

Slovakia

Topic

1. Give brief information about our country and its population (where is situated, neighbours, capital city, climate):

Population: Slovaks, Hungarians, Germans, Czechs, Roma

Religions: Roman –Catholics, Greek- Catholics, Protestants

Relationships: Slovaks-Hungarians (bad relationship in the south)

Slovaks-Czechs (relationship is great)

Slovaks-Roma (relationship is very bad, a lot of problems with them-their education, accommodation, big unemployment)

-Slovakia is situated in the Central Europe. We can say that it is in heart of Europe. Slovakia is small country, its area is about 49,036 square kilometers. It has the population of about 5 and half million people. Slovakia is bordered in the west by the Czech Republic, in the north by Poland, in the east by the Ukraine and in the south by Hungary and Austria. The borders are mostly natural, made by rivers (the Moravia, the Danube) and mountains (the Carpathians, the High Tatras). The capital city of Slovakia is Bratislava. It's situated in the west of country. Climate in Slovakia is mild. The warmest part of Slovakia is the south and the coldest part is the north. There is continental climate with 4 seasons in Slovakia.

2. Depict places of interest for foreigners – natural beauties (mountains, rivers, lakes, caves, national parks, protected regions), historical monuments:

-Mountains: North of Slovakia the High Tatras-the highest peak is Gerlach, the Low Tatras is not as high as High Tatras –the most popular peaks are Ďumbier and Kráľová hoľa. In the west- The Big Fatra and Small Fatra, the White Carpathian mountain and the small Carpathian mountain. In the middle of Slovakia – We have the Slovak Paradise and the Slovak Karts.

Caves: In Slovakia there are many caves. The longest cave is 9 km long. Dobšinská ice cave is the largest ice cave in Europe.

Rivers and lakes: The biggest rivers are the river Danube, Moravia, Hron, Ipel' and Ondava. The longest river is the river Váh. Slovakia doesn't have many lakes. The most important lakes are in the High Tatras-they are called tarns-for example Štrbské pleso, Popradské

pleso. The biggest dams are Domaša Dam ,Liptov Dam ,Orava Water Dam, Zemplínska Šírava.. and the biggest water power station is Gabčíkovo.

We have 9 national parks: The High Tatras, The Low Tatras ,The Small Fatra,The Big Fatra, The Muráň Plain, The Upper Orava, The Kysuce, The Orava, The Slovak Karst and The Slovak Paradise.

Slovakia has a lot of castles: Bojnice, Spiš castle, Orava castle ,Bratislava castle, ruins of Devín castle and Čachtice.

3.Politics (type of state, system of government, the head of state,national symbols,currency):

Type of state: Parliamentary democratic republic . Our head of state is president Zuzana Čaputová. Prime minister : Róbert Fico- he is the leader of the main party (SMER). Another partys in Slovakia: KDH, HLAS, SaS...

National symbols: emblem, national flag , anthem

Emblem has a double cross with mountains in the background. National flag has 3 horizontal stripes- white, blue, red and state emblem on the left side.

Anthem: Lightening over the Tatras

Our official language is Slovak and currency is euro. We are member of – European Union, NATO , United Nations, WTO..

4.Discuss traditional Slovak holidays and traditions-Christmas, Easter:

National holidays : Good Friday, Easter Monday, Constitution, All Saint´s day, Lavish Day , Holiday of work ..

Traditions: Slovak people stick to traditions.

Folk: Slovaks like traditional music and dancing. Therefore there are many folk festival in Slovakia every year-in Detva, Východná. You can hear folk music and see many beautiful folk costumes and folk dancing.

Christmas-visit each other, bake cakes, cook, decorated Christmas tree and house , give and get presents ,watch cartoons ,midnight mass visit church. Typical dinner consist of thin wafers eaten with honey, nuts and apples that are cut in two. Then Christmas soup

(sauerkraut with mushrooms and sausage) is served , followed by fish with potatoe salad and fried carp.

Easter-Special Catholics holiday. Easter Monday is a special day in Slovakia. On that day boys go from house to house and splash girls whips and water them so they will be healthy and strong all the year round . Girls give them money or chocolate eggs as a reward. At present alcoholic drinks are also offered.

5.Explain the stereotypes and prejudice of the Slovaks. The lifestyle of Slovaks (housing, education, jobs ,transport, sports, eating habits, pets..)

Lifestyle: Slovaks are hospitable, hardworking, friendly and usually underestimate themselves. They are willing to help others even though they are not very rich.

Housing: Most of people live in flats in housing estates. Slovak houses are usually quite big and mostly shared by 2 or more generations. People in village have a garden. We haven't got skyscrapes.

Shopping: We have a lot of small shops-corner or local shops. People prefer supermarkets or hypermarkets. They also use internet shops to buy something.

Educations: We have many primary schools, secondary schools, high schools and universities. Most students study on grammar school called Gymnázium . Another secondary schools: business schools, technical school and medical school.

Jobs: To have job is really important. We know physical and intellectual work . Unemployment is a very big problem in our society. We usually work 8 hours a day. Working time is 40 hours per week. The most popular jobs: teacher, doctor, lawyer, politician. The best paid jobs: judge, politician, architecture, director, engineer. The worst paid jobs: cleaning lady, shop assistant, baby sitters.

Transport: We travel to school, work and sometimes to visit somebody or on holiday, trip. We often use public transport in big cities. We know many kinds of transport, for example traveling by bus, car, plain, train and so on. Every day hundreds of people travel from one place to another. I prefer travel by car- it is comfortable.

Eating habits: We have also typical food. Our national dish is bryndzové halušky which is a meal made of potatoes and cheese called bryndza. Slovaks are hospitable and they welcome visitors with a loaf of bread with some salt. Breakfast –for breakfast we eat bread with butter, jam, honey..Lunch-soup, rice ,meat,potatoes..Dinner-scrabled eggs or rolls with ham. People in Slovakia prefer cooking at home.

Sports: Slovaks are sport-loving people. They are good at an ice-hockey. A lot of Slovak players play in American and Canadian National Hockey League teams. Beside the hockey, tennis is also very popular. Our tennis players- D. Hrbatý, Hantuchová, Cibulková- belong to the world top players. In the summer Olympic Games have every 4 years big success canoeists- Michal Martikán, Elena Kaliská. Slovak are also fans of football. Our football stars are Škrteľ, Hamšík, Škriniar..

Pets: Some of free times activities in Slovakia involve animals. The most popular pets is dog, cat or hamster. Some people in the village have chickens, sheeps, ducks..

6.What are the problems of the Slovak Republic?

Problems of the Slovak republic are poorer economic and lower living standard than in western countries. As a result many people travel or emigrate abroad for job or part-time job. Sometimes there are also problems with ethnic minorities (Hungarian radicals, gypsies)

7.Give your opinion on advantages of Slovakia as a member of the European Union (studying, work, travelling, funds):

Slovakia joined the European Union in 2004, bringing several good things. Slovak students can study abroad easily, making friendships across Europe. People can work and travel freely in EU countries, making us feel more connected. The EU market helps our economy grow, and we get support for important projects. Being part of the EU means we have stable politics and high living standards. Also, we receive money for research and innovation. In short, EU membership has many advantages for Slovakia in education, jobs, travel, and economic development, making our country stronger and more connected with others in Europe.

8.Which places have you visited and which you like to visit in the future?

I visited many places in Slovakia with my family or with my school. I was in Banská Bystrica, Martin, Bratislava, Michalovce and many other cities. I was also in Liptovský Mikuláš, where we visited a contact zoo. I visited several Slovak castles. We have one castle ruin here in Gelnica. During the summer, I like to go swimming in the swimming pools or in the water of the reservoir, such as the Zemplinska sirava. I went with the school to the national

cemetery in Martin, where we also visited the museum of the Slovak village. In the future, I would like to visit some interesting places or views in Slovakia.

Role play

You have just met a foreigner who is in Slovakia for the first time . He/she is eager to learn more about our country, especially the Slovaks and their lifestyle. Tell the foreigner if people in Slovakia stick to traditions and talk about some of them (Christmas, Easter, All Saints's Day,etc.):

Hello and welcome to Slovakia! Our country has many interesting traditions that are part of everyday life. Families are really important, especially during Christmas when we gather for special meals and exchange gifts. At Easter, we have a fun tradition of decorating eggs, and on Easter Monday, there's a playful custom called "šibačka," where men gently whip women with willow branches. Another cool tradition is Name Days, where we celebrate the feast day of the saint we are named after. It usually involves well-wishes and small get-togethers. These traditions are a big part of our culture and make life colorful and joyful. Exploring and learning about these customs is a great way to experience Slovak lifestyle. People here are friendly, and you'll feel right at home in our warm and welcoming community. Enjoy your time in Slovakia!

National symbols and other facts: flag (three horizontal stripes white, blue and red, state emblem left side a silver double-cross on the central hill of three hills), coat of arms, seal, anthem, currency (Euro), the head of state (president), official language (Slovak)

Národné symboly a iné skutočnosti: vlajka (tri vodorovné pruhy biely, modrý a červený, štátne znaky vľavo strieborný dvojkríž na centrálnom kopci troch kopcov), štátny znak, pečať, hymna, ústavná mena (euro), hlava štátu (prezident), úradný jazyk (slovenčina)

Location of Slovakia: Central Europe, heart of Europe, bordered by the Czech Republic, the Ukraine, Hungary, Poland and Austria, natural borders: the Moravia, the Danube, the Carpathians, the High Tatras, a locked country

Poloha Slovenska: stredná Európa, srdce Európy, susedí s Českou republikou, Ukrajinou, Hungary, Poľskom a Rakúskom, prirodzené hranice: Morava, Dunaj, Karpaty, Vysoké Tatry, uzamknutá krajina

History: Great Moravian Empire (830-896), arrival of the Byzantine brothers Constantine and Method (863), Austrian Hungarian Monarchy (10 century-1918), codification of the Slovak language by E (1843), the Czechoslovak Republic (1918), World War I/II., Slovak National Uprising (1944). Prague Spring Velvet Revolution (fall of communism, restoration of democracy in 1989), establishment of the Slovak Republic (1993) accession of Slovakia to the European Union (2004)

Dejiny: Veľkomoravská ríša (830-896), príchod byzantských bratov Konštantína a Metoda (863), rakúsko-uhorská monarchia (10. storočie-1918), kodifikácia slovenského jazyka E (1843), ČSR (1918), I. svetová vojna/II., Slovenské národné povstanie (1944). Pražská sametová revolúcia (pád komunizmu, obnovenie demokracie v roku 1989), vznik Slovenskej republiky (1993), vstup Slovenska do Európskej únie (2004)

Towns and places to visit-capital (seat of government, parliament), large towns (galleries, museums, exhibitions, theatres, cinema cultural events, universities), small towns, villages, countryside, architecture, skanzen (open-air museum -the High Tatras, the Low Tatras, the Little Fatras, the Great Fatras, Slovak Paradise (spectacular scenic mountains, lowlands, highlands, valleys, fairytale castles, caves, spa resorts, ski resorts, chateaux)

Mestá a miesta na návštevu. - hlavné mesto (sídlo vlády, parlamentu), veľké mestá (galérie, múzeá, výstavy, divadlá, kultúrne podujatia, univerzity), malé mestá, dediny, vidiek, architektúra, skanzen (skanzen - Vysoké Tatry, Nízke Tatry, Malá Fatra, Veľká Fatra, Slovenský raj (nádherná scenéria pohoria, nížiny, vrchoviny, doliny, rozprávkové hrady, jaskyne, kúpeľné strediská, lyžiarske strediská, zámky)

Slovak traditions and habits: folklore, festivals, national costumes, Slovak cuisine, national dish, special Easter traditions with willow whips and pouring water, Fašiangy (Carnival, Pentecost)

Slovenské tradície a zvyky: folklór, slávnosti, kroje, slovenská kuchyňa, národné jedlo, special. Veľkonočné tradície s vrbovým korbáčom a oblievačkou, fašiangy (fašiangy, Turíce)

Stereotypes of Slovak people: patriotic, hospitable, amicable, family oriented, generous, helpful, very bright, modest, loud, money conscious, property protective, overcaring parents

stereotypy Slovákov: vlastenecký, pohostinný, priateľský, orientovaný na rodinu, veľkorysý, nápomocný, lyžiarsky šikovný, skromný, hlasný, šetrný k peniazom, ochraňujúci majetok, starostliví rodičia

EU membership: market economy, different lifestyle, job opportunities, new currency, multicultural brain-drain, EU funded projects, regional development, education, trade, commerce, agriculture, indu (machinery, breweries, distilleries, ironworks, textile, chemical, mining), power plants

Členstvo v EÚ: trhové hospodárstvo, odlišný životný štýl, pracovné príležitosti, nová mena, multikultúrny únik mozgov, projekty financované EÚ, regionálny rozvoj, vzdelávanie, obchod, obchod, poľnohospodárstvo, priemysel (strojárstvo, pivovary, liehovary, železiarne, textilné, chemické, banícke), elektrárne