## **Maslenitsa celebration**

Maslenitsa happens before Lent in winter. People see off winter with its frosty days and welcome spring to start planting crops. This is an important holiday in the history of Russia. In the past, people celebrated Maslenitsa to bring warmth and spring sooner. They made fires and worshiped the sun. Now, this holiday unites people because everyone goes to visit each other, eat pancakes and have fun. Maslenitsa lasts all week. In the first three days, people begin to bake pancakes, make the scarecrow of Maslenitsa and do household chores. A wide celebration begins on Thursday when everyone stopped working and went out to mass festivities. The sounds of music and laughter are everywhere. People ride on a sleigh and horse sleigh from snow slides, dance folk dances, sing together and participate in fistfights. Vendors organize fairs in the squares where you can find pies, honey gingerbread, hot tea, and of course, round, sun-looking, thin pancakes with a sweet buttery flavor. By the end of the week, people begin to prepare for Lent. They ask forgiveness from relatives and friends, remember the dead. The scarecrow of Maslenitsa is burned along with leftover food so that the next year is fertile. Maslenitsa is an important holiday for Russian people and an important part of their life when one season ends, and another begins. This event is a symbol of the approaching warmth and unification of people.