

# About Ukraine

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Ukraine is a large country in Eastern Europe. Its neighbours are Moldova, Romania, Hungary in the south west, Slovakia and Poland in the west, Belarus in the north west and Russia in the north east and east. In the south there is the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. This is one of the biggest countries in Europe. Its territory is more than 600,000 square kilometres.

*Read the sentence and select true (T) or false (F).*

Ukraine is one of the largest countries in Western Europe.      TRUE      FALSE



The history of Ukraine begins with Kievan Rus. It was one of the largest and most powerful countries in Europe between the 10th and 12th centuries. The unique culture of Kievan Rus developed from Christianity and local traditions. Later, other countries controlled different parts of Ukraine. In the 17th and 18th centuries the Cossacks consolidated a large part of Ukraine as a Cossacks republic. The Cossacks were very skilled military men. However, in the 19th century their country became part of the Russian Empire. After two short periods of independence in the 20th century, Ukraine became one



of the republics of the Soviet Union. Finally, Ukraine gained independence in 1991.



**Read the sentence and select true (T) or false (F).**

|                                                  |      |       |
|--------------------------------------------------|------|-------|
| Ukrainian history goes back to the 10th century. | TRUE | FALSE |
| The Cossacks were very good warriors.            | TRUE | FALSE |



Today the population of Ukraine is about 45 million people. The capital of Ukraine is Kyiv. The city goes back to the 6th century and has a rich history and culture. Kyiv is famous for its wonderful churches and cathedrals as well as beautiful parks. A lot of tourists from all over the world visit Kyiv and other cities in Ukraine every year.



The climate in Ukraine is mild and there is a lot of rich black soil, so people can grow a lot of plants. Ukraine is sometimes called the 'breadbasket' of Europe, because it sells a lot of wheat.

Ukraine has got a lot of natural resources like coal. There are also a lot of factories in Ukraine. Some of them produce iron or salt, or make large machines. For example, the Antonov company made the biggest plane in the world - AN-225 Mriya.



***Read the sentence and select true (T) or false (F).***

Ukraine is often called the 'breadbasket', because it has got a lot of coal and iron.

TRUE      FALSE



The Ukrainian countryside is very beautiful. There are vast steppes, thick forests and the Carpathian Mountains. The longest river is the Dnipro, which flows

through the centre of Ukraine into the Black Sea.



Ukraine has a unique culture. It is famous for its wonderful songs. For example, the Ukrainian national song 'Schedryk' is well known all over the world.



**Read the sentence and select true (T) or false (F).**

The song 'Schedryk' is popular in different countries.

TRUE

FALSE

Modern Ukrainian musicians Sviatoslav Vakarchuk (Okean Elzy), the Hardkiss, Onuka, Brunettes Shoot Blondes, the Maneken, Antytila, Odyn v Kanoe and many others are popular in Europe.



One of the most famous Ukrainian poets is Taras Shevchenko. His books are translated into more than 100 languages.

Ukraine also has some world famous sportspeople. The Klitchko brothers and Oleksandr Usyk are known to all lovers of boxing, Andriy Shevchenko is one of



the winners of the Golden Ball Award and Juliya Dzhyma is the Olympic champion in biathlon.

Ukraine is a very young state, but it has a long history, living traditions and a great future.

***Read the sentence and select true (T) or false (F).***

You can read Taras Shevchenko's books only in Ukrainian.      TRUE      FALSE