- 2 Mount Triglav, three six-pointed golden stars and two wavy lines
- 3 golden eagle
- 4 olm, lynx
- 5 linden
- 6 carnation

#### **Exercise 3**

1 c 2 c 3 a 4 b 5 b 6 a 7 c

#### Exercise 4

1 decide2 inspiration3 design5 appear6 create7 unity

4 baptism

We can use the following suffixes to make nouns from verbs: -ance, -er, -ment, -or, -sion, -tion, -ism, -y.

#### Exercise 5

- 1 I'll stand up if I hear the national anthem. / If I hear the national anthem, I'll stand up.
- You'll find the building where Lovro Toman raised the flag if you walk down Wolfova Street in Ljubljana. / If you walk down Wolfova Street in Ljubljana, you'll find the building where Lovro Toman raised the flag.
- 3 If he asks someone from Ljubljana about the symbol of their city, he'll learn it's the dragon.
- 4 We'll have an amazing view of Lake Bohinj if we climb Mount Triglav. / If we climb Mount Triglav, we'll have an amazing view of Lake Bohinj.
- 5 You'll see a golden eagle if you look at the coat of arms of Carniola. / If you look at the coat of arms of Carniola, you'll see a golden eagle.

#### **Exercise 6**

Students' own answers.

#### 4 Made in Slovenia

#### Exercise 1

Students' own answers.

#### Exercise 2

- 1 true
- 2 false (Slide frames were very popular in the past, but they aren't used by many people today.)
- 3 false (Peter Florjančič invented a lot of things, like the slide frames, the perfume atomizer and the plastic zip.)
- 4 false (There are other characters in the apps and series, like Angela, Ginger, Ben and Hank.)
- 5 true
- 6 false (Pipistrel planes have won some awards. / Pipistrel planes are award-winning planes.)
- 7 true

#### Exercise 3

- 1 was, were
- were, are
- 3 is, was, was
- 4 was, is

#### Exercise 4

- 1 came 7 cost
- 2 wanted
- 8 were sold signed 9 has travelled
- 3 were designed
- 10 was replaced
- 4 are still used5 are based
- 11 made
- 6 was chosen
- **12** won

#### Exercise 5

Students' own answers.

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