



# HOME-SCHOOL INSPIRATION



If you can't go out, why not travel the world from home?

This week we travel to Romania.

## Geography

Romania is a country in Eastern Europe that is halfway between the North Pole and the equator. It is bordered on three sides by land and has the Black Sea on its Eastern Border. There is a little bit of everything in Romania, from farms to ancient cities with intricate architecture and old-fashioned buildings. It is a mountainous country which has a very beautiful and green landscape. There are also hills, forests, and rivers. There are stunning mountain slopes full of beautiful ski resorts. In some places, there are huge lakes that were formed by glaciers. Romania is also home to a region known the world over...Transylvania! While there are no vampires there, it is one of the many different regions you could visit. Visit from your home or classroom. Click on the plane.



## Language Facts

Four facts using the language:

The name 'Romania' comes from the Latin word "Romanus" which means "citizen of the Roman Empire."

According to legend, Bucharest was named after a shepherd called 'Bucur' who was in love with a young lady named 'Dâmbovița', like the river that flows through the city.

Bucharest is also called "Little Paris." The city's 'Arcul de Triumf' was constructed in 1935 to be modelled after the Arc de Triomphe in Paris.

'Calea Victoriei' was the first road built in Bucharest and initially called 'The Wooden Road'. Why? Because it was paved with tree trunks and planks.

Click on the flag (it's in the shape of the country) to learn key phrases and words in Romanian. Can you say My name is ....?



## Martisor



1st March is celebrated as the first day of spring. They call it Martisor and celebrate it with traditional gifts and dinners. It is a bustling, but very special time of the year when every city, town and village is brought to life by lots of colourful stalls selling the so-called "Martisoare". Men and children scour the markets and shops in order to buy the most beautiful martisoare for the females in their lives. Alternatively, people make them using red and white threads, flowers and leaves. Children make friendship bracelets for their mums. Everyone is proud to wear them on their wrists or pinned to their fanciest clothes. Friendship bracelets come in all colours and styles and are part of many cultures. Try making this [one](#) using the colours of the Romanian flag.

## Famous Romanians

Francesco Illy, the founder of Illy caffè, was born in Timisoara, Romania in 1892. He invented the first automatic steam espresso coffee machine.

Romania is home to four Nobel Prize laureates: George Emil Palade (Medicine), Elie Wiesel (Peace), Herta Müller (Literature) and Stefan Hell (Chemistry).

Have you heard of Nadia Comăneci? She is a well-known Romanian gymnast. In 1976, when she was only 14 years old, she went to the Olympic games in Montreal. Find out what happened. She is a [record breaker!](#) Can you break your record? Throw a ball/pair of socks in the air. How many times can you catch it, before dropping it? Try again... did you break your record?

Do you know any famous people from other countries?



## Scovergi

A traditional Romanian dessert is called [Scovergi](#). Be careful when you are frying them; make sure there is an adult helping. Serve with jam, Nutella or cheese. Delicious!

Find out more...

Can you name the countries that border Romania?

**There are no limits to what you can discover!**



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