



Articulated Assessment Transfer Task

Russian

Axe Porridge

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Context

This is the first day of detective school. The students are mystified by an anonymous letter. The letter states that Russian people have *smekalka* and every Russian can make porridge from an axe. Even though the author of this mysterious letter states that Russian people are kind and hospitable, the students are perplexed. They begin an independent investigation on this mystery of *smekalka*. To find out the axe porridge recipe, they go to the library. They learn that there is no axe porridge recipe, but a book called *Axe Porridge*. The Russian language and culture expert agrees to tell them the story. After finding out what *Axe Porridge* is, our young detectives find out more about Russian people, their values, *smekalka* and ways to show hospitality. To celebrate that *smekalka* is a universal quality, students organize the *Smekalka* Fair with Russian hospitality traditions.

Authentic Materials

[Axe Porridge](#) - an interesting and very instructive everyday fairy tale. A resourceful and savvy soldier offered to cook up porridge from an axe. The soldier lures valuable food from the hostess, which she would never voluntarily share with the poor person.

[Russian Artifice and Smekalka Museum](#) celebrating ingenuity and improvised, creative solutions.