

## Os maios

The "maios" are a Galician folk festival held on the first days of May. Originally they were magic rituals to bring about a good harvest and protect it against all evils (adverse weather, pests or evil spirits). They date from before Christianity, possibly from the Neolithic period. The main characters have always been children and it is accompanied by songs, often satirical.

There are two types: human -a boy disguised as "maio", covering his clothes with leaves, branches and flowers- or figurative -a figure made of sticks and covered with moss, flowers, oranges, etc.

They were celebrated at IES Antonio Fraguas



The *maio* came to celebrate at school, singing and playing the old songs and the new ones made in class.



*Marzo airoso,  
abril chuvizoso,  
sacan o maio  
florido e fermoso.  
Este maio señora é,  
este maio cantaba de pé.  
Levántate maio bastante  
Durmiches,  
Pasou o inverno e non o  
sentiches.  
No Antón Fraguas celebramos  
Todos xuntos este maio,  
Cantade todos amodiño  
Que este maio ven moi florido.  
Este maio tan florido  
Ben fermoso e paseniño,  
Este maio ou maia tamén  
Maio ou maia el pode ser,  
Maiores e vellos volvendo a soñar  
Cos seus recordos e o tempo a pasar.*

