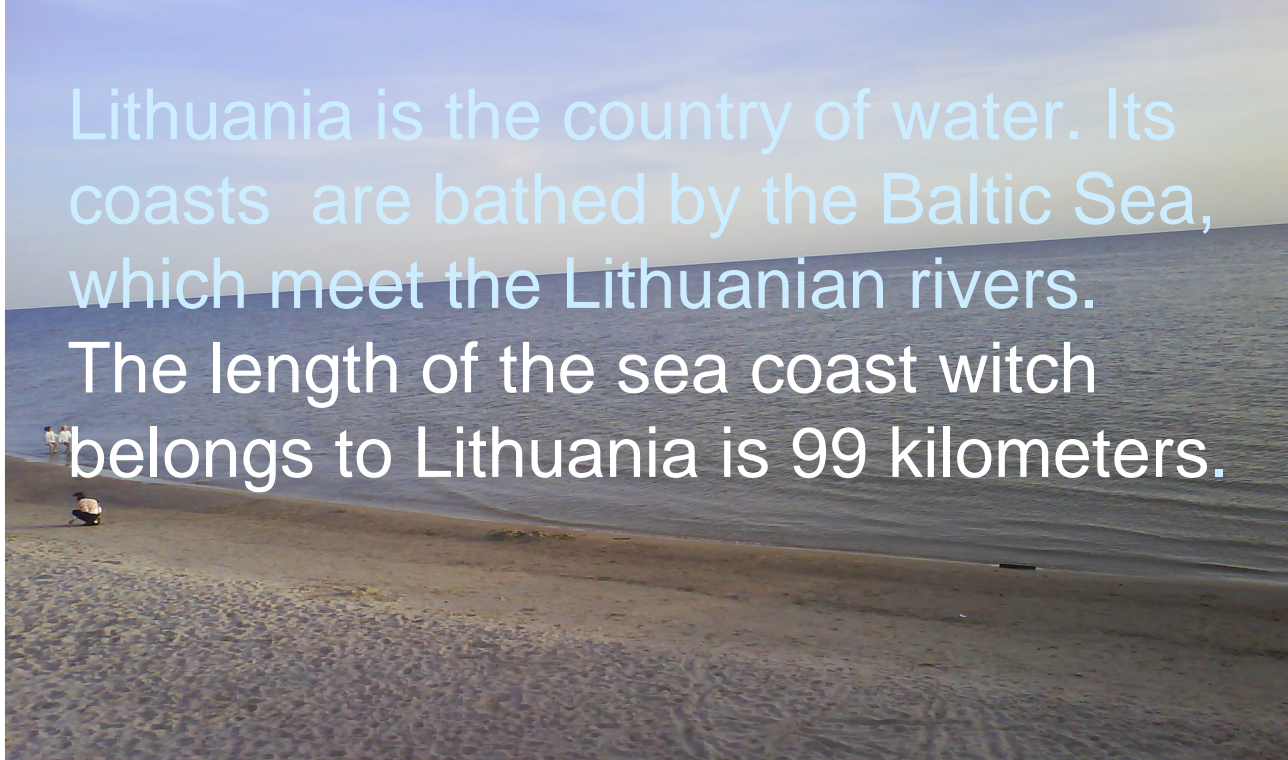


***The water history  
From spring to  
plumbing...***



Lithuania is the country of water. Its coasts are bathed by the Baltic Sea, which meet the Lithuanian rivers. The length of the sea coast which belongs to Lithuania is 99 kilometers.

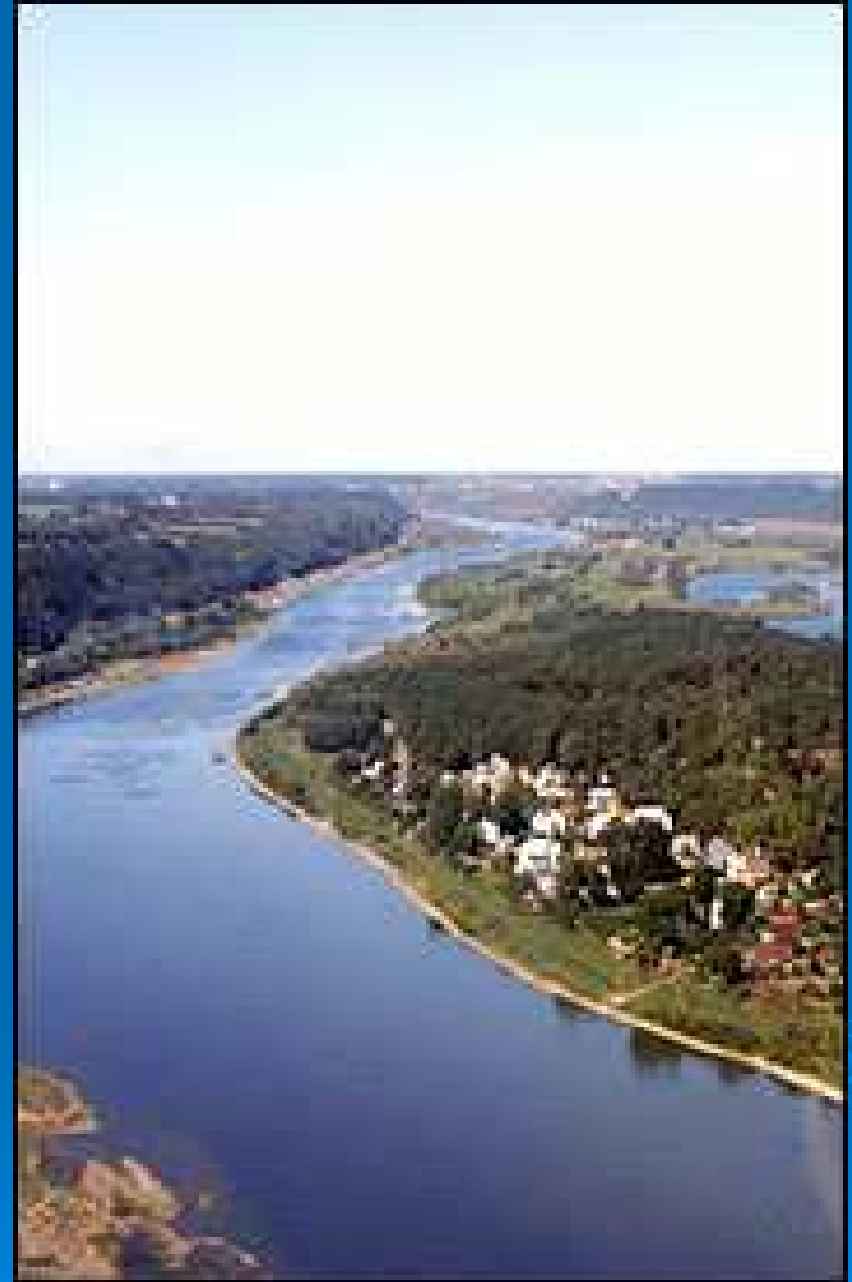


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There are a lot of lakes and rivers in Lithuania, especially in the East of the country. The biggest Lithuanian rivers are Nemunas, Neris, Venta, Šešupė, Mūša.

The first habitants settled near the biggest rivers in 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C. Rivers provided food and drinking water for people and also was used for defense and as a trade way.

Nowadays rivers are very polluted and used mostly for recreation purposes.





## ➤ Neris



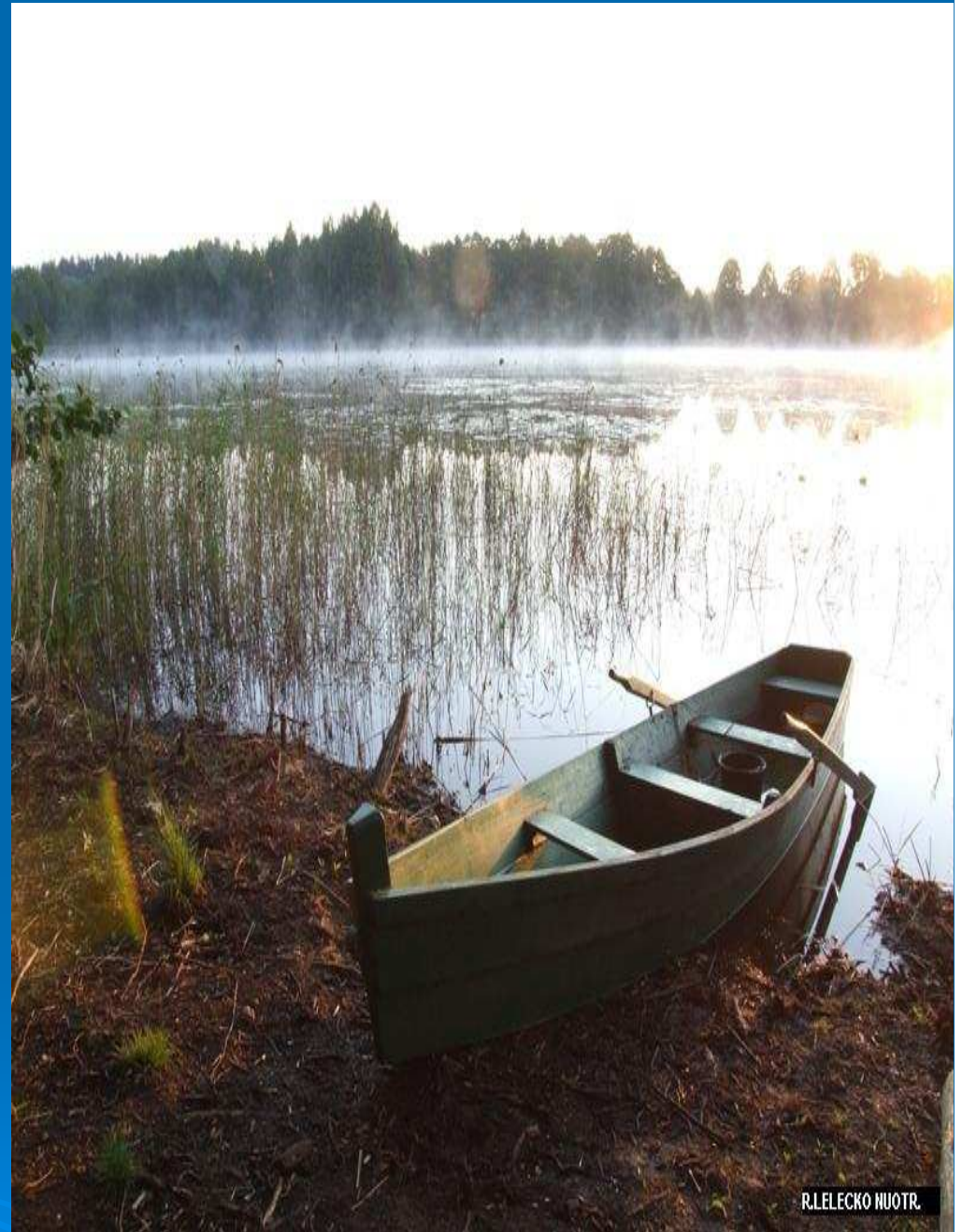
## ■ Nemunas

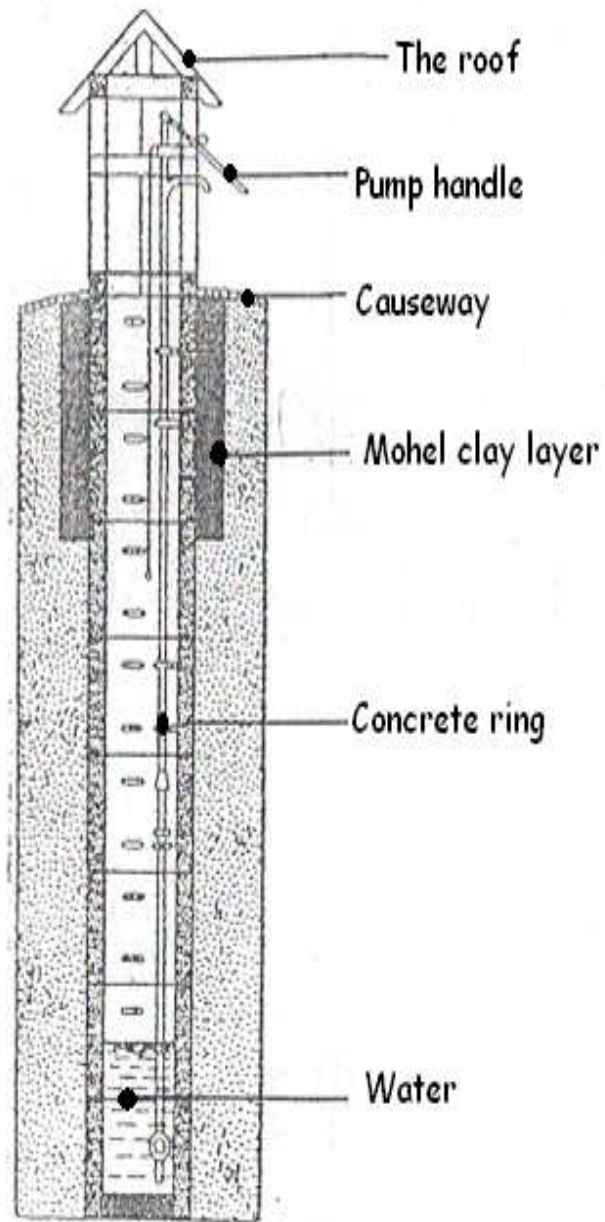
The springs was very important in the people life. The springs' water people used for drinking, for healing and ritual purposes. Today springs are very important too. Many people believe for its healing effect. There are some mineral water sanatoriums in Birštonas, Druskininkai, Likėnai. For heling they are useing water from underground springs. The tourists like those sanatoriums very much.



Approximately 1.4 % of Lithuania- mostly in the east – is covered in lakes. And there are about 340 ponds and dams. In the past people used their water for drinking, watering the domestic animals and for daily living needs. Every farmer had a pond in his farm. In soviet times was very popular to have a dam on the river. In Joniškis we have three dams on our small river Sidabra.

Now in Lithuania lakes are not very poluted but we use them only for recreation purposes.





In the past and now the main resource of drinking water is soil water. It was a good quality and easy to reach. The first wells were made by wood. Then people paved the wells by stones and now we have mostly concrete wells. Every family which lives in their own house has a well in the yard. A big part of the country's people drink wells' water. Regrettably, most wells are polluted and it has a negative effect on people's health.



The old  
wooden well







The concrete roller well



The well with  
a sweep



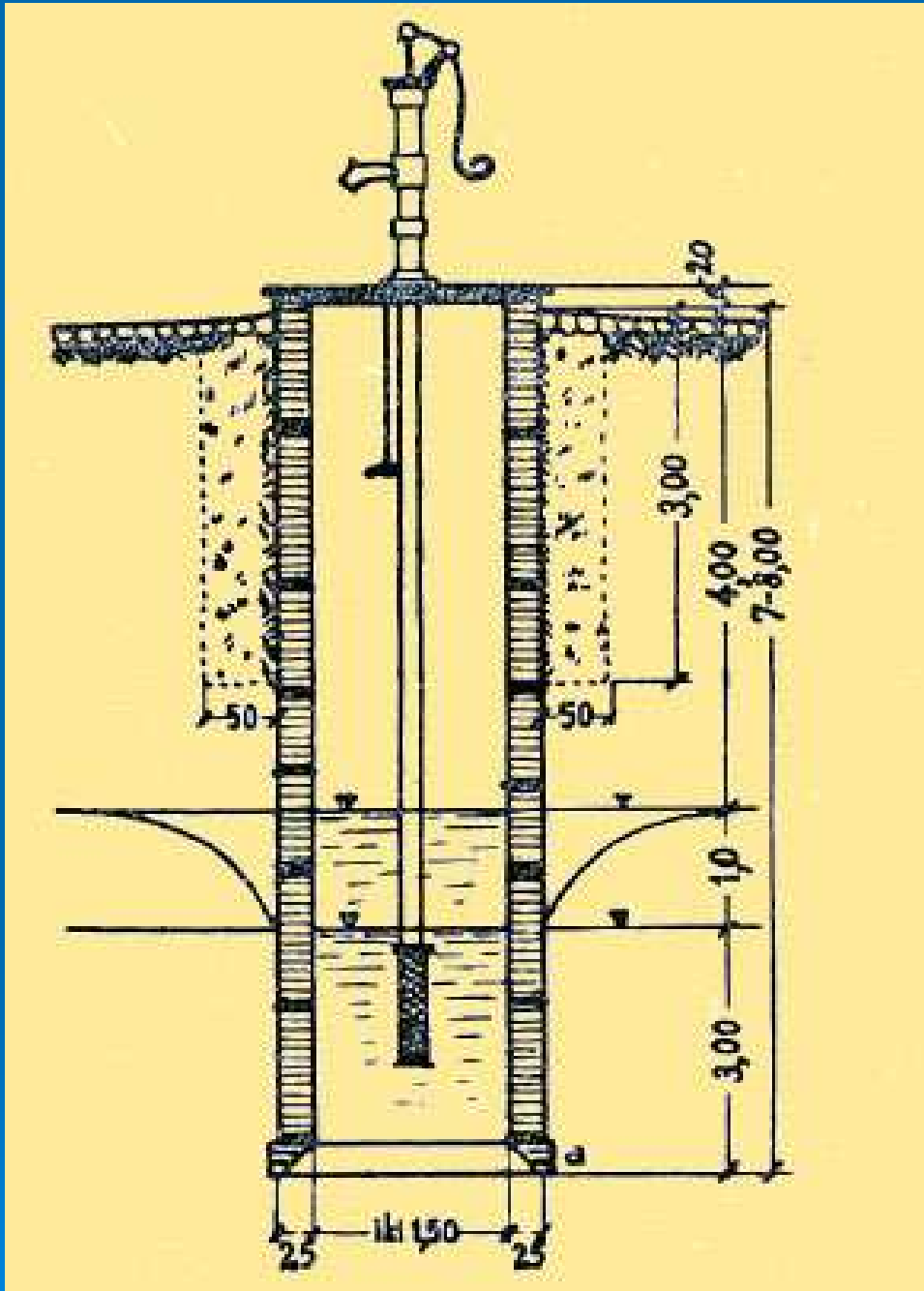
Nowadays well



Soviet well



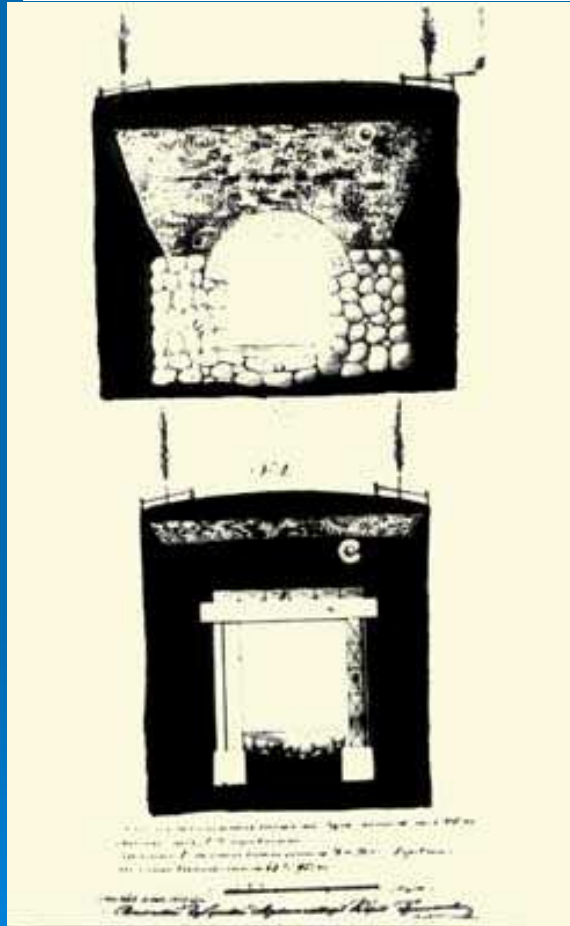
- People searched the place for well with a special instrument. It is a willow twig with two branches. The men keep the twig at “two brunches” and when the twig lean down, it means the water course is here. And if you dig the well in tis place, the well always will be full.



In the towns the hydrants was used instead the wells. They were more comfortable.

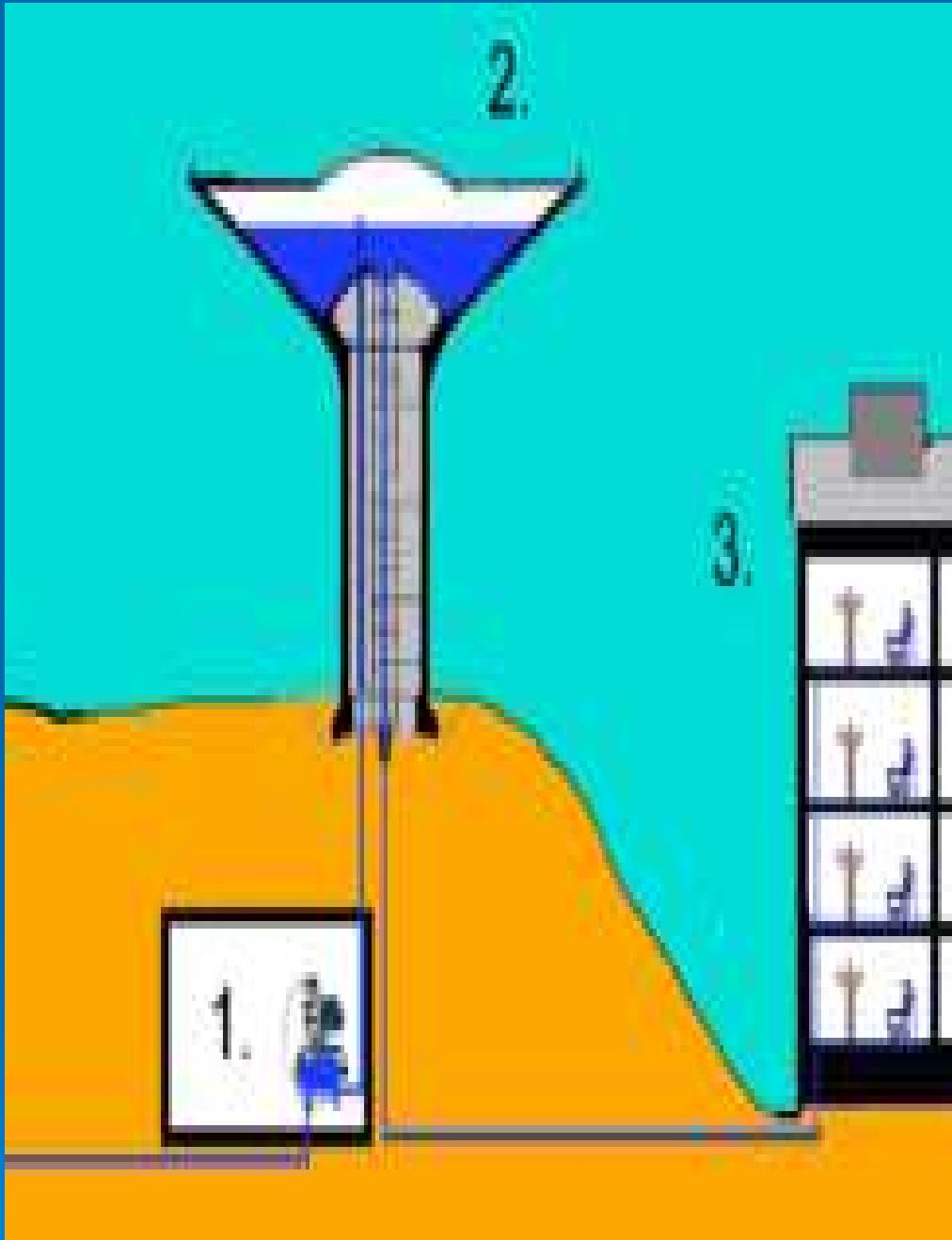
Now you can find them inthe old parts of the town too.





- The first plumbing was equipped in Vilnius in 1501. It was installed by monks. It used the underground water. In the beginning of XIX century the other biggest and more important towns of the country equipped the water systems.





A water tower is a large elevated water storage container. First water towers were constructed in XIX century and some are now considered architectural landmarks and monuments. Many others were constructed in soviet period.

A standard water tower typically has a height of approximately 35 m in towns and 25, 20 and 15 m in countryside. .

The height of the tower provides the hydrostatic pressure for the water supply system, and it is supplemented with a pump.

1. Pump
2. Container
3. User



A variety of materials was used to construct the typical water tower: brick, steel and concrete are the most often utilized.

- In Lithuanian folklore you can find many tales, songs, sayings about water or water is mentioned. There are some of them.
- Don't spit into the well,- later have to drink.
- It's easy to swim downstream.
- And more about that during next meeting...