



# A story hidden in a legend



Erasmus +

The project implemented as part  
of the club activities



In November club pupils from all groups got to know the legends about Sanok and the surrounding area, thus engaging in the project „A story hidden in a legend” from the ERASMUS+ program.



The pupils learnt about the history of the Bad Bies and its Czady and the brave San. They heard the story of Queen Bona and the wonderful water from Sanok and learned how the city of Lesko was founded and where its name comes from.

During the classes beautiful art works illustrating the legends were created.





At the end and summary of the project club pupils with the help of the club teachers prepared costumes, scenery and props to take photos to selected legends.



# The legend „Bies, Czady and San”



Zły Bies i jego Czady



*Złośliwe Czady*



*Dzielny San i Zły Bies*

In the Bieszczady Mountains, when it was still a deserted land, there reigned the Evil One - Bies. This ruler was similar to a man, but had horns and wings, resembling the shape of a bat wing. Evil - Bies was a ruler who did not want to share his land with others. He chased away shepherds and traveling merchants. After some time, a tribe from the east, led by a wise and strong San, came to this land. They liked the land so much that they decided to stay here permanently. They built houses by the river and thus created the first settlement.

Evil - Bies decided to drive out the people who came here. He allowed wolves to enter their pens with sheep, and he allowed animals to enter the fields that destroyed the harvest. The people began to complain about the difficult situation, but their leader San was delighted with the land. When Bies realized that it was impossible to defeat these resilient people with witchcraft, he created helpers for himself - small creatures, clumsy but very





busy, he called them Czady. He conjured them up as many as the trees in the forest. Their task was to disturb people. On the order of their creator, Czady were increasingly annoying, chasing away grazing animals, destroying fields, scaring small children in cradles, adding sand to soup for housewives, hiding axes for lumberjacks. The life of the tribe became difficult and tiring. San swore he would defeat the evil forces.

One day, as San worked longer than the strongest lumberjacks, cutting down a large tree, as it fell, he heard some creature scream. It was an old, clumsy little Czad asking for a life. San, who had a good heart, freed him. Then the old Czad told him that Czady didn't really want to do evil, but they were forced to do so by the evil- Bies. He also promised the saviors that from now on he and his brothers would help people. And so it happened. Czad helped on every occasion. They turned out to be very nice creatures that were happy and joyful. People



liked them and thanked them with a bowl of milk and a good word.

It didn't take long, because the bad guy, Bies, found out about the situation and threatened all Czady that he would destroy them in the same way that he created them. Czady were scared of Bies's words and secretly went to San for advice. During the meeting, the little creatures suggested how to win the Evil - Bies. Only the strongest of humans could defeat Bies, in the morning, while bathing, when Bies unbuttones bat wings, his magical power weakens.

The strong San has challenged his opponent in the morning. He looked scornfully at the man and did not even put on wings, only proceeded to the roll, sure of victory. This battle was watched by the entire tribe and all the little Czady. The battle lasted a long time, and the brave San did not give in to the



power of the Evil - Bies, who began to have doubts about victory and decided to support himself with magical wings. Then the good man was helped by the old Czad, whom San saved from a certain death. He took the wings and threw them into the deepest stream of the river. The river was agitated, clouded, and kidnapped both enemies. And so ended the battle between Bies and San. Both of them died in the river currents.

The settlers paid tribute to their leader and named the river after him - the San River. And so the brave San remained on this beautiful land. And the mountains through which it flowed were named after their first ruler Bies and his helpers Czady - the Bieszczady Mountains. It is said that



Czady can be found here even today. They watch over the beauty of this land and cast a spell on the people who come here, who later fall in love with the beauty of nature, always come back here, and some of them settle down permanently.

# „The legend of the wonderful water from Sanok”



Królowa Bona i jej  
dwórki

During the reign of the Jagiellonian family, the town of Sanok flourished. Crafts and trade developed, new and beautiful tenement houses were constantly added, and squares and streets were full of merchants who came here from far away. The wife of King Zygmunt, Queen Bona, also liked Sanok very much. She often came here with her own dawn, rested on a high hill and looked at the winding ribbon of the San River.



Once upon a time the queen proposed: - I will build a huge castle here. - But where? - they asked. -On the hill," she answered, "and my wise horse will show me the place. I must admit that it was an exceptional horse. He knew his lady well, her every intention, even the slightest gesture. One day, when Queen Bona was sitting on his back and circling the hill she reached the very top of it, the horse suddenly stopped and hit the ground several times with the hoof. After a while a stream of water sprung up. - This is wonderful! - she called out. - Such a



spring is a real treasure. The Queen ordered a castle and a well to be built here, and when it was ready, she first drank the wonderful water. - I became younger and more beautiful," she said while looking at herself in the mirror. Since then, with the queen's permission, all the court ladies, wanting to keep their beauty, drank the wonderful water and became more and more beautiful. The news about the properties of the spring spread all over the country, and the Sanok maids looked at the castle hill, where young ladies of the manor were walking in the shade of spreading lime trees and chestnuts, and all of them beautiful, as if painted. - It is thanks to this water - the jealous burghers said, preparing an evil trick. In order to achieve beauty, they paid salty prices to city craftsmen, who brought the castle water into the city at night. Soon afterwards, miraculous water started flowing near the Hydzyk 's tenement house. What is more, the most prominent girls used cups of water to wash their faces with it. Soon the already beautiful Sanok maids became true deities. To the wonderful raven black hair came pink and white



faces, and each of them had eyes like sapphires. A panic broke out among the court ladies. Every day they noticed that water reserves were decreasing and their beauty was withering. Wrinkles began to appear on the foreheads, the skin lost its smoothness and became as grey as the earth on the castle hill. At the same time, terrible news came to the castle that the miraculous water was getting into the city and the townspeople bathed in it. - Have them all flogged, my lord! - the ladies of the court begged the queen. - To the dungeons with them! To the pile of wicked ones! - they called out. Queen Bona had all the court ladies summoned, and when cruel anger appeared, she saw their humped figures, their wrinkled faces, their crooked lips in constant anger. - I don't need you," the queen said firmly. - You are ugly with anger, and you can wash yourself in ordinary water, and then she turned around and said: - Call all the maids of the city to me here! At the queen's command, the courtyard of the castle was soon swarmed with the unusual beautiful and dressed in satin, velvet and lace of the inhabitants of Sanok. Choosing the court ladies was extremely difficult. Eventually, the twelve most beautiful ones became the queen's servants. The generous queen not only did not demolish the underground spring, but also ordered to build waterworks so that all girls and women could use the wonderful water forever.

That is why the women in Sanok were famous and are still famous for their great beauty. And whoever does not believe, let him go to the San River castle as soon as possible!





# The legend „Ghost ball”





This story happened a long time ago in the castle of Sobień. Long time ago, although the castle was already in ruins. A wedding was to take place in a nearby village. Known for their beautiful wedding chants, the musicians were hired for the ceremony. They lived far away, so they went out around noon to get to the place on time. They reached Sobień, and the sun was still high in the sky. Because they had come a long way, tired of the heat, they decided to rest under the walls of the castle. They intended to walk the rest of the route after dark. It was quiet all around, only birds singing and trees rustling could be heard.

Suddenly, a well-dressed young man came out of the castle walls, heading for the resting musicians. He greeted politely and asked about the reason for their stay at Sobień. When he found out everything, he suggested whether they would like to play at the ball in the castle that night. He promised considerable money. The musicians were surprised, as the castle had been



ruined for a long time, but the proposal for a quick earning was very tempting, so they accepted the invitation. The master led them through a beautiful courtyard to the ballroom, where the guests had already been waiting.

The musicians started to play, at first timidly, because they rarely played for such excellent guests in the castle. They usually played at country weddings, but with time their music became more bold and decisive. It was a custom at balls to throw gold coins into an instrument called bass by men after dancing. The musicians were very happy to have such an opportunity to earn extra money. They played all night long. Guests did not stop dancing, and although the dances lasted for many hours, there was no tiredness visible.



When the first rooster crowed, the dancing couples slowly left the room. From the courtyard of the castle the sounds of riding carriages and the clattering of horse hooves were heard. This meant that the ball was coming to an end. The first rays of sunlight penetrated through the thick fog and the windows of the castle. And then it turned out that the ballroom had disappeared, only the badly damaged walls without doors and windows remained. Instead of a beautiful, shiny floor under their feet, they had stones from the collapsing walls.

Surprised by such a big change, the musicians did not know what had happened. Is it a dream or a reality? Suddenly they remembered that the bass player had gold coins in his bass. They decided to spill their contents and were very surprised when they saw that



instead of gold coins, there were white, little stones. They were very scared and immediately realized that they had been playing all night at the ghost ball...



\* The summary of legends based on Andrzej Potocki's book entitled "The Book of legends and stories of the Bieszczady Mountains" was made by Krzysztof Brajta.

\* The translation of the legends into English was done by Marzena Sumara.

\* The presentation was made by Ewa Motek.

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