POLAND

1000

years of history



Over a thousand years ago, Poland was not yet a kingdom. It was a collection of lands ruled by local leaders. One of the most significant rulers of that time was Bolesław Chrobry, also known as Bolesław the Brave.

Bolesław was the son of Mieszko I, the first historical ruler of Poland. Mieszko introduced Christianity to Poland in 966. After Mieszko's death, Bolesław became the new ruler. He was determined to strengthen and unify Poland, making it a respected country in Europe.

In the year 1000, Bolesław met with Emperor Otto III of the Holy Roman Empire in Gniezno. They discussed religious and political matters. Otto III presented Bolesław with a golden crown and sword, symbolizing recognition of Poland's importance. This meeting was a significant step towards Poland's independence from German influence.

However, Bolesław's ambition to be crowned king faced obstacles. The sudden death of Otto III and strained relations with Germany delayed his plans. It wasn't until 1025, shortly before his death, that Bolesław was crowned the first King of Poland. The coronation took place in Gniezno Cathedral, marking Poland's emergence as a sovereign kingdom recognized across Europe.

Bolesław's reign was marked by military campaigns that expanded Polish territory, including parts of modern-day Slovakia, Moravia, and Ukraine. He also established a Polish church independent of German control and introduced the first Polish currency. Bolesław died in 1025, the same year as his coronation, and was buried in the Poznań Cathedral.

This year, 2025, marks the 1000th anniversary of Bolesław Chrobry's coronation, a pivotal moment in Polish history that signified the country's rise as a significant European power.

1 Choose the correct answer.

1) What significant event took place in Gniezno in the year 1000?
- a) Bolesław was crowned king
- b) Poland adopted Christianity
- c) Bolesław met Emperor Otto III
- d) The first Polish currency was introduced

2) Why was Bolesław's coronation delayed?
- a) He lacked support from the Polish people
- b) The Pope refused to grant permission
- c) Otto III's death and tensions with Germany
- d) He was engaged in other military campaigns

3) What did Bolesław achieve during his reign?
- a) He established a Polish church independent of German control
- b) He introduced the first Polish currency
- c) He expanded Polish territory
- d) All of the above

4) Where was Bolesław buried?
- a) Gniezno Cathedral
- b) Wawel Cathedral
- c) Poznań Cathedral
- d) Kraków Cathedral

5) What anniversary is celebrated in 2025?
- a) 1050 years since Poland adopted Christianity
- b) 1000 years since Bolesław's coronation
- c) 950 years since Bolesław's death
- d) 900 years since the introduction of Polish currency

2 Complete the sentences with words from the box. (There is one extra word in the box).

Mieszko I	*Gniezno*	*pivotal*
sovereign	*currency*	*Otto III*

1. Bolesław was the son of _____, the first historical ruler of Poland.
2. The coronation of Bolesław took place in _____ Cathedral.
3. The meeting between Bolesław and _____ in 1000 was a significant step towards Poland's independence.
4. Bolesław introduced the first Polish _____ during his reign.
5. His coronation marked Poland's emergence as a _____ kingdom across Europe.

LIVEWORKSHEETS