



A. Look at the pictures. Do you know anything about these regions?
Listen, read and check your answers. 

THE REGIONS AND CLIMATES OF UKRAINE



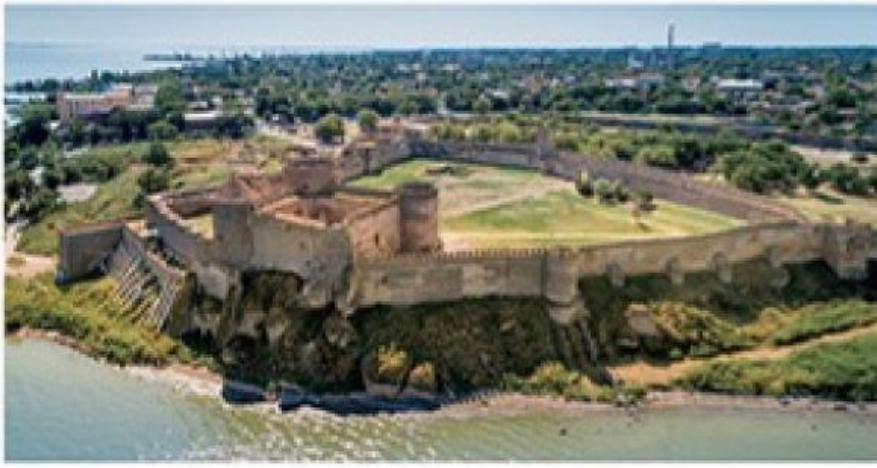
Ukraine is a huge country in Eastern Europe. It has seven neighbouring countries that share its borders, including Moldova, Romania and Poland. Ukraine has an area of over 603,000 square km, which makes it the second biggest country in Europe. It's also twice the size of Italy and only a little smaller than the state of Texas in the USA.

Ukraine has a variety of different regions and climates. The centre of the country is very flat and is the best place for farmers to grow food. Because of this, it is called the 'breadbasket of Europe'. In the west are the Carpathian Mountains where local people can ski and go hiking, and in the south, there is the Black Sea. This region has many beautiful and interesting castles on the coast, as well as many holiday resorts that Ukrainians like to visit in the warmer months.



In general, summers in Ukraine are hot and winters are cold. The hottest area is the centre where average temperatures in summer are between 24 to 28° C. In the winter it is also the coldest region, with average temperatures between -6 and -2° C. In the south during winter, it can get so cold that the sea freezes. Lastly, the wettest part of the country is the east and the snowiest is the Carpathian Mountains.

Ukraine is a nation that has many rivers. The longest is the Dnipro River, which has a length of 1,095 km within Ukraine and a total length of 2,285 km. The largest forest in Ukraine is the Shatsky National Natural Park, located in the northwest of the country, in the Volyn region. This park includes the Shatsk forests and lakes, including the famous Svityaz Lake. The total area of the park is over 32,000 hectares. It's a great place to go camping, but because it's so big it's very easy to get lost there.



B. Read the text again and answer the questions.

1. How big is Ukraine?

2. What do locals do in the central region?

3. What happens to the sea in the south when it gets cold?

4. Which area is the coldest?

5. Which is the rainiest part of the country?

6. Why can camping in the Shatsky National Natural Park be difficult?
