

UKRAINE: FACTFILE

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The Country



Ukraine is the second largest country in Europe with an area of 603,628 square kilometres. Its territory is two times larger than the territory of Italy! It has a population of nearly 45 million people. There are over 12 million Ukrainians who live in other countries in the world - Russia, Canada, the USA, Brazil, Argentina, Italy and many others.

Read the statements about Ukraine and answer true (T) or false (F).

- | | | |
|---|------|-------|
| 1 Ukraine is the largest country in Europe. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 2 Ukraine is two times larger than Italy. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 3 About 2 million Ukrainians live in other countries. | TRUE | FALSE |

Read the first part of the text and check your answers.

Complete the table with the numbers from the text. Drag and drop.

Territory	<input type="text"/>	sq km
Population	<input type="text"/>	million
Ukrainians abroad	<input type="text"/>	million

The Symbols

Ukraine has both official and unofficial symbols. The official symbols include the state flag, the state emblem and the state anthem. There are many unofficial symbols. The national dress is a shirt called vyshyvanka. Both men and women wear it during festivals and holidays. The national musical instrument is the bandura. It's a stringed instrument with a very gentle beautiful sound. We can also mention pysankas, painted Easter eggs or a Ukrainian wreath made of colourful flowers and ribbons.

What Ukrainian symbols can you see in the following pictures?



The Language



The modern Ukrainian language developed from Old Slavic languages from the 9th to the 16th century. The first printed book in modern Ukrainian was The Aeneid by Ivan Kotliarevskyi. It appeared in 1798. Later, Taras Shevchenko became a real Ukrainian national poet.

In the 19th century there were more women writers in Ukraine than in any other country in the world!

14 Ask and answer.

- 1 What famous Ukrainian writers and poets do you know?
- 2 Do you know any famous Ukrainian women writers?
- 3 Do you live in a city or in the country?
- 4 Do you have relatives who live in the country or in a city?
- 5 How often do you visit them?

The People

About 70 per cent of Ukrainians live in cities and 30 per cent in the country. From May to October a lot of those who live in cities often go to their country cottages and work in their gardens. Children enjoy being outdoors, the **fresh** air, the sun and the **beautiful** Ukrainian countryside.

Foreigners who visit Ukraine say that the Ukrainians are **cheerful** and **outgoing**, **hospitable** and **friendly**, **hard-working** and **freedom-loving**. Foreign guests like Ukrainian songs which are often **happy** and **romantic** and they love Ukrainian **national** food!

Read the fourth part of the text and circle the adjectives. What do they mean?