

## ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

### Packet 12: Superstitions, Folk Medicines and Children's Folklore

<b>Teacher</b>	<b>Sequence</b>
<p>1. Compare the superstitions, folk medicines and folklore of the Volga German children to similar kinds of beliefs you (students) had when you were young.</p>	<p>Students may talk about almost anything, as kids this age have their own folklore, actively passed around, mainly from boy to boy and girl to girl and frequently at gatherings such as slumber parties or camp-outs but almost always behind a closed door away from parents. They may be reluctant to talk openly during class (and for that you should probably be thankful) but a good lead in would be the sort of "folklore" surrounding Christmas and Santa Claus or the Easter Bunny or Tooth Fairy. They will also enjoy talking about some of their parents' superstitions.</p>
<p>2. Do you think there is any truth to the folk cures mentioned in the packet? Do you think any of the cures or remedies would really work?</p>	<p>Students may reason that if chamomile tea did not calm the stomach, then surely people would not have continued to use it as a remedy. This holds true for many of the other cures listed. In some cases, in fact, researchers have discovered organic chemicals in many of these folk-cure substances which do aid healing or encourage a speedy recovery from whatever ails a person. So, it wasn't all pure fabrication; in many cases the folk medicines actually did help.</p>