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In Photos: The New Year's Traditions of Russia's Indigenous Peoples

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Celebrating New Year's according to the Gregorian calendar is one of the most important holidays for people in Russia today, but that hasn't always been the case. Replacing Christmas celebrations marked by the Orthodox majority with secular New Year's was a vital element of the Soviet secularization efforts. Russia's Indigenous and minority peoples, too, were swept up in these efforts, with their traditional New Year's celebrations sidelined, replaced with new holidays or erased completely. Following the Soviet collapse, Russia's Indigenous and minority communities made an effort to revive their ancestral traditions of greeting the new year, many of which fall outside the winter season. Here is a look at some of the Indigenous and minority New Year's celebrations from across Russia:



Yevgeny Yepanchintsev / TASS

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