

Kyiv

Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine, is one of the oldest and most beautiful cities in Eastern Europe. It is situated on the hilly right bank on the low left bank of the Dnieper. It is the largest city of Ukraine with the population of more than 3 million people.

Kyiv's glorious history spans more than 1,500 years. According to a well-known legend, the founders of Kyiv were three brothers: Kyi, Shchek, Khoriv and their sister Lybid. In the 19th century, Kyiv became an important political, religious, crafts and trading centre of Kyivan Rus. In 988, Prince Volodymyr introduced Christianity as the official state religion. At that time the construction of brick buildings decorated with wall paintings and mosaics was began in Kyiv. Among those buildings was the brick Desiatynna Church called so because Prince Volodymyr contributed one tenth of his income to its construction.

During the reign of Yaroslav the Wise in 1087 the foundation was laid for the magnificent Sophia's Cathedral. The prosperity of Kyiv was broken off by the great Tatar invasion, which swept across the Ukrainian lands. In the 14th century, Kyiv was captured by Lithuanian grand dukes, and became part of Lithuanianan and later of the Polish-Lithuanian state over the course of 300 years. Kyiv saw revolutions and devastating wars but nothing could wipe the city off the face of the earth.

Nowadays Kyiv is a political, administrative, scientific, industrial, and cultural centre of our country. Kyiv in itself a tremendous monument which over a long period of time has been erected by the collective wisdom and creative efforts of many generations. With its abundant greenery and chestnut trees - a city, it looks like a huge park.

A large part of Ukraine's industrial output is produced by Kyiv enterprises: aircraft, excavators, precision tools and instruments, audio and video equipment, clothing, furniture etc. Kyiv is the major transportation hub of Ukraine. Numerous research institutes, higher educational establishments, libraries, museums and galleries make Kyiv the cultural and academic centre of Ukraine.

From its part the city inherited a great number of historical monuments which attract visitors from all over the world. Among the sights are Kyivo –Pecherska Lavra, St. Sophia Cathedral, the Golden Gates, Saint Volodymyr's cathedral, Saint Andrew's Church, to mention only a few. There are many monuments in Kyiv. The monument to T.G. Shevchenko, the great son of Ukraine, is in front of the Kyiv University, which is named after him. The monument to Bogdan Khmel'nitski stands in the square opposite the Sophia Cathedral. The main street in Kyiv is Khreshchatik. It is only one kilometer long but looks very impressive. Our capital can boast of its numerous museums, galleries and cinemas.

We, the Ukrainians, are proud of our capital, the city of ancient culture, unusual beauty and eternal glory.

Task 1. Read the text about Kyiv and decide whether the sentences are true or false.

1. Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine, is one of the most beautiful cities in the world. _____
2. It was founded by Prince Volodymyr. _____
3. During the reign of Yaroslav the Wise Christianity was introduced in Kyiv Rus. _____
4. The city saw the great Tatar invasion, and it was under the Polish and Lithuanian rule. _____
5. Kyiv is often called a garden city. _____
6. It is the centre of political, administrative, commercial and cultural life of Ukraine. _____
7. There isn't much industry in our capital. _____
8. Kyiv is rich in historical sights. _____
9. Khreshchatik is a very long street. _____
10. Kyiv isn't old. _____
11. Kyiv is a district centre. _____
12. Kyiv is situated on the bank of the Dnipro river. _____
13. There are a lot of chestnut trees in the streets of Kyiv. _____
14. There are lots of green parks and gardens in our capital. _____
15. Kyiv is a new city. _____
16. A lot of people visit our capital every year. _____
17. Kyiv was founded by an English Prince. _____
18. More than five million people live there. _____
19. Khreshchatik is the main street in Kyiv. _____
20. There aren't many big bridges across Dnipro. _____
21. The pride of Kyiv is its museums, theatres and art galleries. _____

Task 2. Read the article from a tour guide about Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine. Choose the words from the box to complete the article.

Capital, people, street, long, bridges, churches, city, avenues, Lavra

Kyiv is the _____ of Ukraine. It's more than 1,500 years old. It is a big _____ on the Dnipro river. The Dnipro is _____ and beautiful. There are big _____ across the Dnipro. More than 3 million _____ live in Kyiv. There are many streets, _____ and squares in Kyiv. Khreshchatik is the main _____ in Kyiv. It's beautiful. There are many old _____ and cathedrals in Kyiv: St. Volodymyr's Cathedral, St. Sophia's Cathedral, St. Andrew's Church and Kyiv Pechersk _____.