

**Read the text about a famous Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko and fill in the blanks with the correct item.**

Taras Shevchenko was born on March 9, 1814, in what is now Cherkasy Oblast, Ukraine. He was born into (1) ..... and hard labour, but at the age of 12 he ended up as an (2) ..... . When he was 14, he came to be the houseboy for a wealthy Russian, Pavel Engelhardt. Engelhardt could not help but notice Shevchenko's artistic drawing skills, so he had him work as a(n) (3) ..... to a painter for four years. There he spent his time sketching and (4) ..... with artists, and soon after he was enrolled in an art academy where he continued painting as an artist and began writing poetry as well. He wrote poems based on Ukrainian historical themes, radical political ideas, and spoke of (5) ..... of the Russian tsarist regime. In 1840, his first collection of poems, *Kobzar*, was published, all in the Ukrainian language.



At this time in history, the Russian tsars were known for having harsh policies toward Ukraine, and found thinkers in the political scene to be a (6) ..... . Shevchenko's involvement with a secret organization called the Cyril-Methodius Society proved to be (7) ..... enough for the tsars to have him removed from Russia, so he was (8) ..... to Siberia. While in Siberia, he was under very strict observation and was not allowed to write or paint. For the next 10 years, Shevchenko wrote in secret in a number of different forts across Siberia. In 1857, he was returned to Russia from exile.

He wanted to go to Ukraine to buy land, but instead was ordered to return to St. Petersburg. While Shevchenko was in St. Petersburg, he fell ill and on March 10, 1861, the day after his 47<sup>th</sup> birthday, he died. One of his famous poems "The Testament" stated that he wanted his remains to be buried in his "beloved Ukraine" when he dies. Taras Shevchenko is one of Ukraine's most famous poets, artists, and humanists and will forever be (9) ..... , especially by the people of Ukraine.