

The Czech National Day: October 28th

Listen to the story and fill in the missing words.

Every year, on October 28th, people in the Czech Republic celebrate their National Day. This special day is called "Independence Day" or "Czechoslovak Independence Day."

Why is October 28th Important?

On October 28th, 1918, Czechoslovakia 1. an independent country. Before that, the Czech lands were part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The people 2. their own country, where they could speak their own language and make their own rules. Finally, on October 28th, 1918, Czechoslovakia was born.



The First President of Czechoslovakia

When Czechoslovakia became independent, the country 3. a leader. Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk was chosen as the first President of Czechoslovakia. He became the president on November 4. He is an important figure in Czech history because he helped to create the new country. Masaryk was supported by the American president Woodrow Wilson. Masaryk 5. hard to make Czechoslovakia a strong and democratic nation.

What Happens on October 28th?

On this day, many people in the Czech Republic 6. the history of their country. There are often 7. and ceremonies to honour this day. Important places like Prague Castle have special celebrations. The President of the Czech Republic usually gives a speech, and some people receive 8. for their good work.

How Do People Celebrate?

Some people visit important historical sites, like the National Museum or the Vítkov Memorial. Others may 9. parades, watch fireworks, or spend time with their families. It is a day of pride for the Czech people.

The Meaning of October 28th

October 28th is a day to remember the freedom and independence of the Czech Republic. It is a time to be proud of the country's history and to think about the future.

Other Important Facts

Prague became the capital of Czechoslovakia and is still the capital of the Czech Republic today.

Czechoslovakia was 10. the Czech lands and Slovakia. In 1993, the country peacefully 11. two separate countries: the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

The National Museum in Prague is a popular place to visit on October 28th because it has many 12. about Czech history.

Exercise 1: Listen to the story again and decide whether the statements below are "True" or "False".

- Czechoslovakia became independent on October 28th, 1918. T / F
- The first President of Czechoslovakia was Václav Havel. T / F
- The capital of the Czech Republic is Prague. T / F
- Czechoslovakia split into two countries in 1990. T / F
- October 28th is a day to remember the freedom and independence of the Czech Republic. T / F

Exercise 2: Listen again and fill in the blanks with the correct words from the text.

- On October 28th, 1918, Czechoslovakia became an _____ country.
- Tomáš Garrigue _____ was the first President of Czechoslovakia.
- Masaryk was supported _____ the American president Woodrow Wilson.
- People often visit the _____ Museum on October 28th.
- The President of the Czech Republic usually _____ a speech.
- The Czech Republic and _____ were once part of Czechoslovakia.
- October 28th is also called _____ Day.
- It is a time to be proud _____ the country's history.

Exercise 3: Answer the following questions using the past simple tense. Then listen and check.

- When did Czechoslovakia become independent?
- Who was the first President of Czechoslovakia?
- What empire did the Czech lands belong to before 1918?
- When did Czechoslovakia split into two countries?
- What did people want before October 28th, 1918?

Exercise 4: Match the words on the left with their correct meanings on the right.

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| Independence | a. A type of government where people vote |
| Capital | b. A large group of countries or regions ruled by one leader |
| Empire | c. The main city of a country |
| Ceremony | d. The state of being free from control by another country |
| Democratic | e. A formal event to celebrate something |

**Exercise 5: Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb in parentheses.
Use the present simple or past simple tense.**

The Czech Republic _____ (celebrate) its National Day on October 28th every year.

Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk _____ (become) the first President of Czechoslovakia in 1918.

Many people _____ (visit) historical sites on October 28th.

On this day, many people in the Czech Republic _____ (remember) the history of their country.

Prague _____ (become) the capital of Czechoslovakia.

Czechoslovakia _____ (split) into two countries in 1993.

The President of the Czech Republic _____ (give) a speech on National Day.

Exercise 6: Create the past tense of these verbs.

To be—

Become—

Give—

Help—

Speak—

visit—

Work—

Spend—

Watch—

Make—

Can—

Have—

Exercise 7: Put the words in the correct order to make meaningful sentences.

became / independent / Czechoslovakia / 1918 / in.
.....

first / The / Masaryk / President / Tomáš Garrigue / was / of / Czechoslovakia.
.....

capital / Prague / of / Republic / the / Czech / is / the.
.....

celebrates / on / Czech Republic / October 28th / the / its / Day / National.
.....

countries / Czechoslovakia / into / split / in / two / 1993.
.....

Exercise 8: Brainstorming

What are other important public holidays in the Czech Republic?"