

# NEW BATGA



ROBOTS ARE  
TAKING OVER  
SCHOOLS

A FUTURE WITHOUT  
WINTER

***TECHNOLOGY SPIES?***

*HERITAGE AND IDENTITY*

***A TEA CONNOISSEUR'S  
PARADISE***

*CHEESE, BEER AND JOY*

# NEWSPAPER



# MOTHER NATURE IN OUR CUPS: LATVIAN HERBAL TEAS AS NATURAL MEDICINE

## NATURE

The nature of Latvia is generous with various plants, various gifts that serve as our, Latvian, folk medicine. Over the years, we have learned to use various herbs from which we make teas to improve our immunity, so to speak. Here are some, the most popular of them;

## TEAS

- 1. Linden flower tea** - it is recommended for colds and inflammation of the upper respiratory tract. It will also be useful for external rinsing of the oral cavity.
- 2. Chamomile tea** - chamomile has soothing properties, it is recommended for reducing inflammation. Chamomile is also used to improve digestive processes. It is also used externally - for compresses, baths, rinsing, inhalations.
- 3. Yarrow tea** - yarrow has a pronounced antiviral effect, it prevents spasms, lowers blood pressure, stops bleeding and promotes wound healing, but it is not recommended to use it during pregnancy.
- 4. Peppermint tea** - it contributes to a cooling and refreshing feeling, also providing energy.
- 5. Wiegrieze tea** - it has a calming effect and is recommended for improving the quality of sleep. Tea will also be useful in case of a cold, as it has diaphoretic, temperature-lowering properties.
- 6. Nettle tea** - helps to reduce edema.
- 7. Gailbiksisu tea** - strengthens immunity, cleanses the body and gives strength and energy. It is a good remedy for migraine and dizziness, lung diseases, menstrual cycle failure, as well as in the treatment of cough, hoarseness and inflammation of the respiratory tract, also in cases of constipation. It also has sedative and soporific properties.

Written by Eliza Serzane





# What is to blame? Latvian climate change and human influence.

Climate change is a global problem that affects the whole world. The cause of their occurrence is us.

Why does climate change occur?

Greenhouse gas emissions come from industries, burning of fossil fuels (coal, oil, gas), transport emissions, agriculture, and deforestation occur.

These activities cause the release of carbon dioxide, methane and other greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere, which exacerbate climate change.

This global change cannot be prevented and the only thing we can do about it is accept it, prepare, adapt, start getting used to it and as well as change our habits a little bit to help slow down climate change at least a little bit.







**For example:**

- **choose sustainable modes of transport or energy sources**
- **save energy by turning off unnecessary electrical appliances**
- **choose food that is environmentally friendly**
- **use more renewable energy (solar panels, wind generators) and more.**

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**In Latvia, winters will get warmer every year, while our summers will have frequent periods of drought without precipitation, frequent and strong thunderstorms with large hail and also higher temperatures.**

**In autumn and spring, there will be an increased intensity of precipitation, due to which larger floods could occur. During the last decade, the average air temperature in Latvia has increased by approximately 1-1.5 degrees. Climate change in Latvia is not and will not be an apocalypse or a rapid increase in the elements. They have been gradual so far and will continue to be so.**

Written by Elīza Seržāne



# "VEF Minox" - Secret agent's best friend or just an ordinary camera?

## VEF MINOX



Latvia is known not only for its beautiful nature, folklore traditions, Song and Dance festivals, but also for some technological inventions - VEF Minox camera and computer "Amber".

The year 1936 has gone down in history for Latvians with the compact camera VEF Minox, whose inventor is Valters Caps. It was developed at the State Electrotechnical Factory (VEF) factory in Riga. It was an ideal weapon for spies and secret companies because it was very light, durable and easy to carry.

With this camera it was possible to photograph secret events and documents

The camera used small-format film, which made it possible to obtain high-quality images. More interestingly, the camera was widely used during World War II for documenting events and intelligence. The VEF Minox became a historical symbol because it was an innovative and first-class camera for its time. It has also become a recognized and valued camera that has become recognized around the world.





## **Novelty!**

The year 1980 is also important in the development of technology in Latvia, because the computer "Amber" was born.

It was invented by scientists of the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics of the University of Latvia and it was one of the first personal computers in Latvia.

## **A closer look**

The computer was equipped with an 8-bit microprocessor and offered the possibility of processing information/texts and performing mathematical calculations, solving various examples. It was also possible to expand the programming possibilities.

## **Availability**

This computer was also available outside of Latvia, because at that time gained great popularity in a large part of the world.

The computer was recognized internationally and was an important turning point in the development of Latvian technology.

Written by Eliza Serzane





# Ethnic cultures and customs in our country- Latvia

There are two types of Latvian folk costumes:

1. Archaeological costumes worn until the 7th - 13th centuries.
2. Ethnographic costumes worn in the 18th-19th centuries.

Both of these types are worn by Latvians at various events, in honor of various important events, for example, the Latvian Song and Dance Festival, various concerts, holidays, weddings and so on.

Folk costumes have been formed over many generations.

It is the historical clothing of the ancestors- a very important part of the cultural heritage of every nation and a national symbol.

This is no ordinary outfit, not at all! It includes the sense of national identity and values that we have preserved and use in our daily lives even today.

The traditional folk costume is peasant clothing, which was worn in the Latvian countryside until the middle of the 19th century.







## Parts characteristic of the national costume

The basis of the national costume is a shirt and various types of outer clothing:

- For men - trousers, short, half-length or long skirt or coat, vest, belt.
- For women - brunchi, jacket, bodice or waistcoat, villaine - also segene, sagsha (shoulder blanket), belt.
- Headgear:  
For men- hat.
- For women- aube or mouse, head scarf, hat, crown (for daughters in marriage years).
- For legs:  
For men – knitted socks, boots, boots.
- For women – knitted woolen or thread socks and black shoes on a low heel, pastalas (straw sandals).
- Jewelry:  
Various brooches, beads for women.

## Some interesting facts

- Latvian folk costumes are rich in patterns and ornaments that symbolize elements of nature and Latvian beliefs.
- Folk costumes are handmade using traditional fabric techniques such as crocheting and needlework.
- Each region in Latvia has its own unique folk costume with specific design features and colors.
- The color red is very important- it symbolizes life, strength and protection.
- Folk costumes are decorated with silver and gold ornaments, which gives them more splendor.

Latvian folk costumes are very important for Latvian cultural heritage. These are traditional clothes that reflect Latvian history, lifestyle and identity. They are unique clothes that are worn to honor and preserve our cultural traditions.

Written by Eliza Serzane





# Creativity and AI

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## AI as a learning assistant

Robots are everyday in many areas, including in education, where a new tool - the artificial intelligence program "ChatGPT" - has been introduced relatively recently, which is used by more and more pupils and students.

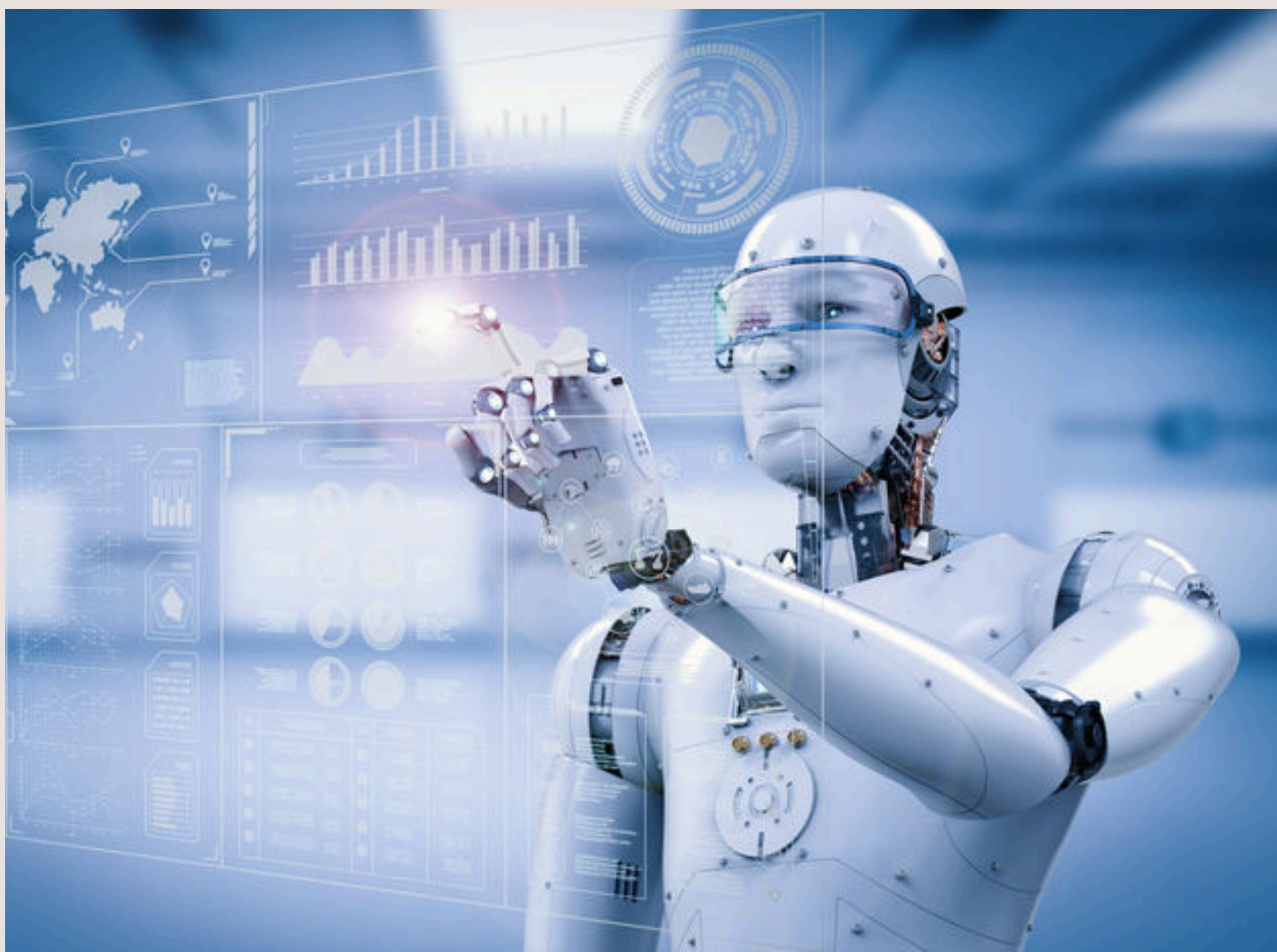
The main components of robots are the program or human-made algorithms, a huge amount of data and a large data processing power, which attract a lot of attention for anyone who wants to get information quickly and effortlessly.

In Latvian schools, the popularity of AI is growing more and more. Students get more learning materials, more necessary information, and get an opportunity to expand their knowledge. It can stimulate students' creativity by offering innovative ways to learn course content and also develop digital skills.



## However AI also has a downside.

Pupils deliberately replace the expansion of their knowledge and the development of their thinking abilities for quick and easy information extraction from a robot. Instead of learning and gaining new knowledge, they mindlessly write down robot answers, often even more extensive written works, such as essays, reviews and reports, without developing their logical thinking.



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## How do artificial intelligence technologies promote student creativity?





## Consequences

If AI is used excessively or incorrectly, it can foster technology dependency and reduce students' ability to build interpersonal relationships and solve problems without technological support. The students' emotional skills are also affected, because communication is made not with a living person, but with a robot, which is harmful to their life and career development.

When pedagogues and lecturers suspect that the work contains language and phrases that are not typical for the student, they understand that auxiliary material may have been used to create the work.

## Penalties

Latvian schools, universities and other educational institutions increasingly use applications that can distinguish whether the work was written by a human or a robot. And if it turns out that the work is plagiarized, it is not counted and in the worst case, the student may even be expelled from the university .

## Use correctly!

It is important that AI is used responsibly and carefully to improve (not replace) the learning process and provide pupils/students with diverse and high-quality educational opportunities.



# Jāņu cheese and songs. How do Latvians celebrate holidays?

Jāņi is a traditional Latvian holiday season, which is celebrated on June 23 and 24.

They are celebrated on the summer solstice, when the Sun has reached its highest point in the sky, when the longest day is followed by the shortest night, and when nature is in full bloom.

This holiday was originally associated with the cycles of agriculture and nature. Latvians celebrated Jāņi to ensure a rich harvest and good health. Today, they are celebrated for summer, to relax and enjoy time with friends and family, and to ensure a bountiful agricultural harvest.





# Jāņu rituals

1. A high bonfire is lit, which symbolizes the return of light and scares away evil spirits
2. Various wreaths are woven from various natural gifts. Women's wreaths are made of flowers, meadow plants, ferns, while men's, whose name is Jānis, are made of oak leaves.
3. Wreaths are thrown into the river to ward off illness and attract health.
4. Jumping over the bonfire - it symbolizes cleansing from the sins of the past and the beginning of a new life.
5. Ozollap's wreath is thrown into oak, because then marriage is expected.
6. On Jāņu morning, you should wash your mouth in dew, because it symbolizes purity.
7. The house should be decorated with birch trees to attract prosperity and love.



## Expressions of celebration

Latvians also have special songs for Jāņu Day, which are sung only on this holiday.

There are also traditional dishes that symbolize Jāņu Day, such as Jāņu cheese, shashlik, meat pies and beer.

Jāņi is a holiday that is most often celebrated in the countryside. It is the most anticipated and celebrated holiday of the Latvian people.



Written by Eliza Serzane





# Top 10 songs

## April 2024

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- ♪ Taylor Swift- Fortnight (feat. Post Malone)
- ♪ Sabrina Carpenter- Espresso
- ♪ Artemas- i like the way you kiss me
- ♪ FloyyMenor FT Cris MJ- GATA ONLY
- ♪ Hozier- Too Sweet
- ♪ Taylor Swift- I Can Do It With a Broken Heart
- ♪ Benson Boone- Beautiful Things
- ♪ Djo- End Of Beginning
- ♪ Ariana Grande- we can't be friends (wait for your love)
- ♪ Taylor Swift- Down Bad