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БЕЛАРУСЬ МАЯ НЕПАЎТОРНАЯ

***The incomparable country of
Belarus***

Вучэбна-метадычны дапаможнік



Вучэбна-метадычны дапаможнік складзены ў адпаведнасці з адукацыйным стандартам цыкла сацыяльна-гуманітарных дысцыплін і базавай праграмай па ангельскай мове; мае мэту развіцця навыкаў вуснай мовы на аснове тэкстаў.

Вучэбна-метадычны дапаможнік прызначаны для студэнтаў гуманітарных факультэтаў дзённай формы навучання.

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ПРАДМОВА

Дадзены дапаможнік прызначаецца для студэнтаў першага курса гуманітарных факультэтаў дзённай формы навучання.

Дапаможнік уключае ў сябе сістэматызаваны па тэматычнаму прынцыпу тэкставы матэрыял. Тэксты ўзяты ў большасці з сайта Virtual Guide To Belarus (<http://www.belarusguide.com>).

Дапаможнік складаецца з пяці раздзелаў. У кожны раздзел уваходзяць тэксты з наступным комплексам разнастайных заданняў для праверкі якасці засваення лексіка-граматычнага матэрыялу. Акрамя таго, у склад дапаможніка ўключаны праблемныя тэксты для анавання і дадатковыя тэксты для самастойнага чытання, кароткіе граматычны даведнікі.

Матэрыялы і практыкаванні дадзенага дапаможніка адпавядаюць праграмным патрабаванням.

GENERAL FACTS ABOUT BELARUS

GEOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS, POPULATION, STATE SYSTEM

The Republic of Belarus lies in the centre of Europe, on the watershed between the Baltic sea and the Black Sea. It occupies an area of 208 square kilometres, or approximately 2% of the area of Europe. This makes it much larger than such countries as Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Hungary, Greece, Denmark, Portugal, Czech Republic or Slovakia. The capital and the largest city of Belarus is Minsk.

Belarus shares its border with five states: the Russian Federation,



the Ukraine, Poland, Lithuania and Latvia. The frontiers lie mostly in flat country, which has encouraged the creation of water and land communication and the development of strong economic relations with neighbouring states.

Belarus is a low-lying plain, with hilly uplands that seldom exceed 300 m (1,000 ft) in

elevation. In the south there are vast tracts of sparsely inhabited swampland known as the Pripjat Marshes. The average height above sea level is 160 metres. The highest point is Mount Dzerzhinskaya, in Dzerzhinsk district of Minsk region (345 metres above sea level) and the lowest point is the Neman river valley in Hrodna region (80 to 90 metres above sea level).

Belarus enjoys a temperate climate, with an average annual precipitation of 644 millimetres. The average temperature in January fluctuates from -4,4C in the south-west to -8C in the north-east, in July – from +17C in the north to +18,8C in the south.

Belarus has widespread river network. There are more than 20,000 rivers in the Republic, with a combined length of 91,000 kilometres. Fifty-three percent of this length is from small rivers (up to 10 kilometres). Only five are longer than 450 kilometres: the rivers of the Black Sea basin which consists of the Dnieper (690 kilometres) and its tributaries the Berezina (613 kilometres), the Pripjat (495 kilometres) and the Sozh (493 kilometres); and the Neman river of the Baltic Sea basin (459 kilometres). The river waters are used by industry and for drinking.

Many of the Republic's 11,000 lakes are situated in Vitsyebsk region and the north-western part of Minsk region. The largest is Lake Naroch, in the northern area of the Republic in Myadel district of Minsk region, with an area of 80 square kilometres and a depth of 25 metres. Lake Dolgoye, in the south-west of Vitsyebsk region, is small (2.6 square kilometres), but is the deepest lake in Belarus.

Fresh underground waters are the main source of drinking water supply. There are mineral water springs in various places of Belarus and most of them are believed to have curative effects.

Forests cover approximately 36% of the territory (8.7 million hectares) of which two thirds are coniferous. Pine, fir, and birch predominate in the north, and oak, elm, and white beech are prevalent in the south. Forests are important for the timber industry and for the prevention of soil erosion. They are also rich in mushrooms, berries and medical herbs and are inhabited by various wild animals and



Белавежскія зубры

birds. The most widespread animals are roes, squirrels, elks, wild bears, wolves and foxes.

Nature reserves and national parks have been established to preserve and study the republic's flora and fauna. The largest are Belavezhskaya Pushcha National Nature Park (87,600 hectares) which contains up to 300 species of animals, and three state reserves: Biarezinski Biosphere reserve (90,600 hectares), Prip'yatski Landscape-hydrological Reserve (65,100 hectares) and Paleski Radiation-ecological Reserve (215,500 hectares).

The Republic of Belarus is a unitary democratic social legal state. The basic law is Constitution 1994 (with variations and additions, accepted on the referendum on 24.11.1996). The chief of the state - is the President elected by the population for 5 years. Representative and legislative body - National Assembly composed of the House of Representatives (110 deputies are elected by the population) and Council of the Republic (64 members, 56 of which are elected by domestic Councils of the deputies, 8 from each area and Minsk, 8 are appointed by the president). A term of the authorities of National Assembly - 4 years.

The executive authority belongs to the Government - Ministerial Council headed by the Prime Minister appointed by the President with the consent of the House of Representatives. The supreme judicial organ is Supreme Court. The control for constitutionality of the normative statements is realized by the Constitutional Court.

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The Belarusians, who speak a Slavonic language closely related to Russian and Ukrainian, comprise more than three-quarters of the total population which was estimated at 9,899,000 in 2003. Life expectancy in 1999 was 68 years. The Russians are the largest minority with 11.2 percent of the population. Other minorities include the Ukrainians, Jews, Polish, and Lithuanians. Orthodox Christianity is the predominant religion among the Belarusians, although Roman Catholicism is also widely practised, especially in the western parts of the country. Life expectancy, infant mortality, and other health-related statistics have been generally positive, although fall out from the Chernobyl accident in the Ukraine in 1986 has clearly jeopardized Belarus' high position in health statistics.

The population of Belarus was devastated by World War II. It took 25 years for the numbers to return to prewar levels. After World War II Belarus that was traditionally an agrarian society underwent rapid urbanization. The proportion of urban dwellers more than doubled from 1959 to 1989, from 31 per cent to 65 per cent. Minsk, the capital and largest city, grew rapidly, with an estimated population of 1,728,900 in 2002.

EXERCISES:

1. Fill in the blanks with the words and phrases used in the text.

1. The Republic of Belarus lies ... of Europe, ...between the Baltic Sea and the Black Sea.
2. Belarus is ...plain.
3. Belarus shares its border ...
4. In the south there are ...known as the Prypiat Marshes.
5. Belarus enjoys ... climate.
6. There are ... rivers in the Republic.
7. The river waters are used by ... and ...
8. Fresh underground waters are the main source of ...
9. There are ...in various places of Belarus.

10. Most of mineral water springs are believed ...
11. Forests are important for ...
12. Forests are rich in ... and are inhabited by ...
13. The Belarusians comprise ...
14. The population of Belarus ... by World War II.
15. The Republic of Belarus is ... state.
16. The chief of the state is ...

II. Insert it or there.

1. ... occupies an area of 208 square kilometres.
2. ... is larger than some European countries.
3. ... are vast tracts of sparsely inhabited swampland.
4. ... are more than 20,000 rivers in the republic.
5. ... is Lake Naroch that is the largest.
6. ... are mineral water springs in various places of Belarus.
7. The largest is Belavezhskaya Pushcha National Nature Park.
.... contains up to 300 species of animals.
8. ... are a lot of mushrooms, berries, medical herbs and various wild animals and birds.

III. Retell the text according to the given plan. The words in brackets will help you.

- a) Location (lies, shares its border, a plain, in the south, the highest point);
- b) climate (the average temperature, river network, 53 percent, industry, lakes, underground waters, nature reserves and national parks);
- c) population (The Belarusians, three quarters, minority, urban dwellers);
- d) state system (a state, the basic law, a chief, representative and legislative body).

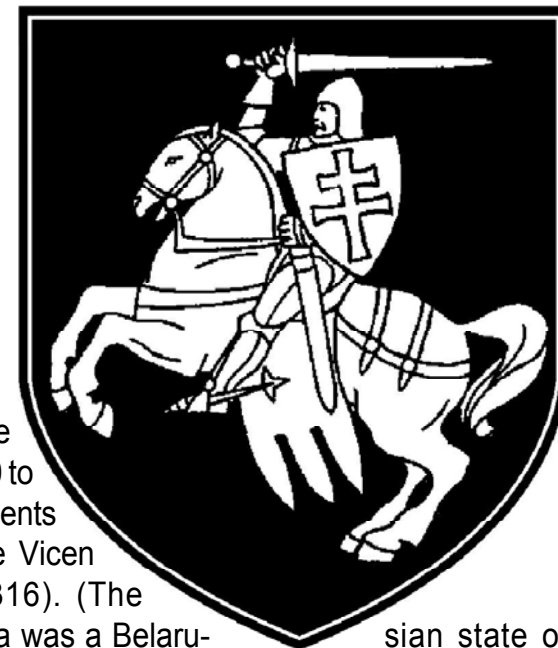
NATIONAL SYMBOLS

Pre-reading task.

Do you know

- What are the national symbols of our country?
- How does the national flag look like?
- What is the national emblem?

The traditional national emblem of Belarus - «Pahonia» («The Chase») - has many centuries of history. It appeared in written documents beginning from the late 13th century. According to some sources this symbol was first used by Grand Lithuanian Duke Trajdzien (ruled from 1270 to 1284). Some other documents ascribe it to Grand Duke Vicen (ruled from 1294 to 1316). (The Grand Duchy of Lithuania was a Belarusian state of the Middle Ages.) The Pahonia is shown in the central position on the seal of the Grand Duke Vitaut dating from 1407 and appeared on the covers of the «Statute of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania» published in Old Belarusian in 1529, 1566 and 1588. After the annexation of the GDL in 1772-95 by the Russian Empire, the symbol of «Pahonia» continued to appear together with the Russian imperial double-headed eagle on the state seals and symbols.



During the German occupation of Belarus in World War II, the Pahonia continued to be used by the collaborationist government. It was replaced when Belarus was liberated by Soviet forces, and became the Belarusian Soviet Socialist Republic.

The Pahonia was again adopted as the official national symbol of Belarus when it declared its independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991.

The origin of the traditional white-red-white Belarusian flag is lost in the mists of ancient history. It is possible that the banner was designed simply to distinguish Belaya Rus (White Russian) forces from those of the Princes of Kievan Rus and Masovia by placing the red favored by the Rus on a background of white.

But the traditional story is that when the unified armies of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and Rus defeated the Germans of the Teutonic Order at the great Grunvald Battle in 1410, a wounded Belarusian knight tore off his blood-streaked bandage and waved it aloft as a victory banner. That banner has been flown ever since, so the story goes, as a sign that Belarus will always prevail — no matter how badly wounded it may be!

On May 14, 1995 a national referendum included the question «Do you agree with the adoption of the new National Symbols?». This question was approved by 75.1% of those voting. President Aleksander Lukashenko then issued two decrees: «On Approval of a Pattern for the National Emblem of the Republic of Belarus» and «On Approval of Regulations for the National Flag of the Republic of Belarus», officially adopting the new symbols.

The today's National Emblem consists of a green raised-contour outline of Belarus above a globe of the Earth bathed in golden sunbeams radiating from the sun «rising» from behind the globe. Above the contour is a red five-pointed star. The emblem is framed in a wreath of golden wheatears interlaced with clover flowers on the

left and flax flowers on the right. The lower half of the wreath is spiral-wrapped with a red and green ribbon carrying a golden inscription «The Republic of Belarus».

The present National Emblem of the Republic of Belarus symbolizes historical adherence of the Belarusian people to constructive labor, their faith in the triumph of



justice and attainment of a worthy place in the world community.

The present Flag of the Republic of Belarus is a rectangular banner; the ratio of height to length is 1:2. The upper two-thirds of the flag is red, and the lower third is green. A vertical red-on-white Belarusian decorative pattern, which occupies one-ninth of the flag's length, is placed against the flagstaff. The flag is fixed on a flagstaff painted golden with ochre. Red symbolizes glorious past of Belarus. That was the colour of the victorious standards of the Belarusian regiments that defeated crusaders at Grunvald, and was the colour of the battle flags of the Red Army divisions

and Belarusian partisan detachments that liberated the country from fascist invaders and their henchmen. Green symbolizes the future. It is the colour of hope, spring and revival, the colour of forests and fields. The Belarusian decorative pattern symbolizes the rich cultural heritage of Belarus, its spiritual continuity, and the unity of its people.

Adherents of the old symbols claim that the referendum in which they were replaced was unconstitutional, and that the propositions placed on the ballot were worded misleadingly. The «old» symbols



Рабочыя з дапамогай пад'ёмнага крана здымаюць герб «Палгоня» з фасада будынку Вярхоўнага Савета, 23 траўня 1995г.

had been adopted only four years previously, on the occasion of reemergence of Belarus as an independent nation. To most Belarusians those symbols were still new, and many may have believed that by «approving of the new symbols» they were voting to retain them. Intentionally or not, the new symbols were approved by 75.1% of those voting in the referendum. However only 64.7% of eligible voters participated. So the new symbols were actually approved by only 48.6% of the Belarusian people. Thus, a significant portion of the Belarusians considers the new symbols to have been adopted illegally and still recognize the old symbols as being the «real» ones. Still, an equally significant portion of the Belarusians truly supports the new symbols.

EXERCISES:

I. Give explanations to the following words and phrases. Compose your own sentences with these words.

Symbol –	Nation's identity –
Collaborationist government –	To be liberated –
A banner –	Adoption –
To vote –	Referendum –

II. Give the forms of the Past Indefinite and Participle II of the following verbs. Find these verbs in the text and translate the sentences with them.

To liberate, to write, to show, to use, to replace, to lose, to design, to wound, to approve, to frame, to place, to fix, to adopt.

III. Having read the text, describe the national flag and the national emblem in details. What do they symbolize?

ECONOMY

Industry

The Industry of Belarus was almost completely destroyed in World War II, but it recovered rapidly in post-war years. It now accounts for about 50 per cent of total net material product and 30 per cent of total employment.

Belarus produces motor vehicles, chemicals, lumber products, machinery, and consumer goods, such as televisions and bicycles. The manufacture of linen, woollen, and cotton fabrics is also important. The Republic has large deposits of peat, which are used by fuel industrial and power plants. Belarus has an extensive system of highways and railways and through its navigable rivers and the Dnieper-Bug Canal system it has an access to the Baltic sea and the Black sea.

Industry is the basis of the economy; its share in the gross national product constitutes about 30 per cent. The amalgamated branches are selected: electric power industry, propellant, timber industry, metallurgical, chemical and petrochemical, pulp and paper industry, building materials, glass and china-faience, light, food, flour-milling and cereals and mixed-feed, medical, microbiological, printing industry.

Belarus produces trucks and buses,



Адна з пляцовак гатовай прадукцыі Менскага трактарнага завода

motorcycles, bicycles, agricultural tractors, building, reclamation and road lorries, motors, machines, automatic lines, robots, forging and press, oil-producing, boring, prospecting, trade equipment, technological equipment for foundry, light, food and other industries, bearing production, computers, TV-sets, radio and tape recorders, refrigerators and freezers, photo and motion-picture equipments, radio and electronical instruments, dosimeters, clocks, etc. The chemical and petrochemical industry produces mineral fertilizers, chemical fibres and threads, pastes and resin, tires, rubber technical items, polymers and varnish-dyestuffs materials, goods of household chemistry, etc. In a light industry textile (flax, wool, silk, cotton), knitted, clothing, shoes, leather and fur industries are developed. Food-industry mainly produces meat, oil - fatty and dairy production. Fuel industry includes oil extraction and refinery, simultaneous gas and peat. Fuel industry and electric power industry engineering are largely oriented on imported liquid fuel and natural gas. There are electric large power stations in Novalukoml and Byarosa, more then 20 thermal power stations, including those in Mensk, Navapolatsk, Homel, Mahilyow, Svetlagorsk. Timber industry produces lumbers, furniture, wood-filamentary and wood-shaving tables, veneer, parquetry, match, paper, and products of wood-chemical production. The industry of building materials is specialized on production of cement, wall, facing and finishing materials, prefabricated reinforced concrete elements and parts. The black metallurgy is oriented on production of steel, rolling of black metals, water pipes, metal cord for tyres, items of metal dusts, etc.

Agriculture

Agriculture, which dominated the economy of Belarus for centuries, has been replaced by industry as the Republic's leading economic sector.

Agriculture accounts for about 25 per cent of total net material product and 30 per cent of total employment. Livestock breeding and

dairy farming contribute more than half of all agricultural production but crop cultivation is also important. Principal crops include potatoes, flax, wheat, sugar beet and grain (barley, oats, and rye). A substantial



Уборка ўраджаю

amount of wetlands have been drained and converted into agricultural land, which ranks among the most fertile and productive in the country.

The considerable part in agricultural production (about 35 per cent every year) belongs to the personal farms, to workers of collective and state farmers, to members of horticulture-garden companies. Less territory is occupied with oats, wheat, buckwheat, corn, and millet. Among leguminous crops fodder lupine, peas, vetch, haricot are grown. The technical cultures occupy about 5 per cent of the general crop area in Belarus. The greatest importance has the growing of flax, the second of sugar beet. The fodder cultures occupy about 40 per cent of the total crop area. Gardens are developed predominantly near large cities. Fruits and berries are grown too. The main branch of beef farming is the farming of large horned cattle, the dairy-meat and dairy. The second important branch is pig-breeding. A poultry farming is characterized by a high level of concentration. The specialized farms (stud-farms) are occupied with horse-breeding.

EXERCISES:**I. Match the words with definitions.**

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 1. Industry | a) science or practice of farming, cultivation of the soil; |
| 2. agriculture | b) providing food; |
| 3. forestry | c) trade or manufacture; |
| 4. transport | d) sum of money paid by citizens to the government for public purposes; |
| 5. catering | e) means of conveying smth.; |
| 6. tax | f) planting or caring for forests; |
| 7. breeding | g) hens, ducks, geese, etc.; |
| 8. crop | h) keeping animals for the purpose of producing young, esp. by selection of parents; |
| 9. poultry | i) yearly or season's produce of grain, grass, fruit, etc. |

II. Insert articles where necessary.

1. Belarus had one of ... most industrialized economics in the former Soviet Union.
2. 46% of ... territory of ... Republic of Belarus is ... arable land.
3. Agriculture dominated ... economy of ... Belarus for centuries.
4. ...substantial amount of wetlands have been drained and converted into agricultural land.
5. ... main branch of farming is ... farming of large horned cattle.
6. ... second important branch is
7. Belarus has no ... access to ... sea .
8. Belarus has ... well-developed transport infrastructure.
9. ... National Airport in Minsk meets ... international standards.
10. ... complex of ground stations for satellite communications has been set up.

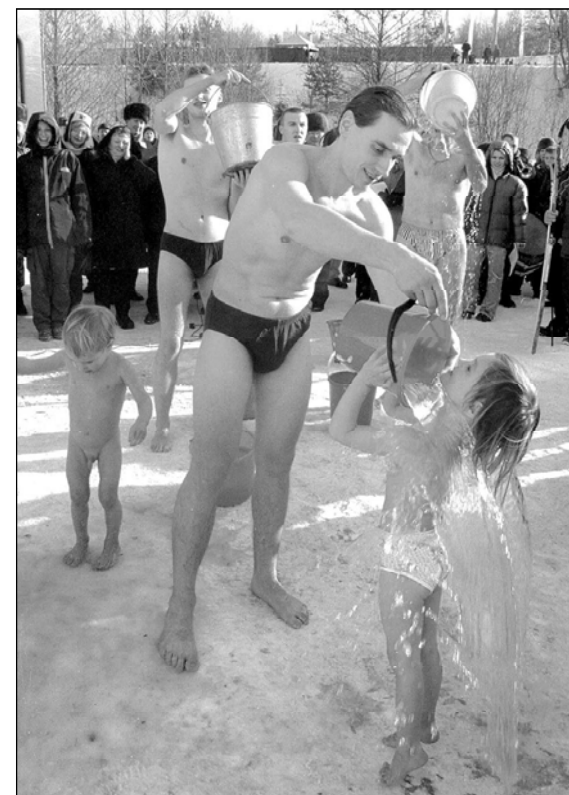
III. Reproduce the sentences in which the following words and phrases are used.

To succeed, an arable land, agricultural enterprises, crop cultivation, livestock, breeding and dairy farming.

ADDITIONAL READING**HEALTH SERVICES**

The modern health protection is based on the activity of large diverse and specialized permanent and out-patient establishments. The specialized medical service is increasing and improving. A number of large specialized centres are created. There were 128 500-hospital places (without departmental hospitals) in 1994, 872 hospital establishments. The number of doctors of all fields is 44 600 (on 10 thousands of population – 43, 3), medical workers of an average section - 117 650 (on 10 thousands of population – 114,2). In 1996 there were 58 sanatoriums on 14 749 places (in a system of the Ministry of health services). 4 medical institutes (in Minsk, Vitsyebsk, Hrodna, Homel) and 18 medical schools prepare the medical personnel.

In 1996 in Belarus there were 286 stadiums, 4,7 thousands of sports halls, 220 swimming-pools, about 14 thousands sport-grounds, 475 sports schools, including 12 schools of higher sport skill, 9 schools of an Olympic reserve; in the field of physical culture and sports more than 16 thousands of experts worked, which are prepared in the Academy of physical education and sports.



Прыхільнікі здаровага ладу жыцця абліваюцца вадой на снезе падчас спартовага свята «Менская лыжня-2001», Раўбічы, 3 лютага 2001г.

EDUCATION, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

In the 10th century the Slavic script spread on the territory of Belarus. In the 11th - 12th centuries church books were used for teaching children. In the 16th and the first half of the 17th centuries on the territory of Belarus Protestant schools, printing houses, the first textbooks in Belarusian appeared. Religious schools played a great role in the development of education in Belarus. Before the annulment in 1839 of Brest Union (1596), Catholic and Uniat Church schools prevailed where the teaching was conducted mostly in the Polish language.

After the suppression of the Polish uprisings of 1830-31 and 1863-64 Russian became the language of education. The 1905-07 revolution promoted the struggle for the creation of Belarusian national schools. In the 1914-15 academic year there were 7682 secondary schools of all types in Belarus, including 7492 elementary schools, 119 incomplete secondary schools and 71 secondary schools. In 1919 the Council of Peoples Commissars of the Belarusian Soviet Socialist Republic put into practice "The Provisions on the Uniform Labour School of the Russian Soviet Federal Socialist Republic".

The teaching in schools was conducted in the mother tongue of the pupils. Till the end of the 1930s there had been schools with teaching in Polish, Hebrew and other languages. In 1939 the level of literacy of the population was 78.9 per cent. During the World War II about 9,000 schools, orphans houses and kindergartens were destroyed. After the war the school system was restored. In the 1975-76 academic year the transition to the universal secondary education was completed. The national educational system of Belarus consists of pre-school upbringing and different levels of education (general, secondary, out-of-school, professional and technical, special secondary, higher education, training of scientists and lecturers, self-education for grown-ups). In the 1996-97 academic year there were 55,000 teachers employed in the sphere of pre-school upbringing and education in Belarus, 35 per cent of them with higher education and 60 per cent with special secondary education. In 4,500 pre-school institutions there were 444,300 children. There were

4,900 general secondary schools of all types with 1,6 million pupils including 26 lyceums (15,600 pupils), 68 gymnasiums (63,500 pupils), 2 colleges (1,500 pupils). Among the extra-scholar institutions there were the National Centre of creativity for children and youth, city palaces for children and youth, ecological centres, centres of technical creativity, etc. There are 123,900 students in 248 professional and technical colleges, 125,000 students in 150 special secondary educational institutions including 2,000 students in 4 private institutions. There were 55 higher educational institutions in Belarus as of January 1 1998, 13 private ones among them.

The largest state higher educational institutions are Belarusian University, the University of Informatics and Radio-electronics, Economic, Technological, Agricultural Technological and Pedagogical Universities, the Polytechnic Academy, the Academy of Arts, the Academy of Music, the Academy of Physical Training and Sports (all of them are located in Minsk), the Academy of Agriculture (the town of Gorky, Mahilyow region); Minsk Linguistic, Brest, Homel, Hrodna, Vitsyebsk and Mahilyow Universities, medical institutes in Homel, Hrodna, Vitsyebsk, Minsk, Vitsyebsk Technological University. As of January 1 1997, there were 292 scientific establishments in Belarus employing 26,000 scientists including more than 5,000 Doctors. The main scientific centre of Belarus is the National Academy of Sciences which embraces 76 full members and 108 corresponding members. There are 5,200 public libraries with 79,5 billion books, 24 theatres, 4,600 clubs, 149 museums including the National Arts Museum, the Belarusian State Museum of the Great Patriotic War History, the museum of the Brest Hero-Fortress, museums of famous writers (Y.Kolas, Y.Kupala, M.Bagdanovich and others).



Школьны званок

EXERCISES:**I. Explain the meaning of the following nouns and phrases.**

Elementary school, incomplete secondary school, secondary school, general level of education, out-of-school institutions, self-education for grown-ups, pre-school up-bringing, extra-scholar institution.

II. Fill in the blanks with prepositions.

1. In the 10th century the Slavic script spread ... the territory of Belarus.
2. The revolution promoted the struggle ... the creation ... Belarusian national schools.
3. The national educational system of the country consists ... different levels of education.
4. The teaching was conducted mostly ... the Polish language.
5. In 1864 Russian became the language ... education.
6. Only church books were used ... teaching children.
7. Religious schools played a great role... the development of education.

III. Continue the following sentences.

1. In the 16th century on the territory of Belarus appeared ...
2. After the suppression of the Polish uprising ...
3. After 1919 the teaching in schools was conducted ...
4. During the World War II ...
5. Till the end of 1930 ...
6. In the 1939 the level of literacy of the population ...
7. The educational system of Belarus includes ...
8. Among the extra-scholar institutions there were ...
9. The largest state higher educational institutions are ...
10. The main scientific center of Belarus is ...

IV. Retell the text according to the given plan.

- from the history of education on the territory of Belarus;
- the present-day educational system of Belarus;
- the largest educational institutions.

RELIGIONS**Paganism**

Before 990 A.D. the Belarusians (several eastern Slavic tribes, mostly Kryvichi and their branches) were pagans. As they have arrived from the south to the lands of today's Belarus they have encountered and absorbed the cultures and beliefs of the Baltic and other peoples inhabiting the land. There was already a rich Pagan heritage, which is revealed today through ancient names. The Neman - one of the main rivers of the area bears the name of Celtic Goddess of War - Neman. Kupala is an ancient Goddess of Water. One of the mysterious peoples completely assimilated by us was Yacviahi. Ancient Belarusians believed in the God of Sun - Yaryla, celebrated seasons of nature very much related to druidic calendar. The cycles of folksongs that were sung at these celebrations still exist.

Orthodox Christianity

Around 990 A.D. the Orthodox Christianity came from Greece to our land. It has absorbed lots of formerly pagan traditions and used them for it's own purpose. In the first few centuries Kieu, Polatsk and Nougard were competing in their claims to unite eastern Slavs in religious belief.

The Belarusians have developed their own approach to Orthodoxy with more interest in human side of the life. Several religious figures in Belarus (St. Efrasinnia of Polatsk, Simeon Polatski) were very influential and



Шматгадзінныя чэргі за вадой у цэрквах на Вадохрышча. 19 студзеня 2002г. Кафедральны сабор г. Менска

even canonized. The human side is excused and treated with respect, rather than tortured in the Orthodox Church. So the priests (except high priests) are required to marry. Although depiction of saints is allowed it is thoroughly restricted to certain canonical types.

Belarus has developed its own Belarusian school of icon with several renowned masterpieces. The Orthodox churches are usually very decorated inside. The service involves lots of sacral magic, which is considered almost equally important Christ heritage as the Bible. The

idea of spiritual unity of all Orthodox believers mirrored in the compassion and cooperation in everyday life is one of the most cherished. Nowadays (as it was always) Orthodox Christianity is a leading religion of the Belarusians (> 50%).

Catholicism

Around the 14th c. Catholic orders moved into Belarus (Grand Duchy of Lithuania at that time). Nowadays the second biggest religion is Catholic religion (~30%). Franciscans, Bernardins, Jesuits etc.

To big extent it was promoted by the Grand Duke who traded Orthodox belief to Catholic fate to get a throne of Polish king. For the next 600 years it was a struggle between the Catholic Church



Апошні прытулак спустошанай душы. Маладая жанчына плача ля крыжа каля праваслаўнай царквы



Святочная служба на Божое нараджэнне ў каталіцкім касцёле, 25 снежня 2001г.

and Orthodox Church for possession of the souls and hearts of the Belarusians.

Unia (Greek Catholic) Church

As a compromise solution to unify both Catholic and Orthodox Christians

in Belarus Ipaci Pocei - a Belarusian religious figure - suggested the Union - Unia Church. It retained most of rich and glamorous Orthodox rituals and decor but was subdued to Pope in Rome. This church was sought to unify the Belarusians against spiritual invasion from Poland and Mascoviya. Many Belarusians like Milenci Smatrycki, Leu Sapega, Grand Duke Mikalaj Krystof Radzivil were seeking Unia as the way for Belarus to establish its independent church which at that times meant a lot for sovereignty of the nation. Both Catholic and Orthodox churches forgot their real purpose and became inexcusably involved into political games of Poland and Mascoviya repulsing Belarusian intellectuals into something else.

Reformation

In the 15th-17th centuries Belarus (GDL) was undergoing a unique Renaissance epoch with the flourishing arts, sciences, crafts, medicine. It had very strong connections with a European thought at the time. Our philosophers had correspondence with Martin Luther and other leading intellectuals on the ethical and humanistic aspects of Reformation. Calvinism was becoming increasingly popular at that time. Most of aristocracy and simple folks were attracted by schools of Calvinist communities and general progressive humanistic mood.

The most influential trends of reformation in Belarus included anti-trinitarians, socians and many others. The major figures of Belarusian Renaissance were Dr. Francishak Skaryna, Symon Budny, Vasil Cyapinski. Later protestant communities were severely suppressed by Catholic Contr-Reformation, and to some extent by Russian Orthodox Church. This gave birth to a multitude of the polemic poetical works, and brought to life Old-Belarusian Polemic Poetry.

Others

The religious climate in Belarus was pretty tolerant towards non-Christian religions. Islam and Judaism existed for more than 500 years in our land in small communities without any major problems. Actually the first Belarusian texts (they are now in Vilnya University Library) were written phonetically in Belarusian using Arabian letters by the mullahs - Muslim priests.

Nowadays the religious life in Belarus is very active after 70 years of atheism in the USSR. Many young people are finding their spiritual path in Orthodoxy, Catholic, Protestant belief. There are many churches restored and new are built. Judaism and Islam still have their roots in Belarus. Some people venture into Crishnaism, Buddhism, and Neo-Paganism. Significant part of population is simply atheists. Atheism has a long tradition in Belarus. Another part of young people is attracted to religion by curiosity or fashion. But nevertheless Belarus is now experiencing a clear religious growth.

EXERCISES:

I. Give explanations of the following words. Use English-English dictionary. Find the sentences containing these words in the text.

Tribe-	To absorb-	Tolerant-
Calendar-	Claim-	Aristocracy-
To be canonized-	To be influential-	To repulse-
To treat-	To involve-	Glamorous-
File-	Solution-	

II. Find the sentences containing the verbs in the Passive Voice in the text. Translate them into Belarusian.

III. Find the English equivalents for the following Belarusian sentences in the text.

1. Яны прыйшлі з поўдня на землі сучаснай Беларусі і таму засвоілі культурныя і рэлігійныя традыцыі балтаў.
2. Адна з галоўных рэк гэтага рэгіёна носіць імя кельтскай багіні вайны – Нёман.
3. Праваслаўе ўвабрала ў сябе шмат паганскіх традыцый і выкарыстала іх дзеля сваіх мэтаў.
4. У значнай ступені гэтаму садзейнічаў Вялікі князь, які змяніў праваслаўе на каталіцтва дзеля таго, каб атрымаць польскую карону.
5. Як каталічная, так і праваслаўная царква забыліся на свае сапраўдныя мэты і былі ўцягнуты ў палітычныя гульні Польшчы і Масковіі.
6. На працягу 15-17 стагоддзяў Беларусь перажывала непаўторную эпоху Адраджэння (Рэнесансу), калі працвіталі мастацтва, навукі, рамёствы і медыцына.
7. На сённяшні час шмат цэркваў ужо прайшлі рэстаўрацыю і пабудаваны новыя.
8. Шмат хто з моладзі прымае веру, бо гэта лічыцца модным і цікавым.

IV. Speak about one of the religions mentioned above. Explain its essence.



HOLIDAYS AND TRADITIONAL CELEBRATIONS IN BELARUS

Before 990 A.D. the Belarusians (several eastern Slavic and Baltic tribes, mostly Kryvichi and their branches, Yacviahi, Lits) were pagans. They believed in the God of Sun - Yaryla, celebrated seasons of nature according to the sun and moon calendar. The cycles of folksongs that were sung at these celebrations still exist. The main festivities are listed below.

«**Spring Greeting**»- is a cycle of celebrations designed to “awake” the mother Earth from the winter sleep which was important for such agricultural people as the Belarusians. This cycle includes such holidays as «Maslenitsa», «Vialikdzen» (Easter), «Yurya» and others. Each celebration is characterized by specific cycles of «vesnavyia» (spring) songs. The most ancient celebration is «Yurya». Yurya is in fact christianised name for the pagan God-Sun - Yaryla. The typical ritual on Yurya (reflected in «yuryauskiia» songs) is calling for Yaryla (Yurya), to bring out the keys and open his mother's (Earth, Nature) womb - to let out the grass and flowers and animals. As usual these holidays are also celebrated by specific ritual food - eggs (symbol of life in most of Indo-European cultures), pancakes (circle is an important magical shape - it depicts the sun).

Kupalle

Kupalle - is the most loved and cherished pagan holiday in contemporary Belarus. The tradition is very ancient. Under different names this holiday is celebrated by all peoples of Indo-European group. During the summer Solstice, Yaryla (God-Sun) was reaching its biggest power. Kupalle is a hedonistic summer celebration of the lands fertility in the name of a female God - Kupala. She is considered to be a lunar Goddess by some pagan sources, although direct translation of the name is «She Who Bathes». Lately it was renamed into a Christian celebration of a male saint - Ivan Kupala. There is a whole complex of traditional rituals, beliefs, love and agricultural magic.



Свята Купалля на Святым возеры ў Магілёве 6 ліпеня 2001г.

Supposedly in ancient times Kupalle was celebrated at night from July 6 to July 7. During the day of July 6 young girls were going into the meadows to collect different «kupalskiya» (made on Kupalle) plants and remedies - cornflower,

ferns, etc. It was considered that the plants gathered at this time had particular strengths for curing and magic. Parts of these plants were used in food. Some plants were used for magical protection and the wreaths of these plants were put on the walls of the houses to protect against bad spirits. Some of the plants were used in the «kupal'skia» wreaths, which were woreed on the head by young men and women during Kupalle celebration.

The central part in Kupalle celebration was a fire. This fire symbolized life and Yaryla and expelled death. During the day young men prepared the place to start their fire. They went around the village collecting old things - clothes, broken barrels - and took them out to the chosen for festivity place. Usually it was a meadow, a forest glade or a bank of the river. Then later the youth went around the village calling with their special Kupalle songs for the celebration. Special ritual food was cooked on the fire - fried eggs (egg symbolized both the sun and life), kulaha (a sort of a pudding made of wheat powder), vareniki (dumplings stuffed with berries - blueberries, cherries, raspberries). The oiled wooden wheel was set on fire to symbolize the sun.

Kupalle usually involves the youth going into the forests and the meadows, wearing flower and grass garlands and wreaths on their



Дзве маладыя дзяўчынкі скочуць праз вогнішча.
Купалле ў лесе недалёка ад Менска

heads. There are many rituals of purification practiced - jumping through the fire, bathing in the river or rolling in the grass dew. There is a lot of dancing in karagods, competing in strength. A popular type of magic practiced at Kupalle night was

fortune telling. The girls put their wreaths on the water and let the river carry them. The one that came to the bank or got entangled with another meant that there would be a marriage. Also it was believed that if you picked the leaf of plantain growing at the crossroads and put it under the pillow - you were very likely to dream your future spouse at Kupalle night. One could burn a bunch of flux plants in Kupalle fire and chant: "Flux, give birth", to increase its crops.

It was believed that once in a year at Kupalle night near the midnight the fern has a glowing flower - «Paparac-kvetka». The lucky couple that would find it would live happily and would be able to foresee the future. It was believed that at Kupalle night rivers were glowing with a special light, trees could speak in the human language and even walked from place to place. It was believed that the Kupalle night was special. The sun sets down «playing» - dividing into concentric circles that expand and contract.

It was also believed that the witches could spoil things at this night. Different ways to protect yourself and your household were used. You could put garlands of special plants that had magical protective properties on the outside of your house. You could put into your rye burning coals from Kupalle fire. Of course the hands of working women

were protected by red ornament on the sleeves. Sometimes to be completely safe you had to drive all your cattle through the purifying Kupalle fire. The purifying power of Kupalle fire was so believed in that people would dry out on it the shirts of the sick to cure them, or bring little children close to it to expel all bad spirits.

Dziady

Dziady – pre-Christian celebration originating from the cult of ancestors. It is a ritual dinner in commemoration of the dead relatives. Usually «Dziady» is also the name of the day on which the ritual is performed and the same name is used for the commemorated dead persons. Dziady was celebrated during particular days 3-4 times a year (depending on the region). The main Dziady were «asianiny» - on the first Saturday preceding St. Dzmitry day (October 26). Also Dziady was celebrated in early spring on «radaunitsa», «maslenitsa» and «siomuha». The special ritual food is cooked for Dziady dinner - «kyccia» (fine barley porridge with berries), «bliny» (pancakes), and fried eggs, meat. According to the tradition part of the food and drink is left for the dead. At this day families go to the graveyards to take care of the graves. Sometimes they have food by the grave. Then it is customary to pour some vodka on a grave. Unlike Halloween it's a light holiday of commemoration of the dead. It does not involve any blood, fake teeth and other satanic stuff.

Kaliady

Kaliady (December 25 - January 7) – pre-Christian celebration of the end of year. It comes from Latin «Calendae», which is the name of the first day of each month. Another version of the origin of this word is word «Kola» (the wheel) which is related to the turn of the year. In the annual cycle of folk rituals and celebrations this holiday was the beginning. Later it was very nicely adopted for Christmas celebration by Orthodox and Catholic churches. As the Catholic Christmas is on December 25 and the Orthodox Christmas is on January 7 - Kaliady is now celebrated between these two dates. The ritual food was cooked for three ritual dinners: «posnaia viachera»

(Engl.: fasting dinner) with no meat or fat in the beginning, «toustaiа» (Engl.: fat) or «miasnaia» (Engl.: meat) dinner with meat, eggs and sweets on New Year Eve and the last one - «halodnaia» (Engl.: hungry) or «vadzianaia» (Engl.: watery) at the end of Kaliady. During Kaliady there was a lot of fun going on. Folks would dress themselves as animals



Маленькі калядоўшчык з Берасця. Фота: С. Бахун

and fantastic beasts, carry the sun and the goat's head on a stick and visit different houses trick-or-treating. They would sing special Kaliady carols in which the performers would greet the house owners, wish them success and plentitude. The youth would play games, perform in folk theatre plays for public, «skamarohs» would entertain the crowd, play jokes on people.

Here are the translations of the month names in Belarusian characterising the seasons:

Studzen (January) - «Cold» month.
 Liuty (February) - «Angry» month.
 Sakavik (March) - «Juicy» month.
 Krasavik (April) - «Beautiful» month.
 Traven (May) - «Grassy» month.
 Cherven (June) - «Red» month, which could also mean «beautiful».
 Lipen (July) - «Linden-Tree Blooming» month.
 Zhniven (August) - «Harvesting» month.
 Verasen (September) - «Verasok Blooming» month. Verasok is a local plant.
 Kastrыchnik (October) - «Fires» month. Peasants are burning leaves and grass.
 Listapad (November) - «Leaves Fall» month.
 Snezhan (December) - «Snowy» month.

EXERCISES:

I. Match the words with definitions.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. Remedy | a) men or boys; |
| 2. Womb | b) organ in a female mammal in which offspring is carried and nourished while developing before birth; |
| 3. Spirit | c) to raise from asleep; |
| 4. Dew | d) cure for a disease, evil, etc.; |
| 5. Fern | e) women; |
| 6. Wreath | f) service in memory of a person; |
| 7. To awake | g) tiny drops of moisture condensed on cool surfaces between evening and morning from water vapour in the air; |
| 8. Female | h) soul, intelligent or immaterial part of man; |
| 9. Male | i) flowers or leaves twisted or woven together into a circle, worn on the head as a garland, or placed on a coffin, a grave, etc.; |
| 10. Commemoration | j) sorts of feathery, green-leaved flowerless plant. |

II. Guess the meaning of the following words and find the sentences containing them in the text. Translate the sentences into Belarusian.

Cycle-	Pagan-	Ritual-
Gedonistic-	To collect-	Magic-
To symbolize-	Special-	Karagod-
Garlands-	Ornament-	Cult-

III. Fill in the blanks with prepositions.

- ... different names this holiday is celebrated ... all peoples of Indo-European group.
- Supposedly ... ancient times this holiday was celebrated ... the night from July 6 to July 7.
- The wooden wheel would be set ... fire to symbolize the sun.
- This holiday usually involves the youth going ... the forests and the meadows.
- People jump ... the fire, bathe ... the river, and roll on the grass dew.
- The hands ... working women were protected ... red ornament ... the sleeves.
- This is the name ... the first day ... each month.
- Later this holiday was adopted ... Christmas celebration ... Orthodox and Catholic churches.
- The youth would play games, perform ... folk theatres plays for public.

IV. Open the brackets and use the verbs in a proper tense and voice form.

1. This cycle (to include) different holidays.
2. These holidays (to celebrate) by specific ritual food.
3. Some of these plants (to use) in food.
4. Wreaths (to wear) on the head by young people.
5. The fire (to symbolize) life.
6. Special ritual food (to cook) on the fire.
7. This holiday (to involve) young people going into the forests.
8. It (to believe) that if you (to pick) these plants and (to put) them under the pillow – you were likely to dream your future spouse.
9. According to the tradition part of the food and drink (to leave) for the dead.
10. This name (to come) from a Latin word.

V. Explain the essence of each holiday, describe the way these holidays are celebrated.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

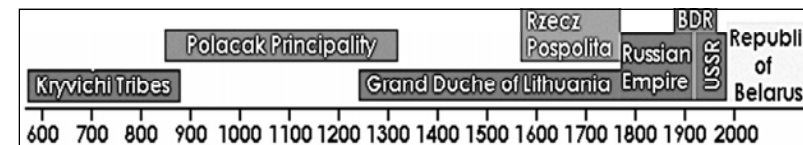
1 You are a guide at a tourist information office. Your task is to give some information about Belarus, its geographical position, national symbols, religions, holidays.

2 Collect information about the health system of Belarus.

3 Make a report about the state system and the population of Belarus.



A BIT OF HISTORY



FACTS AND FIGURES

The earliest settlements in Belarus (near the village of Yuravichi, Kalinkavichi district) are of the late Palaeolithic Age dating back to 2400-2200 B.C. The whole territory of Belarus is believed to have been settled by men mainly during the Mesolithic period, i.e. 5000-8000 years ago.

By the beginning of the Bronze Age (3000-2000 B.C.) local inhabitants had mastered primitive land farming and cattle breeding. They entered the Iron Age about 700-600 B.C. They learned to melt iron ores in small furnaces and make tools, weapons and adornments. By the beginning of our era they mastered knitting and weaving, hide-processing, food-processing, iron forging and making clothes and jewellery.

The Belarusians are descended from the eastern Slavonic tribes - Kryvichi, Radzimichi and Drygavichi. Since 600-900 A.D. they lived through the disintegration of the tribal society and the emergence of feudalism. The development of arable farming led to the collapse of the kinship communities, which were superseded by agricultural communities based on territorial and economic relations.

The next two centuries saw the eastern Slavonic tribes merge together to form a single ancient Russian nationality constituting an ethnic, territorial, economic, cultural and language community. After Kieu Rus disintegrated in the 14th and 15th centuries the hundred branches constituting that nationality gave rise to the Russian, Ukrainian and Belarusian nationalities. Up to now they continue to retain many common features in culture, language, customs and traditions. Over centuries they have preserved the original feeling of kinship and have shared many hardships and ordeals together.

EXERCISES:**I. Pronounce the following words. Find Belarusian equivalents for them.**

Palaeolithic Age, Mesolithic period, Bronze Age, Iron Age, feudalism, inhabitants, farming, cattle-breeding, weapon, tribal society, arable farming, kinship communities.

II. Finish the following sentences.

1. The territory of Belarus was settled by men...
2. By the beginning of the Bronze Age the inhabitants...
3. Since 600-900 A.D. they lived...
4. A Single Russian nationality constituted...
5. The Russian, Ukrainian and Belarusian nationalities continue to retain...
6. The ancestors of the Belarusians were...

III. Find the words which suit the following definitions in the text.

- oxen, bulls, bullocks, cows;
- a thing, used in fighting or struggling (sword, guns);
- smth. used for decoration;
- to fall down, break to pieces;
- particular way of behaving which is observed by individuals and social groups;
- state of being poor.

IV. Find the equivalents for the following Belarusian phrases in the text.

1. Мясцовыя пасяленцы асвойвалі прымітыўнае земляробства і жывёлагадоўлю.
2. Яны навучыліся плавіць жалезную руду ў невялікіх топках і вырабляць інструменты, зброю і ўпрыгожванні.
3. Беларусы паходзяць ад усходнеславянскіх плямёнаў.
4. Ворнае земляробства прывяло да крушэння радавога грамадства.
5. Усходнеславянскія плямёны склалі этнічную, тэрытарыяль-

6. ную, эканамічную, культурную і моўную супольнасць.
Да сённяшняга часу яны працягваюць захоўваць агульныя рысы культуры, мовы, традыцый.

V. Collect the information about the early settlers in Belarus and present it to the group.*** Fill in the blanks with articles.**

Do you know why our country is called «Belarus»? There are ... few versions of... origin of its name. Here are two of them. Firstly, the white clothes of ... ancient villagers, their fair hair, and ... whiteness of their skin.

...Second version is in no way contradictory to ... first. When our ancient Slavonic lands were invaded by Tatars and Mangols, we alone were able to keep them at bay. ...Uladzimir, ... Ryazan, and ... Kieu fell to them. Only ... onset of the rainy season prevented ... invaders from reaching ... Nougatad.

We drove back ... enemy. For this reason we are called «white», meaning that part of Russia free from Tatar invasion.

*** Fill in the blanks with prepositions.**

The first higher educational establishment ... the territory ... Belarus was the Medical Academy ... Hrodna. After having functioned ...1775 ...1781, it was closed because ... a lack ... money.

Now the Republic has 33 institutes ... higher education: Universities, technical, agricultural, pedagogical, medical, economic Institutions ... higher learning, Art Academy and Music Academy. The largest ... them are the Polytechnical Academy of Belarus, the State University of Belarus, the Economic Academy and others.



HISTORY (A BRIEF SURVEY)

In 1230 the Grand Duchy of Lithuania with the centre in Navahradak (between Mensk and Hrodna) emerged on the territory of Belarus. During the next hundred years a greater part of contemporary Belarus was incorporated into the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Vilnya (Vilnius) became its capital in the 14th century. As a result of the subsequent growth at the end of the 14th century, the Grand Duchy of Lithuania became one among the largest multinational European states, the borders of which were stretching beyond Smalensk in the east, and up to the Black Sea in the south.



Рэшткі былой велічы. Руіны старажытнага замка.
г. Наваградак

In 1410 in the battle at Grunvald the troops of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and Poland defeated the crusaders of the Teutonic Order that allowed to secure the north-western borders.

The Crimean Khanate and the Moscow Principality were the main threat to the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. In the struggle with the Crimean Khanate the Grand Duchy of Lithuania gradually lost a number of its provinces in the

south, and only in 1527, after the victory at Kaneu (the Ukraine), the advancement of Tatars to the north was stopped.

The relations between the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and the Moscow



Люблінская унія 1569г.

Principality in the 14th –16th centuries were often hostile. In the first years of the Livon War (1558-1583) the Moscow Principality was enjoying a military success. As a result, it occupied Polatsk and its vicinity. The attempts of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania to return Polatsk with its own forces did not succeed and in 1569 the Grand Duchy of Lithuania united with the Polish Kingdom into a federation - Rzech Pospolita.

In 1583 the joined forces of Rzech Pospolita won back from Moscow the lost territories, thus the Livon War ceased.

After the unification of 1569 with the Polish Kingdom into Rzech Pospolita, the Grand Duchy of Lithuania retained its name, internal government, judicial organs, army and money. However, in the course of time, the role of Poland in Rzech Pospolita was gradually growing. The policy of the Belarusians' polonization, especially of the Belarusian gentry, was launched. Bloodshedding wars on the territory of Belarus, particularly the wars between Rzech Pospolita and the Moscow Principality in 1654-1667 and the North War led by Russia, Rzech Pospolita and Denmark against Sweden in 1700-1721, resulted in numerous victims and destruction and weakened essentially Rzech Pospolita. This weakness was made use of by the governments of the three neighbouring states. Prussia, Austria and Russia made three partitions of Rzech Pospolita in 1772, 1793 and 1795.

As a result, the territory of Belarus was incorporated into the Russian

Empire.

The Russian system of government was imposed and gradually measures aimed at Russification of Belarus started to be exercised. Only Russian officials were appointed into local administrative organs. The Tsar's edict of 1840 prohibited the use of the words «Belarus», «Lithuania»; instead, the name «North-western Region» was introduced. The national-liberation uprising of 1863-1864 was cruelly suppressed by Tsarist troops.

The World War I begun in 1914 weakened Russia essentially and gave way to the victory of Bolshevik Revolution in Petrograd, October 1917. On March 3, 1918 the Russian government signed a peace treaty in the city of Brest without representatives of the Belarusian people being present. According to it, the major part of the territory of Belarus became the subject of annexation by Germany. Earlier, on February 19, 1918 the Red Army left Mensk. All the power was vested on the Executive Committee of the All-Belarusian Congress. On February 21 the first Charter of Regulations was adopted, on March 9 the second version, on March 25 - the third one, proclaiming the creation of Belarusian People's Republic (BPR). The independence of Belarus was juridically acknowledged by the Ukraine, Lithuania and actually by Turkey, Finland and Russia.



Менскі гарадскі тэатр (цяпер Нацыянальны тэатр імя Янкі Купалы), дзе 5 (18) снежня 1917г. распачаў свае пасяджэнні Першы Усебеларускі кангрэс, на які сабралася 1872 дэлегата з усіх куткоў Беларусі каб высветліць далейшы лёс сваёй Радзімы

Germany did not acknowledge the BPR because it contradicted the Brest treaty. At the same time, the German occupation authorities did not hamper the BPR's government in solving numerous political, cultural and economic

issues. After the November Revolution of 1918 in Germany, the Russian Soviet government denounced the Brest Treaty, and by December 1918 the Red Army occupied most of Belarus.

As a counterbalance to the BPR, on January 1, 1919 the Bolsheviks proclaimed the foundation of the Belarusian Soviet Socialist Republic, thus the Soviet power was established. Belarus became one of the founders of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which was founded on December 30, 1922.



Паштоўка Беларускай Народнай Рэспублікі

During World War II the territory of Belarus was an arena of hard-fought battles. From June 1941 till July 1944 Belarus was occupied by the Nazi Germany troops. The occupation regime was notable for its cruelty. In this war 25% of Belarusian population was lost.

On December 8, 1991 in Viskuli (Brest region) the leaders of the republics-founders of the USSR, i.e. Belarus, Russia and the Ukraine made a decision of dissolution of the USSR and foundation of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Mensk was chosen the CIS administrative centre. The Republic of Belarus became an independent state.

EXERCISES:**I. Find the synonyms for the following words in the text :**

To keep, modern, to set up, to appear, to begin, to absorb, to stop, especially, following, polyethnic.

II. Find in the text:

- the adjectives with the suffixes –ous, -ic, -al and give the root-words from which these adjectives were derived;
- the nouns with the suffixes –tion (-ion), -ty, -ance, -ence and give the root-words from which these nouns were derived;
- the adverbs with the suffix -ly and give the root-words from which these adverbs were derived.

III. Find the English equivalents for the following Belarusian words and word combinations in the text and use them in the sentences of your own.**IV. Arrange the items of the following plan properly and retell the text according to it.**

The divisions of Rzecz Pospolita;
 The policy of russification;
 Belarus as an independent state;
 All-Belarusian Congress;
 Belarus during World War II;
 Belarusian People's Republic;
 The Livon War;
 The Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

***Insert suitable words from the list below.**

Ancestors, spread, reflect, apply, entity, accordingly, medieval, ancient, predominate, despite.

It should be noted, that the name of the common state of the ... of modern Belarusians and Lithuanians the Grand Duchy of

Lithuania - does not so much ... the ethnic entity, but rather the ... name of the place - Lithuania. ... the fact that the Belarusians had already been formed as an ethnic ... by the 13th-14th centuries, different parts of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and of modern Belarus had different names in different times. For example, in the early 17th century Lithuania was the name of the area including Navahradak, Hrodna, Mensk, Vilnia, Brest, Braslau; Palesseye - the southern part of modern Belarus with the cities of Pinsk, Mozyr; Belaya Rus was the eastern part of modern Belarus with the cities of Polatsk, Vitsyebsk, Orsha, Mahilyow; Zhemaitiya - the major part of today's Lithuania. ..., the ancestors of the modern Belarusians called themselves «Licvins» or «Licvins-Belarustsi». The name «Belarus» for the whole territory of modern Belarus ... only in the second half of the 19th century. The name «Lithuania» moved to the north-west and was ... to the territory inhabited with the Baltic people. The Belarusians ... among the population of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, and Belarusian was the state language. The famous Statute (The Constitution) of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania (1588) - one of the progressive constitutions of ... Europe was written in Belarusian.



TEXT FOR ANNOTATION

I. Read the title of the text. Can you guess what the text will be about?

II. Read the text.

BELARUS: NATION IN SEARCH OF A HISTORY

Vera Rich

The Republic of Belarus, an ex-Soviet state of some 10.2 million inhabitants, did not so much win independence as have it thrust upon it. In August 1991, its hardline Communist leaders openly gave their backing to the anti-Gorbachev Moscow coup. When the coup collapsed, the Belarusian hardliners in the Supreme Soviet, fearing the wrath of Gorbachev, made common cause with the small group of pro-democracy People's Deputies and, on August 25, 1991, proclaimed independence.

Belarus had, on paper, been "independent" for more than 40 years; like the Ukraine, it was a founder member of the United Nations and a member of UN agencies, including UNESCO and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). But this ploy by Stalin to get two extra votes in the UN, in spite of Soviet lip-service to the cultural and linguistic rights of the non-Russian nationalities that comprised almost half the population of the USSR, provided no defence against the long-term aim of merging - the "alloying" of more than 100 ethnic identities into a single, Soviet "nation". And, though the decision was not at the time made public, Belarus was chosen by the Soviet ideologues as the test-bed of this policy.

It was, in many ways, an appropriate guinea-pig. Belarus had already been subjected to intensive Russification during the nineteenth century, its language forbidden and its mainstream religion, the Eastern-rite Catholic Church (which might otherwise have served, as it did in the western Ukraine, as a guardian of national culture) forcibly merged with the Russian Orthodox Church. Following the national revival after 1905, and the window

of "Belarusianisation" in the 1920s, the intellectual elite of Belarus was virtually wiped out (either shot, or terrorised into silence) during the 1930s. World War II meant the loss of one in four of the population - including the destruction of the centuries-old Jewish community, which, as its own members eloquently attested, had lived in amicable symbiosis with its Christian, Slavic co-habitants for centuries. Furthermore, Belarus in the Cold War era was the most highly militarised area of the Soviet Union, being viewed as the advanced post against the NATO powers. And, since Soviet military policy virtually never allowed its soldiers to serve in their home republics, and Russian was the language of the army, the military presence was inevitably a powerful tool of Russification.

The merging worked well. By the early 1980s, there was not a single Belarusian-language school in the capital, Minsk. And since all teachers training was Russophone, even schools in remote rural areas where the language survived were, by force of circumstance, gradually Russified as elderly Belarusian-speaking teachers retired.

Since there was no other obvious unifying shibboleth and symbol of identity - as, for example, the Catholic Church was in neighbouring Lithuania - the language issue took on a special importance to those who wished to preserve national identity. The handful of samizdat and expressions of dissent in Belarus during the Brezhnev's era concentrated on saving the language. The first manifestation of glasnost in Belarus, in December 1986, was a "Letter to Gorbachev" signed by 28 prominent intellectuals, demanding the linguistic and cultural rights ensured in the Soviet constitution.

But language alone could not kick-start an opposition movement. That was accomplished by two major revelations of the late 1980s: the excavations carried out at the Kurapaty (Windflower Hill) picnic ground in 1988 by a then-unknown archaeologist named Zianon Pazniak, which disinterred the remains of Stalin's victims (some of whose personal effects could still be identified by surviving relatives) thought to be as many as 200,000; and the even more traumatic disclosure, in February 1989, of the true extent of the fallout from the nuclear power station disaster at Chernobyl, in the Ukraine, in April 1986. The hitherto-secret maps and data, made public by the efforts of a nuclear physics professor, Dr. Stanislaw

Shushkevich, revealed that more than 20 per cent of the territory of Belarus had been seriously contaminated. Yet, for almost three years, in much of the affected area, agricultural production had continued and no special safety provisions made for the population. Furthermore, two "hot spots" were revealed far from the main contaminated area, where rain had chanced to fall just as the radioactive plume was blowing back towards Moscow. Chanced? Or, as the rumours now began, deliberately "seeded to bring down the cloud and save the Soviet capital"? The Soviet authorities denied the allegations, but many scientists studying the fallout patterns remain open-minded.

The shock of these revelations triggered various citizens' movements under the umbrella of what was originally called the Belarusian Popular Front for Perestroika-Renaissance (BNF). In the first-ever multi-party elections to the Supreme Soviet of Belarus in March 1990, several of these movements sponsored pro-democracy and pro-independence candidates of whom 38 were elected to the 360-seat assembly. As a sop to the democrats, Shushkevich was appointed deputy speaker - the one moderate in an otherwise hardline establishment.

A few token pieces of pro-Belarusian legislation were passed: Belarusian was made the state language, and on July 27, 1990, the sovereignty of Belarus was proclaimed. A few days later, on August 6, (the anniversary of the publication of Scaryna's Psalter), a group of young people, under the formal auspices of the Belarusian Language Society, proclaimed the re-establishment of the long-outlawed Belarusian Eastern-rite Catholic Church - an act that challenged not only the hardline rulers of Belarus, but also the Vatican bureaucracy who feared this initiative would rock the carefully trimmed boat of papal Ostpolitik.

With independence, the Soviet emblems were replaced by the white-red-white flag and Pahonia (Chase), symbols dating back to the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Schools and universities hastily introduced courses in Belarusian history. The hardline speaker of Parliament resigned, and Shushkevich took his place, becoming, in the absence of a president, simultaneously the head of state. Hitherto semi-official newsletters became fully-fledged, legally registered journals. Minority religions - including the

Eastern-rite Catholics - were granted legal status. The restitution of Church property confiscated by the Soviets began. And a whole sheaf of nation-building initiatives came into being, including a search launched by Foreign Minister Piotr Krauchanka, for a twelfth-century treasure of deep symbolic importance - the Cross of St. Efrasinnia of Polatsk with its double-barred form, as in the symbol of the pagan god, Yaryla - that had gone missing during World War II. Failing the recovery of the original cross, Krauchanka said, Belarus would use some of its tiny gold reserves, mainly recycled scrap from military electronics, to create a replica of the Efrasinnia's cross as a national treasure for the future.

Economically, however, all was not well with the new state. The aftermath of Chernobyl ate up 15 per cent of GDP; Russia's oil and gas producers began to demand what they claimed to be "world prices" for supplying Belarus's energy needs; 70 per cent of Belarusian industry had, in Soviet times, been military-related - and now the arms race was over. Ex-hardliners in government and Parliament blocked moves towards privatisation of industry and agriculture and, by their obstructive attitudes, deflected would-be foreign investors to more receptive business climates, usually to neighbouring Baltic States with a similar industrial base.

EXERCISES:

I. Outline the main topics of the text. Find the sentences rendering the basic points of the text and sentences giving all necessary details. Express the main idea in one sentence.

II. Whom is the text addressed to?

III. Do you agree with the author? What is your own point of view on this problem?

IV. Write an annotation. These phrases will help you:

This article deals with..

It should be noted that..

There is no doubt that...

...is given

The following conclusion is drawn.

THE LIGHT THROUGH CENTURIES

In keeping with the UNESCO's decision, the year 1990 was marked over the world as the 500th anniversary of «Doctor Francishak Scaryna of Polatsk», the great enlightener, humanitarian and scholar of the Renaissance period. Polatsk merchant (born about 1490, died about 1550), Scaryna entered the University of Krakau when he was 14. In 1560 F. Scaryna obtained a Bachelor's degree. After that the tireless Belarusian made his way to Italy and there, at the Paduan University, had the degree of «Doctor in the science of healing» conferred upon him.



Біблія Ф. Скарыны

In 1517 Scaryna was in Prague. There he started his printing activities. That year he printed the first Belarusian book and is today by right called the first East Slavonic and Belarusian printer. Within three years he published 22 volumes of the Bible, translated by him into the Belarusian language. This was the first translation of the Bible into the common language of the nation.

From 1525 onwards F. Scaryna printed books in Vilnya, which over many centuries was the capital of Belarus and Lithuania. Here his books «The Acts of the Apostles» and «The Minor Itinerary»

were published. All these books were a means of spreading the written language, public education and culture. All publications by F. Scaryna existing today are notable for high artistic value. In the prefaces and comments to his books, which were of religious character, he brought forth his ideas and views that influenced social, political and cultural life of Slavonic people and stimulated the progress of the Belarusian literature and writing. This is why F. Scaryna's name stands next to the names of M. Lamanosau, A. Pushkin, Y. Kupala, T. Shauchenka and other outstanding men in Slavonic culture.

EXERCISES:

I. Find the words which suit the following definitions in the text.

- celebration of the date or event;
- a person, who gives more knowledge;
- a person with much knowledge;
- a person doing business or trading;
- to cure a disease;
- a book, one of a set of books;

II. Reproduce the situations in which the following phrases are used.

- to enter the University;
- to obtain a degree;
- to make a way;
- printing activity;
- the common language of the nation;
- to be notable for high artistic value;
- to be of religious character;
- to influence social, political and cultural life;
- to stand next to ...

III. Find the Past Simple forms of the following verbs in the text.

To die, to be, to make, to start, to call, to bring, to translate, to influence.

IV. Find the equivalents for the following Belarusian phrases in the text.

1. У 1560 г. Ф. Скарына атрымаў ступень бакалаўра.
2. Нястомны беларус паехаў у Італію.
3. Скарына пачаў сваю друкарніцкую дзейнасць у Празе.
4. На працягу 3 гадоў ён надрукаваў 22 тамы Бібліі.
5. Пачынаючы з 1525 г. Скарына друкаваў кнігі ў Вільні.
6. Гэтыя кнігі былі сродкам распаўсюджвання пісьмовай мовы, адукацыі і культуры.
7. Прадмовы і каментарыі да яго кніг мелі рэлігійны характар.
8. Яго ідэі і погляды ўплывалі на сацыяльнае, палітычнае і культурнае жыццё славян.
9. Імя Скарыны стаіць побач з іншымі імёнамі выдатных людзей у славянскай культуры.

V. Answer the following questions.

1. What is doctor F. Scaryna famous for?
2. What learning establishment did Scaryna graduate from?
3. What degrees did he obtain?
4. When did he start his printing activities?
5. What was remarkable about the Bible published by F. Scaryna?
6. What are the most famous books published by him?
7. Why are the books printed by Scaryna notable for high artistic value?

**KASTUS
KALINOUSKI**

The defeat of Russia in the Crimean War (1853-1856) and the humiliating Treaty of Paris revealed the rot of the tsarist regime and intensified demands for reforms - above all, for the abolition of serfdom.

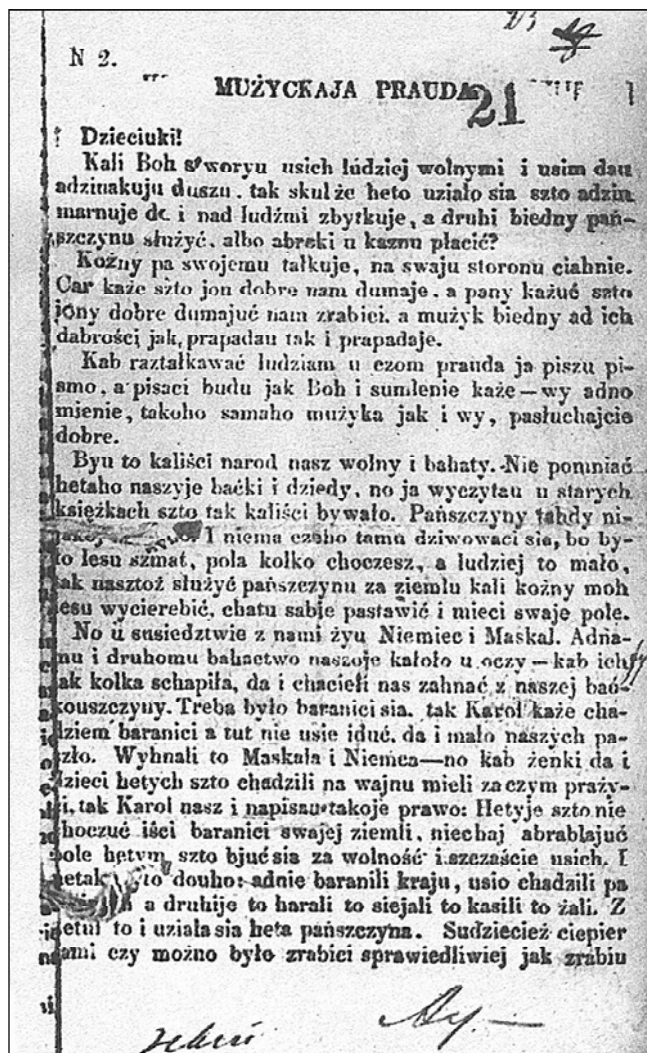
During the first half of the nineteenth century, because of the market demands for agricultural products, landlords took away from the peasants a sizable quantity



of cultivated fields. In Belarus, the land tilled by peasants diminished from 66 percent of the total land at the beginning of the nineteenth century to about 50 percent in the 1850s. As a result, increasing numbers of peasants became landless. The management of the landlords' estates was, with few exceptions, inefficient, to the degree that landed estates employing 60 percent of serfs were mortgaged in 1859.

Tsar Alexander II, who took over the reins of government in 1855 after the sudden death of his father, Nicholas I, decided to improve the internal situation by imposing a «revolution from above» and abolishing serfdom. He did this in 1861. The land reform, however, turned out to be a robbery of the peasants, who were given too little land for too high a price. The answer to the land reform was a wave of disturbances throughout the empire - including Poland, which became «practically a Russian province» after the 1830 uprising.

Protests in Poland against the land deprivation were coupled with a national liberation movement and an attempt to restore Rzech Pospolita to its pre-1772-borders. A revolutionary mood was also in



Другі нумар «Мужыцкай праўды»

da" (Peasants' truth) appeared. Behind the publication stood a group of young radicals, of whom Kastus Kalinouski (1838-1864) was the most prominent. Principal contributor to the publication (seven issues of which were printed), Kalinouski became the leader of the uprising in Belarus when it broke out two months after the Polish insurrection begun in January 1863.

With his newspaper, as well as with his letters «from beneath the gallows», written in prison, Kalinouski aimed at three categories of

evidence in Belarus and Lithuania.

A series of patriotic celebrations were held in Vitsyebsk, Vilnya, Hrodna, and other cities commemorating historic events from Rzech Pospolita's past. In addition, during 1861 in Belarus alone, 379 peasant protests were recorded; of these, 125 were quelled by police and military force.

The atmosphere was ripe for an uprising. In Belarus, preparations for this outcome commenced in July 1862, when the first issue of the clandestine newspaper "Muzhyckaya Prau-

audience: first and foremost, the peasants; second, the faithful adherents of the Uniate Church, which had been officially abolished since 1839; and third, those who cherished the Belarusian language (and were discriminated by tsarist authorities). The common denominator in all of these appeals was the assertion that life in historic Rzech Pospolita was immeasurably better than life under the tsars.

Reading Kalinouski's harangues today, one cannot help seeing a parallel between the situation of the 1860s and that of the yoke in terms of political designs and results. «Six years have passed since the peasants' freedom began to be talked about» wrote Kalinouski in the first issue of his newspaper. «They have talked, discussed, and written a great deal, but they have done nothing. And this manifesto which the tsar, together with the Senate and the landlords, has written for us, is so stupid that the devil only knows what it resembles there is no truth in it, there is no benefit whatsoever in it for us».

Besides oppressive taxes and corvee, a basic source of grievance underlying the uprising was the recruitment of peasants for a twenty-five-year term of military service. This injustice contrasted sharply with past practices in Rzech Pospolita, where, as Kalinouski reminded, «Whenever peasants wanted to go to war, they were immediately declassified from their peasant status and excused from performing corvee.

The 1863 uprising had social, religious, and cultural dimensions. Quite naturally, there were divisions between the right wing (the landed nobility) and the left wing (the radical bourgeoisie and peasants). Tsarist propaganda aiming at the peasantry, of which the government was wary, stressed the fact that the uprising was dominated by the gentry. Indeed, about 70 percent of the insurgents belonged to that class. However, many of them were in fact landless, and lived in towns. About 75 percent of the insurgents came from urban areas, and only 18 percent were peasants.

The uprising lasted until the late summer of 1863. Severe battles were fought throughout Belarus – especially in its western region, which was in closer cooperation with Poland. But the insurgents were no matches for the 120,000-strong Russian elite troops, with whom nearly 260 encounters were fought, according to historian



Паўстанец з-пад Полацку.
Фота 1863г.

A.F.Smirnou. The Russians won in the majority of cases.

The uprising of 1863 provoked harsh punishment of its participants and sympathizers in the North-Western Region, which now constituted the General-Governorship of Vilnya. Governor-General Muravyou well deserved the nicknames of «hangman» and Russifier. According to tsarist official sources for Belarus and Lithuania, 128 people were executed and more than 12,000 exiled to Siberia. The Polish language was banned from official places.

Belarus was inundated with teachers, priests, and landlords from Russia.

Poles were prohibited from

acquiring landed estates. And the bulk of money collected as penalties and contributions financed the construction of Orthodox churches and the support of priests.

An ideological by-product of these developments was the birth of Belarusian nationalism, of which Kastus Kalinouski is considered the founding father. In his prison cell in Vilnya, before being hanged on March 22, 1864, Kalinouski wrote an impassioned plea to his people.

Kalinouski's last letter «from beneath the gallows» has become a political credo of Belarusian nationalism.

EXERCISES:

I. Translate the following words into Belarusian. Compose as many combinations with these words as you can.

Landless, disturbance, deprivation, to cherish, to discriminate, to resemble, grievance, recruitment, injustice, to seize, vernacular, dimension, to last, insurgent, to execute, penalty, to exile, to ban.

II. Translate the following sentences into Belarusian.

1. During the first half of the nineteenth century, because of the market demands for agricultural products, landlords took away from the peasants a sizable quantity of cultivated fields.
2. The land reform turned out to be a robbery of the peasants, who were given too little land for too high a price.
3. A revolutionary mood was also in evidence in Belarus and Lithuania.
4. In Belarus preparations for this outcome commenced in July 1862.
5. With his newspaper, as well as with his letters «from beneath the gallows», written in prison, Kalinouski aimed at three categories of audience.
6. Reading Kalinouski's harangues today, one cannot help seeing a parallel between the situation of the 1860s and that of the yoke in terms of political designs and results.
7. Whenever peasants wanted to go to war, they were immediately declassified from their peasant status and excused from performing corvee.
8. Many of them were in fact landless and lived in towns.
9. The uprising of 1863 provoked harsh punishment of its participants and sympathizers in the North-Western Province.
10. An ideological by-product of these developments was the birth of Belarusian nationalism, of which Kastus Kalinouski is considered the founding father.

III. Complete the following sentences.

1. The defeat of Russia in the Crimean War (1853-1856) and the humiliating Treaty of Paris revealed the rot of...
2. Increasing numbers of peasants...
3. Tsar Alexander II decided to improve the internal situation....
4. The answer to the land reform....
5. During 1861 in Belarus alone, 379 peasant protests...

6. Behind the publication of "Muzhyckaya Prauda" stood....
7. It was during the second half of the nineteenth century....
8. Tsarist propaganda aiming at the peasantry stressed the fact that....
9. Severe battles were fought throughout Belarus - especially in its western region....
10. In his prison cell in Vilnya Kalinouski wrote...

IV. Put the words in the right order to make up a sentence.

1. the leader, in, Kalinouski, of, uprising, was, Belarus.
2. was, for, uprising, The, atmosphere, an, ripe.
3. peasants', to be, The, freedom, began, about, talked.
4. had, religious, The, uprising, and, dimensions, social, cultural.
5. than, of, the, More, insurgents, to, gentry, half, belonged, the.
6. won, of, the, Russians, The, cases, majority.
7. last, become, credo, Kalinouski's, has, a, letter, political, nationalism, of, Belarusian.

V. Answer the following questions.

1. What is Kastus Kalinouski famous for?
2. What caused the uprising of 1861?
3. When did the preparations for the outcome begin?
4. Who stood behind the publication of "Muzhyckaya Prauda"?
5. Who was the newspaper addressed to?
6. How long did the uprising last?
7. What was the result of the uprising?

ADDITIONAL READING

SAINT EFRASINNIA OF POLATSK

Saint Efrasinnia (1110-1173) was the granddaughter of the famous prince of Polatsk, Usiaslau.

Young Pradslava - that was the name of Efrasinnia before she took the veil - seemed to inherit many traits of her grandfather's character, in particular his strong will, energy and determination to persevere in a chosen path. This became clear early in her life when she refused all proposals of marriage and, without her parents' knowledge, ran away to the convent of which her aunt was the abbess. Later she founded a convent of her own and was joined there by her sister, her cousin and two nieces. This was no mean achievement, for - unlike the custom in the West



Найпадобнейшая Ефрасіння, ігумення Полацкая.
Гравюра XIX ст. паводле старажытнага вобразу

and in Byzantine - it was unusual for a young girl in Belarus and the other East Slavonic lands of that time to choose the monastic life in preference to marriage. This may partly explain why Efrasinnia has up to the present day remained the only East Slavonic virgin saint.

In addition to a convent of nuns Saint Efrasinnia founded a monastery for monks and remained superior of both establishments - another unusual occurrence in the East, although not unknown in the West. Finally, towards the end of her life, she undertook a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, where she died sometime after 1167. Her body after the conquest of Jerusalem by Saladin in 1187 was carried by the monks to Kieu and deposited there in the Monastery of the Caves. It was only in 1910 that the relics of the saint were brought back to her native town of Polatsk.

THE RADZIVIL FAMILY

There were many noble families in the history of Belarus; however, none was more renowned than the Radzivil family. The family left its imprint on a wide variety of human endeavours - from public and political life to culture and education. Members of the family were leaders in wars against the enemies of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and later of Rzech Pospolita and the Russian Empire. For centuries they meticulously collected and preserved books, documents, paintings, weaponry and many rare and valuable objects that could fill entire museums. With their own money the Radzivils built printing shops in Bierascie (nowadays Brest) and other Belarusian cities. They did not only influence politics, economics and culture of their nation, but often did it according to their own needs, aspirations and tastes...

History has preserved for us many names of the family members. Let us mention some of them here.

Barbara Radzivil (1520-1551), the Queen of Poland and Duchess of Lithuania, was «Triumphant by her beauty and love affairs». Indeed the love she awoke in the heart of the Polish king Zyhimont II August was called «The love affair of the century».

Mikalaj Radzivil Chorny (Black) (1515-1565) occupied the following high and responsible posts in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania: great counsellor, governor of Vilnya (the capital of the Grand Duchy, nowadays Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania), mayor of Bierascie (nowadays Brest), Kounia (nowadays Kaunas in Lithuania) and Barysau and administrator of Livonia. Throughout his entire political career he instituted a firm policy of strengthening the sovereignty of the Belarusian



Барбара Радзівіл

state (Grand Duchy) and skilfully implemented agrarian and economic reform. Due to his consistent political positions, our state reached its highest prosperity with its public life based on legal principles. As counsellor, Mikalaj Radzivil far-sightedly defined new priorities for our state foreign policy in the 16th century that led to a closer integration with countries of Western and Northern Europe. His efforts and sponsorship led to the establishment in Belarus of large publishing centres, which provided the opportunity for the continuation of Dr. Francisk Scaryna's tradition. Duke Mikalaj Radzivil was fluent in the Belarusian, Polish and other European languages.

His son, **Mikalaj Krystof Radzivil-Sirotk**a (1549-1616), ardent Catholic, headed the fight against Calvinism and issued orders to burn books published by Calvinist printing houses. At the same time, he exerted a great effort to make the architecture of the Radzivil palace in Niasvzh equal to that of contemporary European cities. He was famous as the author of a book describing his journey to Jerusalem, Syria, Egypt and other «exotic» countries and places.

Franciska Ursula Radzivil (1705-1753) and her husband **Michal Kazimir Radzivil Ryban'ka** (1702-1762), also from the Niasvzh branch, were the creators of the first Slavonic secular theatre.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

1. A foreign visitor wants information about the history of your country. Tell him everything you consider to be important.
2. Think what common features the Belarusians have in culture, language and traditions with those peoples bordering us.
3. Your younger sister is doing her lessons on history at the moment. She needs your help. The topic she is studying now is «Belarus in the 19th century».
4. Make a report about an outstanding person of Belarus. What is he famous for? What facts from his life impressed you most of all?



BELARUSIAN TOWNS

MENSK. THE CAPITAL OF BELARUS

Mensk is the capital of Belarus, it's political, economic, scientific and cultural centre. It is one of the oldest and most beautiful cities in our country.

Mensk of today is a beautiful modern city with impressive length and width of streets and avenues, lined with lime and chestnut trees, maples and poplars. It is a city of numerous construction sites, of a newly built underground railway.

Minsk is a city of theatrical performances and concerts, art exhibitions and sport contests as well as research institutes, libraries, colleges and schools. Besides Minsk is an important industrial and economic centre of the Republic. It became the political seat of the Commonwealth of Independent States in 1991. The river Svisloch runs through the centre of the city.

As an industrial and economic centre Minsk has heavy industry, light and food industries, building, chemical industries, a



Інтэр'ер чыгуначнага вакзала сталіцы

transport system, a network of research and design organizations and services. The city is proud of its industrial enterprises: Minsk Tractor Plant, Minsk Watch Factory, Production Complex "Horizont", etc. They produce different types of lorries, tractors and machines, watches, TV-sets, motorcycles, refrigerators, radios, woolen fabrics and consumer goods.

Mensk is a cultural centre of the country. There are a lot of theatres, a Conservatory, a circus, many cinemas and other cultural establishments in Minsk. The Belarusian Drama Theatre, named after the national poet of Belarus Y. Kupala, is a real pride of Minsk. Performances are given in the Belarusian language and many of them are full of real Belarusian humour, vitality and optimism. You can get to know masterpieces of Russian and Soviet classical drama and plays at the Russian Drama Theatre. The new Theatre-Studio of Movie-Actors is famous with the youngsters. Minsk children and teenagers have their own Theatre for Young Spectators and Puppet Theatre where evening performances are given for adults. In Philharmonic Society, concert halls, houses and palaces of culture musical and literary evenings are carried out; art exhibitions, meetings with outstanding personalities, film festivals and concerts of amateur artists take place. Some of them are known not only in our country but abroad.

We can see many museums in the capital. In the State Museum of Belarus tourists can learn much about Belarusian history, the struggle of Belarusian people for the national independence, the Belarusian flora and fauna, see a fine collection of minerals, rare books, ancient manuscripts. The Belarusian State Art Gallery has a remarkable collection of 14 000 works of Russian and Belarusian fine arts. Exhibitions of paintings, drawings and sculptures of foreign and native artists are often held there.

Mensk is also a city of science and students. The centre of science is the Academy of Sciences. Important problems in physics, chemistry, biology, economics and other branches of science are studied at the research institutions and laboratories of the Academy. There are more than 20 higher educational establishments in Minsk.

Mensk is a city of sports. The major structures are the Dynamo Stadium, the Palace of Sports, the Belarusian Equestrian School, etc.

Mensk is a modern city with its own sights. Right in the centre of the city on the bank of the Svisloch River, a unique memorial of the

Belarusian 19th century architecture “Troitski Suburbs” is situated. On Victory Day a multicoloured sea of flowers covers the bottom of the Monument in Victory Square. Old people and children bring flowers to the Eternal Flame. Among other sights one can name Y. Kolas Square, Independence Square with its Catholic Church and others.

EXERCISES:

I. Find the words which have the same pronunciation in the Belarusian language in the text. Translate the sentences containing these words.

II. Write questions for these answers.

1. Mensk is an important industrial and economic centre of the republic.
2. The river Svisloch runs through the centre of the city.
3. As an industrial and economic centre Mensk has heavy industry.
4. They produce different types of lorries, tractors and machines.
5. There are a lot of theatres in Mensk.
6. Performances are given in the Belarusian language.
7. The Belarusian State Art Gallery has a remarkable collection of 14 000 works of Russian and Belarusian fine arts.
8. The centre of science is the Academy of Sciences.
9. Right in the centre of the city “Troitski Suburbs” is situated.

III. Fill in the blanks using proper words.

1. Mensk of today is a beautiful modern city with impressive ... and ... of streets and avenues.
2. Mensk is a city of ... Institutes, libraries, colleges and schools.
3. Many of the performances ... real Belarusian humour.
4. You can see ... of Russian and Soviet classical drama and plays at the Russian Drama Theatre.
5. At the puppet theatre evening performances are given for ...
6. The Museum of the History of the Great Patriotic War... to the struggle of the Belarusian people against the fascist invaders.
7. Different exhibitions ... in the Belarusian State Art Gallery.
8. Mensk is a modern city with its own...

MENSK. THE ORIGIN OF THE NAME

Mensk is one of the most ancient Belarusian cities. It was first mentioned in chronicles in 1067 in connection with the battle on the river Nemiga. It was then a big town of the Polatsk Principality fortified with wooden walls.



The city is situated on the crossing of beaten tracks of our history. There were revivals and strives of Grand Dukes and Princes here, devastating invasions and commitments to flames. So many times Mensk – all in blood and ashes - won the victory to be revived anew.

Even while it was still being built up and enclosed, the urban population of the town was bound to fight off the enemy. In those events there is the very sense of an ancient legend of Menesk, the fabulous founder of the town, an epic Hercules and a magician. He, as the legend states, had built a flourmill on the swampy banks of the Svisloch River - an extraordinary mill of seven water wheels. Meal was milled there not of winter rye-corn, but of cobble-stones. Nobody had ever seen that athletic magician; at midnight he used to ride mill back along the forest and field road, recruiting his courageous troops among yeomen, exceptionally strong in body and heart. One happened to hear cries of warriors, sounds of music and songs from behind the strong walls of the mill - meal was being milled day and night long.

Who consumed that hard-worked foodstuff? No doubt, Menesk, with his bodyguards were hospitable hosts, and those hords of armed interlopers were always set with it. There are some thirty thousand burial mounds on the approaches to Mensk.

But there are also other versions of the origin of the word “Mensk”. According to the first of them the name of the city is believed to be associated with the river Menka that flowed into Lake Ptych not far from the city.

The second version tells that in 1101 after Prince Usiaslau's death the land of the Polatsk Principality was shared out among his sons. Gleb Usiaslavavich took possession of Mensk and made it the capital of an independent principality. The city rapidly began to grow into an artisan and commercial centre. The artisans traded their products for salt, iron and other goods. They gave rise to the name Mensk (a word derived from the verb "menyat").

EXERCISES:

I. Match the words with definitions.

Capital	-public place, where people meet to buy and sell goods
Urban	-armed forces of a nation with which one's country is at war
Enemy	-town, where a government is situated
Magician	-machinery for making flour
Legend	-of or in a town
Mill	-a person, who entertains and receives guests
Host	-a person skilled in magic, wizard
Market	-old story describing events of doubtful truth

II. Put the words in brackets into the proper place in the sentence.

1. The city began to grow. (rapidly)
2. Mensk was destroyed by foreign invaders. (often)
3. Mensk was mentioned in the chronicles in 1067. (first)
4. While it was being built up, the population of the town was bound to fight off the enemy. (still)
5. Nobody had seen that magician. (ever)
6. Meal was being milled. (constantly)
7. The hords of armed interlopers were set with it. (always)
8. There are other versions of the origin of the word "Mensk". (also)

III. Translate the following sentences into Belarusian.

1. The urban population of the town was bound to fight off the enemy.

2. There is the very sense of an ancient legend of Menesk.
3. Meal was milled there not of winter rye-corn, but of cobble-stones.
4. At midnight he used to ride mill back along the forest and field road.
5. One happened to hear cries of warriors, sounds of music and songs from behind the strong walls of the mill - meal was being milled day and night long.
6. There are some thirty thousand burial mounds on the approaches to Mensk.
7. The name of the city is believed to be associated with the river Menka.
8. They gave rise to the name Mensk.

IV. Speak about Mensk. Make up a plan of your answer using the information from the both texts.



MY NATIVE TOWN

*There are a lot of cities
Beautiful and fine
But the city I like best
Is no doubt mine.*

My native town, the city on the frontier Bug, is often called the visiting card of our Motherland, the western gateway to Europe. Brest is an ancient town. In the chronicle of Ipaty it was mentioned in 1019 under the name of Bierascie. At the beginning of the 11th century Brest was a part of Kieu Rus. Later it became an area of fighting between Lithuanian and Polish Princes. Following the Riga Peace Treaty (March 1921) Western Belarus including Brest went to Poland. Brest became the centre of province of Palesseye. It was only in September 1939 that it was reunited with the Land of Soviets.

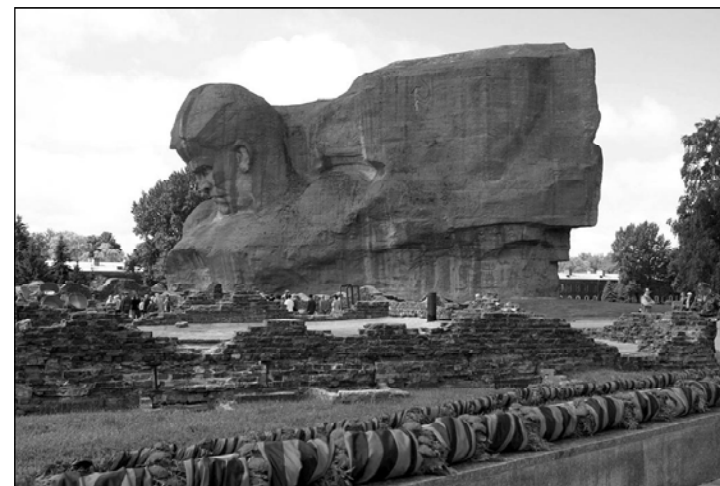
I'd like to mention the fact that many well-known people used to be in Brest. The documents say that during the Northern War Peter I came to Brest in 1706. In the years 1797-1800 the great Russian general Suvorau stayed in Brest region (Kobrin) where there is a museum nowadays. Napoleon's troops passed through the town during the war 1812 and here



Берасцейскі чыгуначны вакзал

Russian soldiers beat the enemy. The town remembers the great Russian poet Hrybaedau who served here in 1813-1814 and wrote his first poem. The Belarusian-Polish poet, Pushkin's friend, Adam Mickiewicz, also lived here.

Certainly the heroic defence of the legendary fortress over the Bug is the most outstanding event in the history of Brest, recorded in Golden letters not only in its history but also in the history of our Motherland. Short of ammunition, water and medicines the defenders stood to the last man. The officers and soldiers, children and women displayed a real heroism



Мемарыял Брэсцкая крэпасць-герой

in fighting the enemy. Glorious feats are never forgotten, and heroes do not die. Numerous streets are named in their memory. Books, songs, paintings, sculptures and monuments have been created in honour of those who perished while defending the fortress. The Hero Fortress over the Bug has become a symbol of the eternal glory of the Soviet soldiers. Nowadays the citadel is visited by many tourists who express their warm gratitude to the defenders in the words written in visitors' books, in the numerous gifts made to the Fortress and its museum.

Brest today is one of the largest economic and cultural centres of the Republic. There are about 40 industrial enterprises in the city. Among them we can mention the Electric Test Equipment Plant, the Electric Bulb Plant, the Carpet Factory, the Gas Apparatus Plant, the Chemical Goods Plant and the Knitted-Wear Factory. Our enterprises produce electric and gas stoves, computers, furniture, carpets, knitted-wear clothes, food.

Amateur art is highly developed and very popular in Brest. There are about 10 peoples' companies and the best one is the dance group "Radast". This group was in concert tours in different countries all over the world.

I should mention that there are many places to visit or to see in our town. There are a lot of museums, two theatres, several cinemas, parks and other places where you can have a good time.

EXERCISES:

I. Define what parts of speech the following words are. Build phrases with them. Use the text to help you.

Frontier, western, chronicle, later, fighting, following, to pass, to serve, soldier, to defend, defender, outstanding, written, industrial, highly.

II. Find proper Belarusian equivalents for the following English phrases and words. Compose your own sentences with them.

A visiting card, a gateway, to reunite with, used to be somewhere, to pass through, heroic defence, to stand to the last man, to display a real heroism, to be created in honour of smb., a symbol of the eternal glory, to be in concert tours.

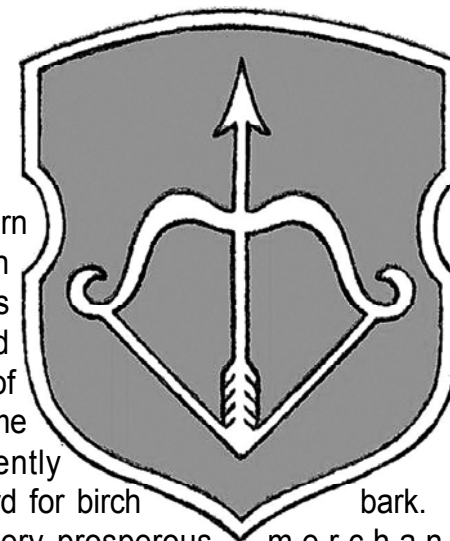
III. Join the sentences into one using proper pronouns (where, who, which).

1. The great Russian general Suvorau stayed in Kobrin. There is a museum there nowadays.
2. The town remembers the great Russian poet Hrybaedau. He served here in 1813-1814.
3. A lot of monuments have been created in honour of Belarusian and Russian soldiers. They perished while defending the fortress.
4. The citadel is visited by many tourists. They express their gratitude to the defenders.
5. There are about 40 industrial enterprises in the city. They produce different goods.
6. The most famous dance group is "Radost". This group was in concert tours in different countries.
7. There are a lot of beautiful places in Brest. You can have a good time there.

BREST. FROM THE HISTORY OF THE TOWN

On the monotonous plain of the Bug River in the western part of Belarusian Palesseye, right on the border with Poland the famous city of Brest stands. Brest is an old town, first mentioned in the year of 1019. It was known under the name of Berestya or Bierascie, evidently associated with the Slavonic word for birch

bark.



As the legend says, once a very prosperous merchant decided to go from Germany or maybe any other land to Baltic lands to trade his numerous commodities there. He called his friends to join him. They organized string of carts, hired well-accounted guard and at dawn the merchant and his followers took leave of their families, friends; took icons that usually saved them from danger and started on a journey. They heard for some time women crying as if they were going to a war not to trade. Though, that time the difference was not big.

Not one day were they going through primeval, almost impenetrable forest. Even experienced participants of the team were looking around astonished and with fear because it was the first time that they found themselves in such a forest. People and horses got exceedingly tired. There was not enough forage for horses. The travellers hoped to find a better road and a place where they could have a rest for some days.

But the conditions of travellers even worsened. One day when it seemed that they found a better road, in reality, they found themselves in impassable swamp. Here or there the cries for help were heard. Not everybody was given help. Some horses together with loaded carts foundered. The carts could not move further.

Travellers spent a restless night on the marsh. In the morning they tried to find the way back to go around this marshy area. But nothing could be seen: neither tracks of their wheels nor the way back.

Everything was erased by the bog. One more day was spent amidst impassable swamp. Everybody was praying in hope to leave this damned place alive. Nobody could close his eyes the following night. All hoped that the master of the string of carts would do something. The merchant was sitting near one of the carts, thinking about his wife, little son, mother and father whom he barely remembered because his father was also a merchant and did not return from far lands. Thinking he dozed. He dreamed his mother saying, «Take what I have always given you in trip». The merchant woke up immediately, ran up to the cart and produced a small icon of St. Marie. He started praying her to help him and his people, and he promised to build a church in her honour if she helps them. People on the marsh saw a woman like apparition above them that stayed for a while and then disappeared. Now he knew where to go.

At dawn he ordered to pave a brushwood-road to one oak standing alone in the east. The road was covered with a birch bark so that the carts could go and not stick in the mud. For three days people were making a road to the oak-saviour. When they reached the cherished place horses started eating grass very enthusiastically, people fell asleep and nobody could wake them up. When all were ready to continue the trip the merchant ordered to bring all birch bark to the oak and pile it there. He said that on the way back they would build a church in honour of their salvation. On



Жаночая гімназія на вул. Паліцэйскай.
Цяпер будынак кінатэатра «1 мая»

their way back they really built a church. Later people started building houses around the church and a settlement appeared on that place.

The name stayed Bierascie what pertains to birch bark. Later on the name of the town changed to Brest. People say that the oak was standing till the last century and only one autumn stormy night the tree fell and the last witness of that ancient deed died.

The town was originally founded on a small island at a crossing over the Bug that was of great importance in those days. This contributed to the rapid growth of the community. In 1340 it was incorporated in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, and later became part of Poland. In feudal times it was inhabited by traders and craftsmen and engaged in lively trade with Western Europe. In 1490 Brest received self-government and later became the centre of a voyevodstvo. In 1596 the union of the Catholic and Orthodox Churches in Poland was proclaimed under Catholic domination. This event went down in history as the Union of Brest. Towards the end of the 18th century Brest was a comparatively large district centre with a population of more than 15 000. The old town was turned into a fortress in 1836 to protect the western borders of Russia. The old buildings were demolished and the people were resettled on the bank of the river Mukhavets where a new town was built. For that reason Brest has no old buildings, and the Polish name Brest-on-Bug is no longer correct because the city is now several kilometres away from the river. In the middle of the 19th century it was a commercial town with a number of handicraft works.

EXERCISES:

I. Find the words which suit the following definitions in the text .

- flat or level surface;
- piece of land surrounded by water;
- number of people living in a place, country, etc.;
- the people living in one place, district or country, considered as a whole;
- old story handed down from the past, esp. one of doubtful truth;
- first light of day, daybreak;
- buying and selling of goods;

- painful feeling caused by the nearness or possibility of danger or evil;
- area of low-lying, wet land;
- area of soft, wet, spongy ground, chiefly decayed or decaying vegetable matter;
- building for public Christian worship.

II. Try to guess the meaning of the words in bold type. Check up yourselves with the help of a dictionary.

1. This name **is associated** with the Slavonic word for birch bark.
2. A very rich **merchant** decided to go to Baltic lands to trade.
3. A few merchants organized string of **carts**.
4. They were going through **impenetrable** forest.
5. The conditions of travellers **worsened**.
6. Travellers spent a **restless** night on the marsh.
7. They **prayed** in hope to leave this place alive.
8. People on the marsh saw a woman like **apparition** above them that stayed for a while and then **disappeared**.
9. For three days people were making a road the **oak-saviour**.
10. The travellers decided to build a church in honour of their **salvation**.
11. In 1490 Brest received **self-government**.
12. Brest **was inhabited** by traders and craftsman.
13. The old buildings were **demolished** and Brest has no old buildings.
14. In the middle of the 19th century it was a commercial town with a number of **handicraft** works.

III. Fill in the blanks with was or were.

1. Even experienced participants ... looking around astonished.
2. People and horses ... exceedingly tired.
3. There ... not enough forage.
4. Nobody ... given help.
5. Everybody...erased by the bog.
6. Brest ...founded in 1019.
7. It ...known under the name of Bierascie.
8. The Bug ... of great importance in those days.
9. People ...resettled on the bank of the river.

IV. Speak about Brest. This plan will help you. Find key words to each point.

1. The location of the town (the plain, western part, border);
2. the origin of the name of the town;
3. the legend about Brest;
4. incorporation in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania;
5. foundation of the fortress and a new town;
6. Brest today.

*** Render the following text in English. These words will help you:**

Застагнаць – to groan;
 “У ружжо!” – “To arms!”;
 Перапалох – commotion;
 Прарвацца – to break into;
 Падняць у штыкавую атаку – to raise into a bayonet attack;
 Кулямётныя чэргі – machine-gun firing;
 Пераходзіць у контратаку – to launch a counterattack;
 Знешні вал – an outer rampart.

Выбухі. Дым пажарышчаў, стогны і крыкі параненых, плач жанчын і дзяцей. Быццам застагнала сама зямля. Вораг разлічваў: будзе перапалох, паніка, капітуляцыя.

Не! Не пахіснуўся гарнізон. Закіпеў бой на Цярэспальскім умацаванні. Фашысты прарваліся ў Цытадэль.

“У ружжо!” — падае каманду начальнік 9-й заставы лейтэнант Кіжаватаў. Ля Холмскіх варот палкавы камісар Фамін загадвае намесніку палітрука Матэвасяну падняць людзей у штыкавую атаку. І загрымела “ура!”. Кулямётныя чэргі каля Трохарачных варот. Частая страляніна на Кобрынскім і Валынскім умацаваннях. Гарнізон крэпасці пераходзіць у контратаку.

З надыходам ночы праціўнік мусіць адцягнуць ударныя групы з раёна крэпасці. Толькі ў памяшканні клуба (былой царкве) заселі карэкцёршчыкі. На знешніх валах вораг утварыў суцэльную агнявую пазіцыю з выкарыстаннем усіх пяхотных і артылерыйскіх сіл дывізіі.

***Look at the facts about Brest, Homel, Hrodna, Mahilyow and Vitsyebsk. Use the information to make comparisons between the towns.**

-er/more... than
not so...as
the -est/most

BREST
founded 1019
population 296 300
area of the region 32 300 km²

HOMEL
founded 1142
population 492 400
area of the region 40 400 km²

MAHILYOW
founded 14th century
population 368 900
area of the region 29 000 km²

VITSYEBSK
founded 974
population 356 000
area of the region 40 100 km²

HRODNA
founded 1127
population 303 600
area of the region 25 000 km²

ARCHITECTURE

During the course of its history Belarusian nation has created a highly developed and original architecture. Its best monuments mirror the peculiarities and most important architectural trends and achievements of the epoch, prove the practical wisdom and artistic craftsmanship of Belarusian people. The history of Belarusian architecture is the history of the development of the Belarusians as a nation in the middle of Europe - a nation experiencing numerous invasions and wars, absorbing and developing European ideas and philosophies, building socialism, capitalism, and still struggling to its better future.

The political organization of tribes (Slavonic, Lithuanian) living on the territory of current Belarus started around the 7th-8th cc. The first cities appeared in the 9th-10th cc. as castles and fortresses that were built to protect nearby population from the military invasions. Most of the towns have appeared in the northern, north-western part of Belarus: Polatsk, Vitsyebsk, Lukoml, Mensk, Orsha, Zaslaue, Lahoisk, Braslau, Shklou, Navahradak, Vaukavysk. Turau was the only big town in the south at that time. The number of towns has grown sharply during the 11th-12th cc. owing to development of crafts and economy. Most of the towns were founded on the banks of the rivers or lakes. On one hand it allowed easier transportation by boats. On another hand this made castles less accessible and was a strategic military advantage. More than 40 towns emerged in Belarusian lands during the 9th-13th cc. In the north towns were emerging mainly as fortresses which primary function was to protect surrounding population against military dangers. In the swampy and almost impenetrable south towns were appearing mostly as the centres of trade, craftsmanship and service of the population of surrounding lands (except Turau and Bierascie).

The plans of towns (except Vitsyebsk, which shaped finally only in the 16th c.) were very stable. In many cases all of the buildings inside the city walls were aligned suggesting existence of a general city plan. There was a castle and a trade square outside the city walls. Inside the walls buildings were situated very close to each other. Most of them had their own wooden fences. Often 2-3 residential houses and several household

buildings shared one fence. The entrance to this yard was through monumental gates - «brama». In the 11th-12th cc. traditional construction of buildings was made predominantly of wood. These were mainly one-chamber log houses. The floor was often made out of splitted wood. Some houses had glass windows. For example many houses in ancient Navahradak had 3-4 round glass windows, in which glass plates were installed into special wooden frames.

The houses of Navahradak, Slonim and Brest often had more complex plans and multiple chambers.

The places of religious service were given special attention. These were initially pagan grounds for burning sacrificial fires - «kaphishchy». They had wooden idols surrounded by arched fences. In the 9th c. Orthodox Christianity has made its way to Belarusian lands. The Christian architectural tradition was brought by Byzantine masters. Churches were built from thin red clay bricks - «plinfa». One of the first churches built is the 11th c. Sophian Cathedral in Polatsk. It was built from plinfa and natural stone. It was in fact a

«shortened» copy of Sophian Cathedral in Kieu and Nougard - the other two main principalities of the eastern Slavs of that time. In the 12th c. the ancient political structure of the eastern Slavs - Kieu Rus fell apart. Polatsk Principality was at that time the strongest in Belarusian lands. The political power of this state resulted in creation of a bright and original new Polatsk school of arts and craftsmanship. In the second half of the 12th c. master Iaan of



Сабор св. Сафіі ў Полацку

Polatsk constructed a distinctive monument of original Polatsk School of Architecture - a tower-like cathedral of Spasa-Efrasinneuskaia Church in Polatsk.

The further development of Belarusian architecture took place in times when Belarusian, Lithuanian and partly other lands have formed a powerful commonwealth state - the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

The period of the 16th - first half of 17th cc. was characterized by a strong cultural and economic development of the GDL. A branched system of feudal domains has been established. 312 towns and large settlements were designated in the map of Makouski made in 1613. Most of these settlements were so called «miastechki» with a population below 1,500 people. The centre of such typical settlement was a town trading square surrounded by houses of traders and craftsmen. The perimeter of «miastechka» was typically taken by agricultural homesteads. The town citizens were striving for their independence and many towns were awarded Magdeburg Law of Rule in the 16th-17th cc. The centre of the town moved from the castle to a trading square. The town composition became more open and civil. As an influence of Renaissance philosophy many towns were completely reconstructed to arrange the buildings in certain geometrical plan - circle, semicircle, square, rectangle. The civic centre of the town was defined by city hall with a high clock tower - «ratush» (Hrodna, Vitsyebsk, Niasvizh, Kletsk, Mahilyow). Most of the trade was going on around the square adjacent to city hall.

The architectural styles of ancient Rus were gradually replaced in the 14th-18th cc. by Gothicism, Renaissance and Baroque. An original bi-colour decoration was often used when the outcoming surfaces of the buildings were left bare red brick, whereas the inside surfaces of niches and belts were covered with white plaster. Since the end of the 16th c. many brick buildings were completely covered with plaster (esp. Baroque style).

The methods of building castles have been changed from «dangeon» type to «castle» type. The later was square in plan with two towers in the opposite angle (castles in Lida, Kreva). Inside different wooden buildings were constructed. Outside the castles were surrounded by the water trenches. The most complex was a castle of Navahradak. It was built in the place of an ancient wooden fortress on a highest geographical point of



Сядзіба Т.Касцюшкі ў Мерачоўшчыне
(цяпер – Івацэвіцкі р-н). Не захавалася

Belarus - The Castle Hill. It had 7 fighting towers, a palace and church inside. Even more fortified was Vitaut Castle (now - «Old Castle») in Hrodna. The early Belarusian castles had severe and impenetrable look - thick walls, powerful trenches and ramparts. There was no decoration of facades, except some elements of

Roman style. The interiors of these castles were also dark and gloomy - massive arcs, small fighting windows, narrow stairways inside the walls.

In the 16th c. distinct Renaissance features appeared in the architecture. It was especially evident in private castles, in which the major defence aspect was gradually transferred to outside structures like ramparts and bastions. Those very castles acquired features of palaces with rich decoration of facades and interiors.

In the 16th-18th cc. a characteristic type of Belarusian estate or country-seat («siadziba», «falvarak») was shaping. Since the 16th c. the axis of ensemble plan was defined by a main building and the gates («brama»). It was completed with different side buildings of different purpose - wings, annexes, libraries, private chapels, and household buildings like barns, stables, and kennels. The mills were mainly built as water mills, and only in the 18th c. wind mills appeared in Belarus. The central part of the ensemble was usually not occupied. Artificial ponds were used very often in planning the estates.

Parks and gardens were not common until the 18th c. except so called «Italian gardens». The majority of gardens and parks were established in the 18th-19th cc. They were either geometrically regular - «French type», or landscape «English type». As for the main houses they were various in type - from traditional 2-3 chambers to multi-room buildings. The latter were either suite of rooms («enfilade») or corridor type.

There were houses built on top of household dwellings, with mezzanines, central or side towers, complicated roofs often of broken geometry or layered.

The same features were transferred to Belarusian palaces. In the 17th c. it still had defence function. But in the 18th c. Baroque style palaces already lost this function. They were usually built in a U shaped plan (palaces in Pinsk, Ruzhany, Mahilyow etc.). Enfilade plan-



Руіны палаца XIX ст. у Косава (Івацэвіцкі р-н)

ning was very common. Facades were decorated with pillars, niches, rustics, and ornaments. The broken lines of roofing were also fulfilling certain aesthetic function. In the 18th c. a Rococo style was formed within Baroque style and became very popular in Belarus. Most of the estates and palaces were later built in this style (Hrodna Royal Palace - now «New Palace»; Hrodna Augustian Estate; Liavonpal' and Stanisla-vau estates).

In the 16th c. Reformation movement was widespread in the GDL. It was reflected in appearance of the Renaissance architecture. Calvinist houses were built in Kajdanau, Kamai, Smarhon, Charnauchycy. Most of the cathedrals still had fortified defence character.



Мірскі замак - помнік архітэктуры XVI ст.

But Renaissance architecture was characterized by appearance of cylindrical buildings, circular or semi-circular in plans. A moderate ornamental decoration was used.

The Contra-

Reformation brought characteristic Baroque style cathedrals. This style was first used by Jesuits. The first Baroque style cathedral - Niasvizh Cathedral of Christ's Body was built in Belarus in 1587-93 by Italian architect J. M. Bernardoni. The characteristic cathedrals of this style are Farny cathedral in Hrodna, Kletsk cathedral, Mikalaeuski Cathedral in Mir.

At the end of the 18th c. - beginning of the 19th c. Belarusian lands were incorporated to the Russian Empire as a result of three divisions of the commonwealth of Rzecz Pospolita. This period coincided with the appearance of Classicism in Belarusian architecture. The basis of this was in replanning of Belarusian cities by Russian architects in St. Petersburg. Mostly towns in eastern Belarus were replanned: Vitsyebsk, Mahilyow, Mscislau, Orsha, Polatsk and others. The new plans of the cities were geometrically even and symmetric. The principle of regularity especially was evident in those towns that were moved to a new place nearby the old location - Babinavichy, Klimavichy, Haradok. These new towns were built according to ideal rectangular or square plan. The first buildings built in Classicism style were the estates of arriving Russian nobility who were given lands in Belarus (Homel Palace of Pashkevich, Krychau Palace) and imperial government buildings (Postal Office in Polatsk).

EXERCISES:

I. Explain the meaning of the following words, if necessary use English-English dictionary. Find these words in the text and translate the sentences with them.

Military invasions, a fortress, trade, a craftsman, a chamber, a place of religious service, pagan grounds, a wooden idol, natural stone, a tower-like cathedral, a settlement, a rectangle, Gothics, Renaissance, Baroque, water trenches, a private castle, a rampart, a bastion, a mill, a barn, a stable, a kennel, Russian nobility, location.

II. Continue the following sentences.

1. The first cities appeared in the 9th-10th centuries as castles and fortresses that ...
2. The number of towns has grown ...
3. All of the buildings inside the city walls ...
4. In the 11th-12th cc. traditional construction of building ...
5. In the 9th century churches were built ...
6. In the second half of the 12th c. ...
7. In the 16th c. the centre of the typical settlement...
8. The town composition became ...
9. In 14th-18th cc. the methods of building castles changed from...
10. The decoration of facades was almost...
11. Since the 16th c. the axis of ensemble's plan ...
12. The mills were mainly built as ...
13. As for the main houses they were ...

III. Fill in the blanks with articles and explain their usage.

1. Most of ... towns were founded on ... banks of ... rivers and lakes.
2. In ... north towns were emerging mainly as ... fortresses.
3. ... plans of towns were very stable.
4. Most of them had their own ... wooden fences.
5. The houses of Navahradak often had ... more complex plans and multiple chambers.
6. The Polatsk Principality was at that time ... strongest in Belarusian lands.
7. ...central part of ensemble was not usually occupied.

IV. Put up questions to the text to build a plan. Retell the text according to the plan.

ADDITIONAL READING**ANCIENT BELARUSIAN TOWNS****Kamianec**

Kamianec is the centre of Kamianec district, Brest region, situated on the Liasnaja river, 39 km north of Brest, 28 km north-west of Zhabinka, it is a station on the railway line Brest-Mensk. Population: 9,400 (1995).

The main sight of the town up to the present day is the Tower of Kamianec (Kamianeckaya vezha) (or, as it is incorrectly called, the White Tower - Belaya vezha), built in 1271-89. Local inhabitants used to call it «stoup» - «pillar» or «column». It is 30 m high, 2.5 m thick and its outer diameter is 13.6 m. It is made of dark red and yellow



Камянецкая Вежа. З малюнка Напалеона Орды. 1876г.

brick in 5 tiers. The tower is characterised by both Romanesque and early Gothic forms and has a lot in common with the 12th - 13th century towers in Western Europe. Today the tower accommodates a museum.

Pinsk

Pinsk is the centre of Pinsk district, Brest region, situated at the confluence of the Pina and Pripyat rivers, 175 km east of Brest, a station on the railway line Brest-Luniniec, a highway junction and river port.

Population: 130,000 (1995).

Today Pinsk is a city in the south of Belarus; it has a river port and is linked through the Dnieper-Bug canal (built 1775-1848) with the Bug river and, through the Visla river with the Baltic Sea. Another canal, the

«Great Pinsk Canal» or «Ahinski canal», was built in 1765-75 at the expense of Mihal Kazimir Ahinski, a high-ranking commander in the GDL army; and linked the Jasiel'da River, the northern tributary of the Pripyat, with the Scara, a tributary of the Neman.



Партовые краны Пінскага рачнога порта

This canal was damaged in both World Wars and is in a poor state today, although it could be restored as a historical monument.

Some of Pinsk monuments of architecture have remained to the present day. They are a testimony of the city's former significance. Examples are the Catholic church and Franciscan monastery, which dates to the 16th-18th century and was rebuilt in 1920, the Jesuit college, rebuilt in 1651-75 (the college church was ravaged in the 1950s), the Catholic church of Karl Barmeus (1770-82), St. Barbara's Church (1786) and Pinsk palace (1784-94).

The article about Pinsk would not be complete without a mention of the population of that area. Many of the people living in south-eastern Belarus, from Kamianec in the west to Mazyr in the east, call themselves "paleshuki", thus identifying themselves with the area where they live - Palesseye, a low marshland along the rivers Pripyat and Bug and their southern tributaries.

The people from the immediate surroundings of Pinsk call themselves "pinchuki". The dialect spoken in this area differs from both Belarusian and Ukrainian, it has loan-words from both languages and also its own specific words and expressions which can only be found there.

The specific accent of the «paleshuki» distinguishes them from other Belarusians and from the Ukrainians as well. In recent times people have tried to link this western-Palesseye ethno-political phenomenon with the name of a Baltic tribe - Yacviah - which lived in parts of Palesseye

until the 13th –14th centuries and was then assimilated by the Belarusians. But this is a controversial theory and is far from universally supported. Nevertheless one must not overlook the originality of the culture of that region and the fact that a significant proportion of the population regard the local dialect as their mothertongue.

Polatsk

Polatsk is the centre of Polatsk district, situated on the Dzvina river, at the place where the Palata flows into it, 100 km to the north-west of Vitsyebsk. It is the junction of several railway lines (to Maladziecna, Vitsyebsk, Nievil and Daugavpils).

Population: 88,000 (1995).

Polatsk is the most ancient city on the Belarusian territory and, according to Scandinavian legends, where it is called «Paltas juborg», one of the most ancient cities of the eastern Slavs. Excavations have proven the existence of a settlement there as early as in the 5th century A.D.

Polatsk was first mentioned in the chronicles of 862 as a town founded by the Slavonic tribe Kryvichy-Palacane (Kryvichy was one of the largest groups of the Eastern Slavs who moved into the area in the 6th century A.D.) and as the centre of the Polatsk Principality, a powerful Eastern Slavonic state which lasted from the 9th-12th centuries A.D. Other major cities were Vitsyebsk, Orsha, Mensk and Druck.

In our century Polatsk became a district centre within Vitsyebsk region.



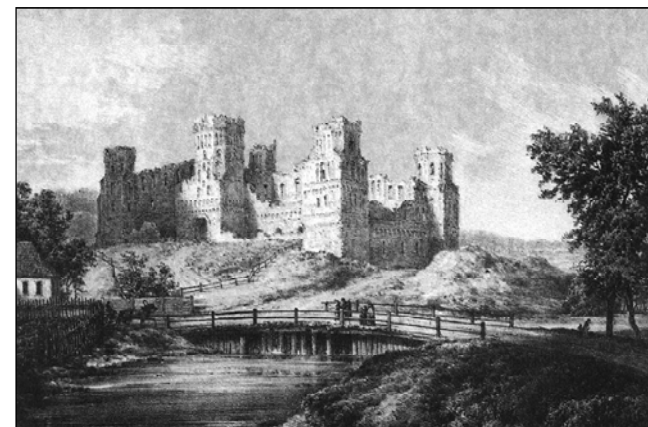
Старажытныя кнігі – экспанаты Полацкага музея беларускага кнігадрукавання, у якім – больш за 1200 экспанатаў. Адкрыты ў 1990г.

This old town has been declared a monument of national heritage, besides it has a museum of Belarusian bookprinting, a museum and library named after Simeon of Polatsk, a 17th century Belarusian and Russian writer, the Polatsk Picture Gallery and Polatsk University, founded in 1993.

Mir

Mir is a town in Karelitsy district, Hrodna region, 26 km south-east of Karelitsy, 17 km north-west of Gardzeia, a railway station at the railway Brest-Mensk.

Population 2,600 (1995).



Мірскі замак. Пабудаваны ў к. XV ст. ў гатычна-рэнесансным стылі. Адноўлены. З малюнка Напалеона Орды 1864-1876гг.

Mir was first mentioned in the chronicles of 1345. Mir is famous for its outstanding example of Belarusian stone architecture: the ancient castle, founded at the beginning of the 16th century by Prince Juri Il'jinc.

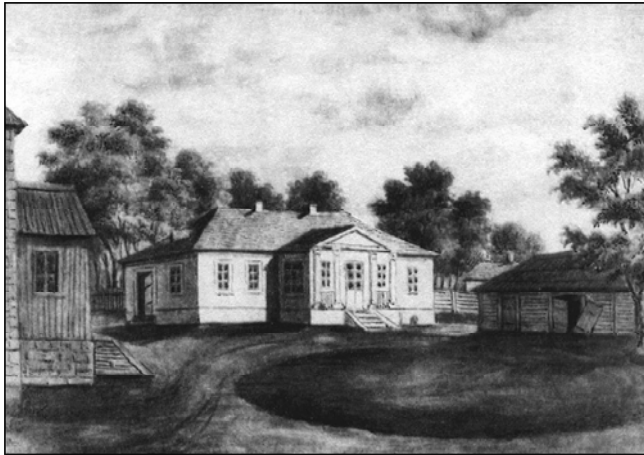
After the County of Mir changed hands and became the possession of M.Radzivil-Sirotko in 1569, the castle was completed in several stages. Its architecture reflects the Middle Ages: strong fortress walls with towers, surrounded by earthen walls with bastions and a moat, protected the magnificent palace, the magnate's residence. Monumental and unassailable, the castle remained the symbol of strength and power over several centuries. Its ornamental features give it the appearance of a palace - here the influence of traditional West European castle architecture can be felt. The long construction period of the palace-castle compound has left its mark; the castle is mainly gothic, whereas Renaissance features can be observed in the palace and the Eastern towers. The massive construction constitutes a link with Russian architecture. There was a time when the palace had three storeys and 40 rooms which were decorated with marble and luxuriously furnished. None of this has survived to the present day.

Navahradak

Navahradak is the centre of Navahradak district, situated in Hrodna region, 162 km east of Hrodna, 22 km from the station Navajelnia on the railway line Lida-Baranavichy.

Population:
31,200 (1995).

The historical «Novoharodak» was founded by Kieu prince Jaraslau Mudry (the Wise) in 1044, after his campaign against the Baltic tribe *Litva*, which lived in the upper reaches of the



Сядзіба А. Міцкевіча, Наваградак. Захавалася. З малюнка Н. Орды 1876г.

river Neman. At that time the Slavonic inhabitants of the area (the tribes Dryhavichi and Kryvichi) The oldest cathedral in Navahradak was founded in the 11th century. In the 17th century there were already 10 Orthodox churches and a Jesuit College, a Dominican and Franciscan monastery. The Calvinists also had their own churches.

In the surroundings of Navahradak an important part of the population was of Crimean Tartar stock. Their ancestors were invited by the Grand Duke Vitaut in the 15th-16th centuries and settled there. Their descendants soon adopted the Belarusian language but continued to use the Arabic alphabet. Thus they have provided us with invaluable works of Belarusian literature - Muslim books written in old Belarusian with Arabic letters.

Navahradak was also the place where Adam Mickevich, a famous representative of Polish poetry of Belarusian stock, spent his youth.

Today one of the monuments which are left in Navahradak, apart from the castle ruins, is the Farny Catholic church, a Baroque building. The first church on the spot was founded in 1395 during the reign of Prince Vitaut. In 1723 a new stone-built church was built which is still in service today. The Nalibockaya Pushcha, an ancient woodland, and the Sviciarz lake, one of the most beautiful lakes in Belarus', are not far from Navahradak. All these landscapes have been described in numerous works of poetry and are regarded as one of Belarus' most precious areas.

Niasvizh

Niasvizh is a district centre in the Mensk region, 112 km south-west of Mensk, 14 km south-east of Garadzeia, a railway station at the railway Brest-Mensk.

Population
15,200 (1995).

Niasvizh is one of

the most ancient historical and cultural centres of Belarus, a memorial town. The exact date of its foundation has not been ascertained yet. It can be assumed that Niasvizh already existed in the 13th century as the centre of the principality. After it had become the residence of the magnates Radzivil, Niasvizh changed significantly.



Замак Радзівілаў у Нясвіжы. Закладзены ў 1583г. Захаваўся. З малюнка Н. Орды 1876г.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Choose any town or place to give a talk on. Speak about housing, industry, population, location. Be ready to answer any questions about the town you are talking about.
2. Write a report on your trip to Mensk.
3. Have you ever been to Vitsyebsk, Hrodna, Homel, Mahilyow? Answer your friend's questions about the towns.
4. Your friend has come to your hometown. He wants to go sightseeing. You are telling him what is worth seeing.
5. What towns and places can we show to foreign visitors?



THE CULTURE OF BELARUS

THEATRE

The sources of the Belarusian theatre art are in the popular ceremonies and games, in the activity of wandering artists - skamarohs. In the 16th century there appeared puppetshows - "batleyka". In the 16th - 18th centuries school theatres were wide spread, in the 16th - 20th centuries - popular drama theatres. Since the 1840s the playwright, actor and director V. Dunin-Marcinkevich had worked to create Belarusian professional theatre. A new stage of the development of Belarusian theatrics began in the 20th century. Its basis was created with the plays written by Y.Kupala, Y.Kolas, F.Aliashovich, U.Halubok and others. An important role in the development of the theatrics played the First Belarusian Company of I. Buynitsky. In 1920 F. Zhdanovich organised the Belarusian State Theatre (the BST-1, now called the National Academic Theatre named after Y. Kupala). The same year U.Halubok founded the Third Belarusian State Theatre. Both of them were in Mensk. In 1926 the Second Belarus State Theatre (the BST-2, now called the National Academic Drama Theatre named after Y. Kolas) appeared in Vitsyebsk. On the eve of the World War II there were 23 theatres in Belarus.



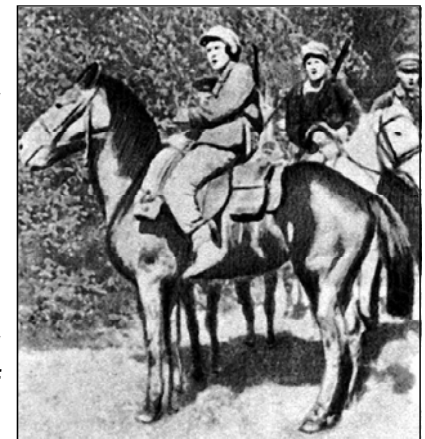
Будынак Опернага тэатра. г.Менск

During the war most of the theatres stopped their activities. The BST-1 and the BST-2 were evacuated; their concert teams were performing for the soldiers

at the front-line. After the war some of the companies restarted their work, others were recreated. It was mostly pieces about the Great Patriotic War and the after the war life that were staged. The prominent actors were B.Platonau, G.Hlebau, I.Zhdanovich, L.Rzhetskaya, A.Ilyinskaya, V.Dedushko, L.Rakhlenko, P.Malchanau, S.Stanuta and others. An important place in the repertoire of the theatres occupied staging of the plays by Belarusian writers: "There Will Be a Storm" on the trilogy "On the Cross-roads" by Y. Kolas and his poem "Symon the Musician", "People in the Mire" by I. Melezh and others. Theatres were successfully staging Russian, Soviet and foreign classical plays: "The Optimistic Tragedy" by U.Vishneuski, "Hamlet", "Romeo and Juliet", "King Lear" by W.Shakespeare, "The Inspector" by M.Gogol, "Enemies" and "Barbarians" by M.Gorky, "The Late Love", "Talents and Admirers" and "The Gainful Employment" by A.Astrouski and others. In the 1960s - 1980s the theatrics was enriched with the plays written by A.Makayonak, U.Karatkevich, A.Petrashkevich, A.Dudarau, I.Chigryna and others. Actors, directors, stage workers, theatre critics are trained in the Belarusian Academy of Arts and the Belarusian University of Culture. The Belarusian Union of theatre actors exists since 1946.

CINEMA

Movie production started in Belarus in 1924, when the State department on Cinema and Photography (Belgoskino) was created. In 1928 the "Soviet Belarus" movie studio was created in Leningrad. Since 1939 it had been working in Mensk. In 1946 it was named "Belarusfilm". The first feature movie "The Forest Story" was produced in 1926 by the director U. Tarich. The theme of people's struggle for national and social liberation was dominating in the cinema of the 1920s - 1930s ("Kastus Kalinouski")



Кадр з кінастужкі «Лясная быль». Паводле апавесці «Свінапас» М.Чарота. Рэж.: Ю.Тарыч. 1926г.

directed by V.Gardin, "Born in Fire" directed by V.Korsh-Sablin and others). Since the end of the 1920s films on contemporary life were created, as well as films for children. During the Great Patriotic War Belarusian movie producers were working in Alma-Ata, documentary producers were reporting from the front-line and creating the partisan war chronicle of the Republic. In 1945 the "Soviet Belarus" studio renewed its activities.

Prominent achievements of the Belarusian feature film and documentary production in the 1940s - 1970s were caused by the exploration of the Great Patriotic War theme: "Kanstantin Zaslonau" (directed by V.Korsh-Sablin and A.Faintsimmer; who were awarded the USSR State Prize in 1950), "The Clock Stopped at Midnight" (directed by N.Figurousky) and others. An important place was occupied by historic feature films: "Moscow - Genoa" (directed by V.Korsh-Sablin and P.Armand, the 1967 Belarus State Prize), "I, Francishak Scaryna" (directed by B.Stepanau). Since the end of the 1980s the themes of the past and the present of the country are exploited by such directors as I.Dabralubau, B.Nikifarouski, M.Ptashuk and others.

The "Belarusfilm" studio embraces the associations "Telefilm", "The Chronicle". Since 1973 there is also an animation studio. There is a Theatre-studio of movie actors. In 1962 the Union of Cinematographers of Belarus was created.



Кадр з кінастужкі «Я, Францыск Скарына».
У гал. ролі: А.Янкоўскі.
Реж.: Б.Сцяпаняў. 1970г.

MUSIC

The sources of the Belarusian music are in the folk music of Eastern Slavs of the Kievan Rus period. The first bearers of secular professional tradition were skamarohs. By the 15th century the local type of "znamennogo" descant in the Orthodox Church music appeared. In the musical culture of the second half of the 16th - beginning of the 17th centuries were reflected the tendencies of Renaissance and ideas of Reformation. In the 17th century "Partesnoe" singing (choral concerts, psalms) was set. In the 18th century private theatres and chapels of the Radzivils, Sapiegas, Oginskys and other nobles became the centres of musical culture. Since the beginning of the 19th century there were city orchestras in big towns (Vitsyebk, Hrodna, Mensk, Mahilyow), performances were staged there. In 1918-21 in Vitsyebk, Mensk, Homel, Babruysk popular conservatoires were established, which later transformed into musical secondary educational institutions and schools. The Belarusian musical secondary educational institution was founded in Mensk (1924, now - the Mensk musical college named after M. Glinka). The first national operas were "Mikhas Podgorny" by E. Tikotski, "In Virgin Forests of Palesseye" by A. Bagatyreu (both were staged in 1939), "The Flower of Happiness" by A. Turenkou (staged in 1940). The first ballet was "The Nightingale" by M. Kroshner (staged in 1939).

During the World War II in 1941-45 and in the 1950's pieces of heroic and patriotic style were dominating: operas "Kastus Kalinouski" by D. Lukas (staged in 1947), "Alesia" (staged in 1944, for the second time staged in 1953 as "The Girl from Palesseye") by E. Tikotski. Ballets "Prince Lake" by V. Zalatareu (1949), "False Bride" by G. Vagner (1958) were staged. Composers N. Aladau, P. Padkavyrau were working in the genre of symphony, A. Klumau composed for piano. The famous conductors of the time were M. Antseu, A. Bessmertny, I. Gitgarts, dulcimers - I. Zhinovich, S. Navitski, Kh. Shmelkin, singers - L. Aleksandrouskaya, I. Balotin, S. Druker, R. Mlodek. In 1960-90's such operas were staged as "When the Leaves Fall" (1968), "The Star of Venus" (1970) by U. Semeniako, "King Stakh's Wild Hunt" by

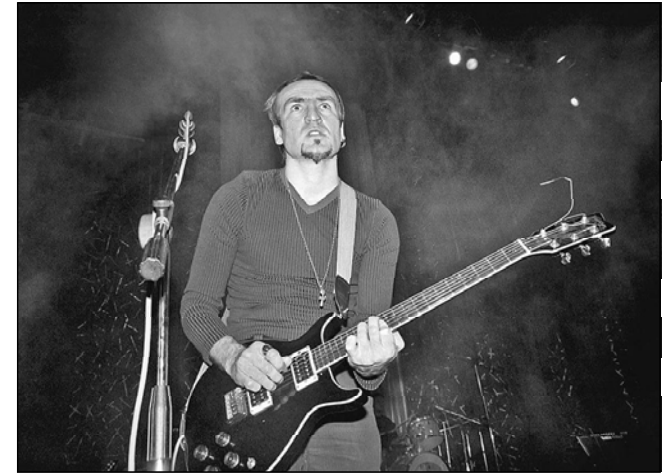


Віктар Шалкевіч, спявак, кампазітар

V. Soltan (1989), "The Prince of Navahradak" by A. Bandarenka (1992), as well as ballets "After the Ball" (1971) by G. Vagner, "Alpine Ballad" (1967), "Til Ulenshpigel" (1974) by E. Glebau, "Passions" ("Ragneda", 1995) by A. Mdivany. Genres of musical comedy and musicals are represented by the works of V. Voitik, U. Semeniako and others. Among the composers writing songs there are V. Slounikau, I. Luchanok, E. Khanok, V. Mulia-

vin, U. Rainchik. In the 1980-90's the pieces of clerical music were created. Among the vocalists there are T. Nizhnikova, Z. Babi, L. Brazhnik, N. Gaida, V. Vuiachich, J. Eudakimau, V. Skarabagatau, T. Shimko; chorus conductors V. Rouda, T. Tsitovich, T. Shirma; ballet-master V. Elisariou. In Belarus there is (as of 1998) the National Academic Opera Theatre, the National Academic Ballet Theatre (since 1996 they comprise an artistic union "The National Academic Bolshoy Opera and Ballet Theatre"), the State Musical Comedy Theatre (founded in 1970), the State Academic Popular Orchestra (founded in 1930), the State Academic Symphony Orchestra (founded in 1928), the State Academic Chorus (founded in 1939), the State Academic Popular Chorus (founded in 1952), Belarusian Radio and Television Academic Chorus (founded in 1987), Belarusian Radio and Television State Symphony Orchestra (founded in 1958), the State Orchestra of Symphony and Variety Music (founded in 1987), the State Dancing Company (founded in 1959), the State Choreographic Company "Khoroshky" (founded in 1974), Belarusian Academy of Music (founded in 1932), Belarusian Union of Composers (founded in

1932), Belarusian State Philharmonic Society (founded in 1937), shows "Pesniary", "Verasy", "Siabry" and others. Such modern groups as "Lypis Trubeckoy", "NRM", "Krama", "Neyro-dubel", "Palats", "Novae nieba", bards Vitar Shalkevich, Zmiciar Bartosik are also well-known.



Піт Паўлаў, саля-гітарыст гурта «NRM»

EXERCISES:

I. Explain the meaning of the following words.

Skamaroh, batleyka, miniature, prose, poetry, conductor.

II. Write questions for these answers.

1. A new stage of the development of Belarusian theatre began in the 20th century.
2. It is now called the National Academic Theatre named after Y. Kupala.
3. Yes, theatres were successfully staging Russian, Soviet and foreign classical plays.
4. In 1918-21 in Vitsyebsk, Mensk, Homel and Babruysk popular conservatories were established.
5. Later they transformed into musical secondary educational institutions and schools.

III. Give English equivalents for the following Belarusian sentences. Use the text to help you.

1. У 16 ст. з'яўляюцца лялечныя тэатры – батлейкі.
2. Напярэдадні Другой Сусветнай вайны ў Беларусі было 23 тэатра.

3. Значнае месца ў рэпертуары тэатраў займалі пастаноўкі п'ес беларускіх аўтароў.
4. У 1928 годзе ў Ленінградзе была створана кінастудыя "Савецкая Беларусь" і з 1939 года яна існуе ў Мінске.
5. Падчас Вялікай айчынай вайны кінарэжысёры працавалі ў Алма-Аце.
6. "Беларусьфільм" уключае асацыяцыі "Телефільм", "Хроніка".
7. У 18 ст. прыватныя тэатры Радзівілаў, Сапегаў, Агінскіх і іншых знатных людзей сталі цэнтрам музыкальнай культуры.

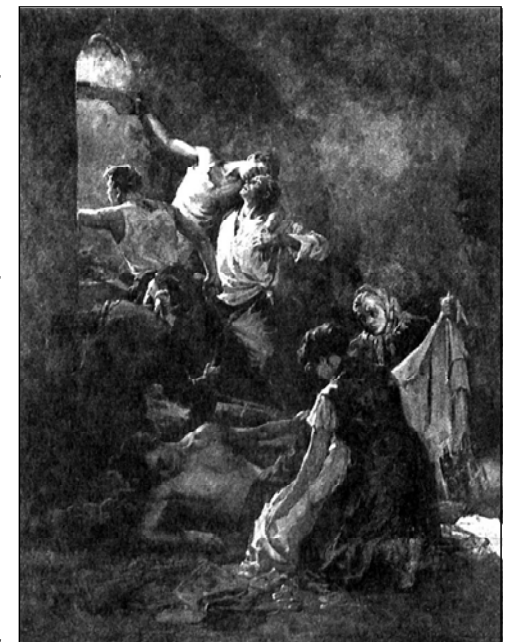
IV. Read the following numerals. What do they refer to?

1926, 1840s, 23, the 16th century, 1945, 1962, the 2nd half of the 16th century, the 17th century, the 1980s, 1924.

FINE ARTS

Since the Palaeolithic and Neolithic Ages there remained in Belarus ornamented bone plates and pottery, amber decorations, a small number of animal and human figures. In the Bronze and Iron Ages there appeared metal decorations, often with solar ornaments. There remained stone sculptures of gods dating back to the 10th century (in the towns of Shklou and Slonim). Following the spread of Christianity under the influence of Byzantine and Western Europe monumental painting (frescoes), as well as icon painting developed. Texts of manuscript books of the 11th and 12th centuries (Gospels from Turau, Drutsk, Polatsk, the Radzivil chronicle) were decorated with miniatures, headpieces. The books themselves were covered with frameworks. Secular painting also spread, especially the genre of portrait (we have originals and graphic copies dating back to the 16th - first half of the 18th century). There remained the works of monumental art - mural paintings in churches, iconostasis and altars. The sculptures with which the churches were decorated were made in the Baroque style. With the start of the Belarusian printing (1517, "The Psalter" and "The Bible" by F. Scaryna) there appeared woodcuts, an original style of typographic book decoration was set. In the 17th century copperplate engraving was used in Belarus for the first time.

Decorative art was a sort of peculiar symbiosis between Western European, ancient Russian art and local traditions. In the 15th - 16th centuries the production of terracotta and polychrome browned ceramics, repoussed tiles, jewellery appeared. In the 15th century in Hrodna the production of



І.Ахрэмчык. Абаронцы Брэсцкай крэпасці. 1958г.

decorated glass started. In the 14th - 19th centuries the production of woodworks, ceramics, weaving (girdles from Slutsk, tapestries) boomed. In the 16th - 18th centuries realistic features were clearly revealed in painting and graphics. In the 19th century art developed in the mainstreams of romanticism and partly classicism (V. Vankovich, J.Domel, M. Filipovich, V. Bjalyński-Birulja, N. Orda and others). In the 20th century high professional level was attained in painting (I.Akhremchik, V. Tsvirko, V. Volkau, M. Savitski), sculpture (Z. Azgur, A.Anikeichik, A. Bembel), graphics (V. Tikhanovich, A. Tychina, A.Pasledovich), the art of theatre decorations (P. Maslennikau, E.Mikalaeu, E. Chemadurau). In 1938 the Union of Artists of Belarus was founded (since 1995 it is named the Belarusian Union of Artists).

BELARUSIAN POTTERY

Pottery is one of the most ancient crafts on the Earth. It was practised in the lands, which are currently known as Belarus from the pre-historic times. The Slavonic tribes started to settle here since the 7th century assimilating the Baltic tribes that were populating these lands before - Yacviahi, Lits, etc. Thus Belarusian ceramic tradition is Slavonic and Baltic in its origin. The potter's wheel appeared in our lands in the 10th century. Before it all ceramics was hand plastered. Hand plastering technique has survived in Paniamonnie (Lithuanian lands in the basin of the Neman river) to these days.

During the days of Kieu Rus (10th-11th cc.) the main centres of ceramic crafts were ancient Belarusian cities of Polatsk, Turau, Smalensk Principalities and the towns of Paniamonnie. Later in the 13th-17th cc. Belarusian lands were in the heart of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, Rus and Samojitia (GDL). Numerous craftsman ships flourished in GDL. It is at this time the Belarusian ceramic craft was reaching its heights. Belarus began to export ceramics abroad to Moscow, Warsaw, and Kieu. Many Belarusian craftsmen were captured and forced to move to Mascovia during its 17th c. wars with GDL. Pakrouski Cathedral in Izmajlovo, Nadbramnaia Church in Andreevski Monastery, Teremnoj Palace and the Savior Church behind the Golden Fence of Moscow Kremlin are all

decorated by Belarusian craftsmen. The most known centres of ceramic craftsmanship at this time were Hrodna, Streshyn, Bierascie, Mensk, Polatsk, Kamianec, Kapyl, Mir, Shklou, Sluck, Kleck, Vitsyebesk, Dzisna, Krychau, Kopys, Kreva, Mahilyow, Lahojsk, Dubrouna.

In the 19th c. - beginning of the 20th c. the most known centres of ceramics were in Babinavichy, Babrujsk, Barysau, Blahauka, Vitsyebesk, Hlybokae, Horki, Darasino, Dzisna, Dubrouna, Ivianiec, Kasciukovichy, Kopys, Krychau, Kreva, Licvinavichy, Mahilyow, Mensk, Mir, Pahost-Zaharodski, Porazava, Rakau, Ruzhany, Siniauka, Chashniki, Ekiman, etc. The largest centres were Haradnaya and Pruzhany - each having more than 200 masters. At this time about 4,500 ceramic masters worked in Belarus.

After 1930 independent ceramic craftsmen were considered by communists as an «embryo of capitalism» and were either united into state enterprises or extinct. Currently the main state enterprise in Belarus is consortium «Belarusian Art Ceramics». The main centres where traditional ceramic craft has survived are: Haradnaia (Stolin region), Drybin (Horki region), Novae Vil'ianova (Shklou region), Porazava (Svislach region), Ruzhany (Pruzhany region) and the town of Braslau.

The most sophisticated ceramic tradition is known to be in southern Belarus and has in fact much in common with Valyn (the Ukraine) ceramic tradition. On the contrary, in northern Belarus more archaic traditions have survived sometimes dating as far as Iron Age. Very often the whole village is specialized traditionally in ceramics of a special type. And thus different types of ceramics are often named by the name of the village where it is traditionally made - «Haradnianskaya», «Ivianeckaya», «Rakauskaya», «Chashnickaya», «Siniauskaya», «Ruzhanskaya», «Pruzhanskaya», «Porazauskaya», «Mirskaya», «Zaslauskaya», «Doobrovenskaya», «Dzisenskaya», «Darasinskaya», etc.

Several mechanical and chemical methods are used to post process ceramics for decorative and strengthening purposes also resulting in different types of ceramics - «hartavanaya», «palivanaya», «chorna-zadymlenaya», «hliancavanaya», etc.

EXERCISES:

I. Explain the meaning of the following words and define what parts of speech they are. Compose your own sentences with them.

Pottery, craft, a tribe, wheel, ceramics, craftsmanship, to flourish, to export, tradition, to survive, solar, framework, altar, peculiar.

II. Translate the following sentences into Belarusian.

1. In the Bronze and Iron Ages there appeared metal decorations, often with solar ornaments.
2. Texts of manuscript books of the 11th and 12th centuries were decorated with miniatures, headpieces.
3. The sculptures with which the churches were decorated were made in the Baroque style.
4. Decorative art was a sort of peculiar symbiosis between Western European, ancient Russian art and local traditions.
5. In the 16th - 18th centuries realistic features are clearly revealed in painting and graphics.
6. In 1938 the Union of Artists of Belarus was founded.
7. Pottery was practised in the lands, which are currently known as Belarus from the pre-historic times.
8. It is at this time the Belarusian ceramic craft is reaching its heights.
9. In the 18th-19th cc. Belarusian Ceramic Tiles (Kaflija) were famous a long way from Belarus.
10. Independent ceramic craftsmen were considered by communists as an «embryo of capitalism» and were either united into state enterprises or extinct.
11. The most sophisticated ceramic tradition is known to be in southern Belarus.
12. Several mechanical and chemical methods are used to post process ceramics for decorative and strengthening purposes also resulting in different types of ceramics.

III. Fill in the blanks with the following verbs.

To survive, to remain, to be named, to export, to start, to be made, to be, to work, to have.

1. In the 15th century the production of decorated glass ...
2. Now we ...originals and graphic copies dating back to the 16th-18th century.
3. There ...stone sculptures of gods dating back to the 10th century.
4. Hand plastering technique...to these days.
5. Now Belarus...ceramics abroad.
6. At this time about 4500 ceramic masters...in Belarus.
7. In 19th century the most known centres of ceramics...in Babinachy, Babruysk, Barysau.
8. Different types of ceramics ...by the name of the village where it



LITERATURE

Literature started developing in Belarus with the appearance of the written language in the 10th century. A big centre of written language was Polatsk, where the Hagiographies of St. Efrasinnia of Polatsk were created. The famous orator Kirill Turausky lived in Turau in the 12th century. The first Belarusian chronicles ("The Chronicle of the Great Dukes of Lithuania", the Belarusian-Lithuanian Chronicle of 1446) became examples of historical prose. The activities of the first ever Belarusian printer F. Scaryna contributed to the development of literature. The first Renaissance poem in the Latin language about the native land "The Song about the Aurochs" was written by M. Gusouski in 1523. The publicist and translator S. Budny printed in Niasvizh in 1562 "The Catechism" - the first book in the ancient Belarusian language on the territory of modern Belarus. The defender of the native language V. Tsiapinski was the first to translate the Gospel into Belarusian (about 1580). M. Smatritski created "The Slavonic Grammar" in 1619. A substantial contribution into the development of the Belarusian written poetry was made by Simeon Polatski in the

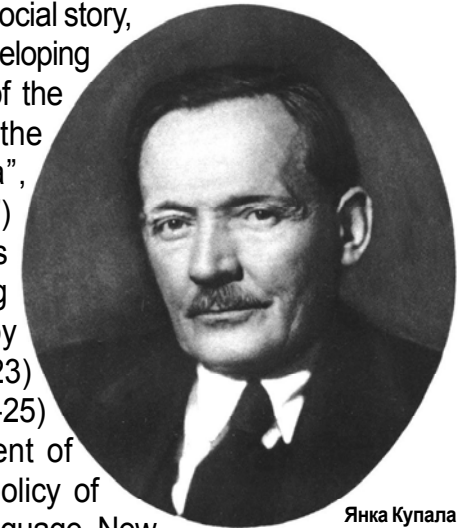
17th century. Since the mid 18th century the Polish writing traditions prevailed in Belarus. The genre of travesty ("The Comic Aneas") and mock ("Taras at the Parnassus") poetry and others were developing. During the 1863-64 uprising its leader K. Kalinouski published a newspaper "Muzhyckaya Prauda" in the Belarusian language. F. Bahushevich was creating civil and publicistic lyrics.

In 1906 in Vilnya the Belarusian newspaper "Nasha Niva" was established, around which gathered Lutskevich brothers (the founders of the newspaper), Y. Kupala, Y. Kolas, E. Pashkevich (Tetka), M. Bahdanovich



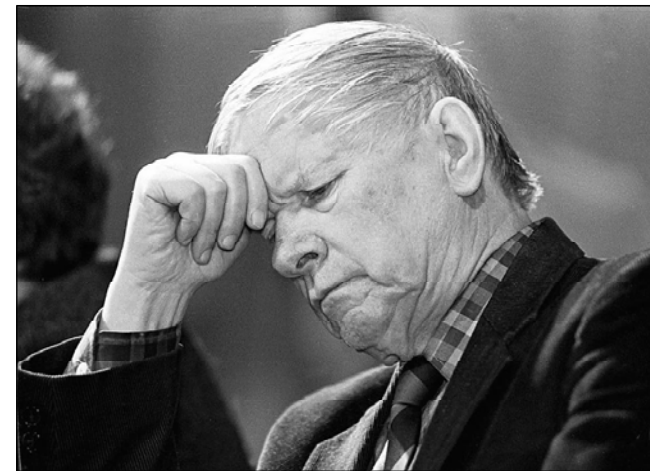
Максім Багдановіч

and others. The genres of realistic social story, allegory, parable, miniature were developing in the prose. The achievements of the play writing are associated with the name of Y. Kupala ("Paulinka", "Primaky", "The Devastated Nest") and with the foundation of I. Buinitski's professional theatre. At the beginning of the 20th century the poems by Y. Kolas "The New Land" (1911-23) and "Symon the Musician" (1911-25) were completed. The development of literature was promoted by the policy of popularisation of the Belarusian language. New



Янка Купала

writers appeared such as K. Chorny, M. Zaretski, M. Lynkau, K. Krapiva, Y. Maur, P. Brouka and others. Literary magazines appeared and literary organisations were created. The literature of Western Belarus was represented by U. Zhilka, M. Tank, P. Pestriak and others. A. Kuleshou, M. Tank, Y. Bryl, I. Melezh, I. Shamiakin and other authors were writing about the years of the Great Patriotic War. In 1955 Y. Kolas completed his trilogy "At the Cross-roads".



Васіль Быкаў, народны пісьменнік Беларусі.
Апошнім часам жыве ў Нямеччыне.
Памёр 22 чэрвеня 2003г.

During the second half of the 1940s - beginning of the 1960s R. Baradulin, G. Buraukin, N. Gilevich published their first collections of poems. Since the second half of the 1950s previously repressed authors A. Aleksandrovich,

S. Grakhouski, U. Dubouka, A. Zvonak and others renewed their creative work. During the second half of the 1950s - first half of the 1970s A. Adamovich, V. Bykau, U. Karatkevich, I. Naumenka, B. Sachenka, I. Ptashnikau, I. Chygrynau and others published their first books of prose. An entire epoch of the life of the Belarusian people with its cataclysms - revolutions, wars, collectivisation, repression of the 1920s - 1950s, restoration after the war - is shown in the novels by M. Lynkou, I. Shamiakin, I. Melezh, P. Pestriak and others. The harsh truth about the war is shown in the stories by Bykau. The genre of historical novels was given a new impetus by U. Karatkevich. A. Makayonak, M. Matukouski and others.

EXERCISES:

I. Continue the following sentences.

1. Literature started developing in Belarus with...
2. A big centre of written language...
3. The activities of the first ever Belarusian printer...
4. A substantial contribution to the development of the Belarusian written poetry...
5. The development of literature was promoted by...
6. The literature of Western Belarus was represented by...
7. During the 2nd half of the 1940s - beginning of the 1960s...

II. Give answers to the following questions.

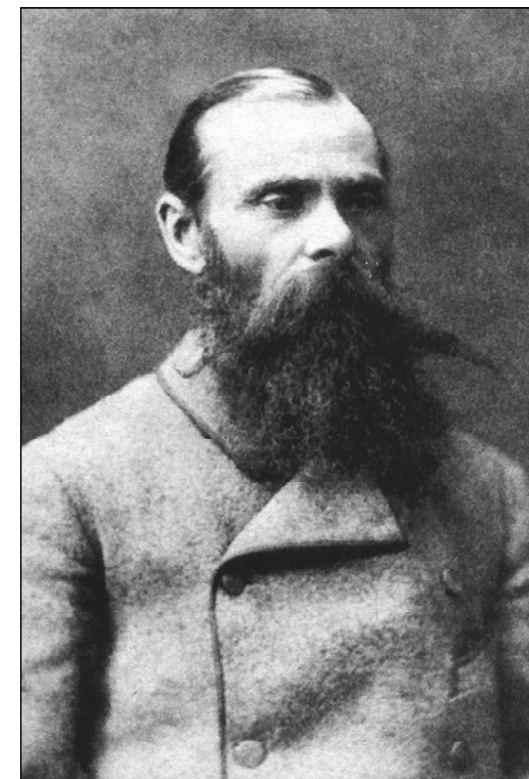
1. What town was the first big centre of the written language?
2. What works are considered to be examples of historical prose?
3. What was the first Renaissance poem about the native land?
4. What is Simeon Polatski famous for?
5. What promoted the development of Belarusian literature?
6. What is understood under the following terms: travesty, mock, allegory, parable, miniature?
7. What Belarusian poets and writers do you know?

FRANCISHAK BAHUSHEVICH

Francishak Bahushevich was among the first Belarusian intellectuals working towards the awakening of Belarusian national consciousness during the period of the strongest tsarist reaction. He is one of the first poets that started the New Belarusian Literature. He had given a new life to the Belarusian language in his works. All his life was devoted to an idea of Belarusian cultural revival.

Francishak-Benedikt Bahushevich was born on March 21, 1840 in Svirany (close to Vilnya) - the property of his father-shlyachtich (small rank aristocrat) Kazimir. He grew up in their another village - Kushlyany near the town of Ashmyany. In 1861 (the year of serfdom abolishment in the Russian Empire) he graduated from Vilnya Gymnazium among four best students. He entered St. Petersburg University the same year, but after the bloody dismissal of students protest march there he dropped the University. The rector of the St. Petersburg University decided to leave his post himself in a month, and two weeks later the Tsar closed the University itself to prevent student protests and disorders.

Back in Belarus there was a growing understanding of the chance for change. The beginner of New Belarusian Literature Vincent Dunin-Marcinkievich was calling for people education. Young Francishak joined a school for peasants opened by Aleksandar Zvyarovich in Docishki, close to Lida. There he met the uprising against Russian tsar of 1863. Francishak participated in the uprising until he was wounded in the leg. After the suppression of uprising Francishak Bahushevich went into hiding



from tsarist gendarmes. He left for the Ukrainian town of Nezhyn and was forced to stay away from homeland for 20 years. In 1868 Bahushevich graduated from Nezhyn Law Liceum and later he worked at different positions in the Ukrainian cities of Chernihau, Kanatop and other cities.

Only in 1883 during the coronation of tsar Alexander III there was amnesty of political prisoners - participants of the 1863 uprising led by Kastus Kalinouski. Francishak Bahushevich went back home and opened private law practice. He was very excited with the observations of the national Ukrainian revival while his stay in the Ukraine. Bahushevich started thinking about Belarusian revival.

First literary works of Bahushevich were done during his student years. He wrote the poems under the influence of Ukrainian poet Taras Sheuchenka in the Ukrainian. The first known poems of Bahushevich - «New 1886 year», «The view of hope» - were written in Polish and found in Lvou. These works were sent and published with the help of Jan Karlovich, a good friend and patron of Bahushevich. Bahushevich started to publish articles in the Polish magazine «Kraj» in St. Petersburg. During 1885-1891 he published more than 50 articles reporting conditions in Belarus, sometimes critical and always full of compassion. When his language matured he raised a problem of the Belarusian language.

In 1891 Francishak Bahushevich published in Krakau (Austria at that time) his book of poetry «Dudka Belaruskaya» (The Belarusian Pipe). He used a pseudonim «Macej Burachok».

The first poem «Maya dudka» is a passionate appeal to the Belarusians to realise their position, to unite against foreign national domination. The words of the poem sound tragically actual today when the independence of Belarus is in mortal danger.

After publishing the book Bahushevich started to write prose. His first story «Trylyalyonachka» was also published in Krakau. There he analysed the processes of disintegration in «postreform» (after 1861 serfdom abolishment) Belarusian village. His next story was so offensive to tsarist regime that Bahushevich published it without title page. Following Dunin-Marcinkievich and «Macej Burachok» young Belarusian intellectuals began writing about the oppression and injustice done to their people.

In his 60 years Bahushevich felt himself to be lucky to live so long. The

lives of many of his compatriots - Belarusian poets and writers - were short and tragic. A 24-year old Adam Gurynovich died in a prison of Petropavlovskaya Fortress; all tortured with diseases and half-paralysed died Yanka Luchyna from Mensk; Alherd Abuhovich died in Sluck shelter. Francishak Bahushevich died on April 28(15), 1900 in his village of Kushlyany in poverty and without recognition. A month before his death he financed installation of the barelief of Adam Mickievich to commemorate 100-year anniversary of his famous fellow countryman. Such was the path of Belarusian poet, writer and journalist - Francishak Bahushevich, a man who was seeking truth and enlightenment for his people at the times of despair and hopelessness.

EXERCISES:

I. Match the words with definitions

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 1. revival | a) a person kept in prison for crime; |
| 2. dismiss | b) a countryman working on the land; |
| 3. peasant | c) pity, feeling for the suffering of others; |
| 4. prisoner | d) name, taken, esp. by an author, instead of his real name; |
| 5. compassion | e) to send away, to put away from the mind; |
| 6. pseudonim | f) bringing or coming back into use or knowledge; |
| 7. to mature | g) become or cause to become mature, ripen, think out fully; develop fully. |

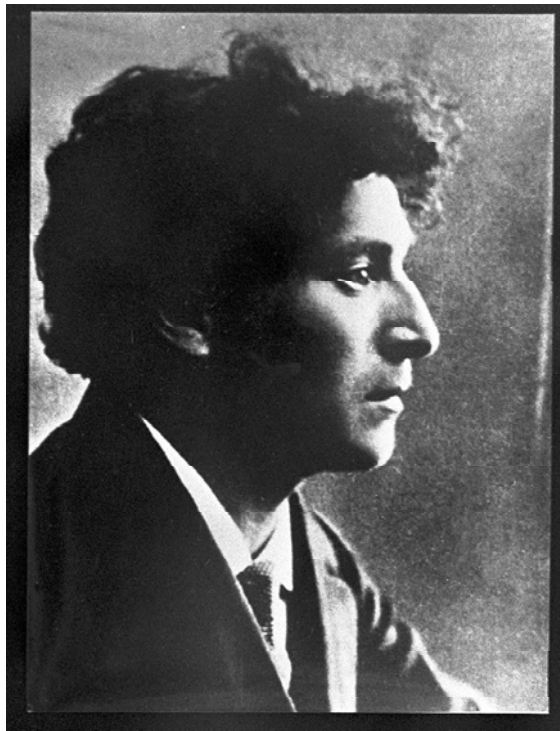
II. Make up as many combinations with the words from exercise I as possible.

III. Replace the following sentences in the proper order.

- Francishak Bahushevich published his book of poetry «Dudka Belaruskaya».
- Young Francishak joined a school for peasants opened by Alesandr Zvyarovich.
- F. Bahushevich died in 1900 in his village of Kushlyany.
- After the suppression of uprising he went into hiding from tsarist gendarmes.
- He entered St. Petersburg University.
- First literary works of Bahushevich were done during his student years.
- After publishing «Dudka Belaruskaya» he started to write prose.
- In 1883 Bahushevich went back home and opened private law practice.
- His first works were sent and published with the help of Jan Karlovich.

IV. Compose the plan that will help you to retell the text.

MARK SHAGALL



Марк Шагал. Фота 1915г.

Mark Chagall was born in 1887 in Vitsyebsk. He came to St.Petersburg in 1907 and found his way to Paris in 1911, returning to Russia before the Revolution. Already, he was closely involved with many of the greatest painters and poets of his time. Throughout his life he continued to recall and then, transmute, with an ever-increasing

intensity of colour, the memories of his youth in Russia. These as if in a dream, have been combined in his work with the experiences of his life in France and elsewhere. It is perhaps now, more than ever, we can fully realize the significance of Chagall's painterly achievements. In addition to his paintings there are his extraordinary contributions in the areas of printmaking, drawings and water colours, in his designs for stained glass, mosaics and in his work for the theatre. This indeed has been a full and enriching lifetime's work.

In 1979 Mark Chagall honoured the Royal Academy by accepting Honorary Academicianhip and is represented by distinguished works in the permanent collection of the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Now it only remains for us to express our gratitude to the artist for having enriched the world with the fruits of his imagination.

EXERCISES:

I. What do the following phrases and names refer to?

- Vitsyebsk
- Intensity of colour
- France
- The Royal Academy
- Philadelphia Museum of Art
- Revolution
- Water colour
- Mosaics
- The fruits of his imagination

II. Read the underlined sentences and express the same idea in another way

III. Answer the questions.

1. What is Mark Chagall famous for?
2. How did Chagall express his youth memories of Russia?
3. What pictures of Chagall have you seen?
4. What did he wish to express?



*** Render the following text in English.**

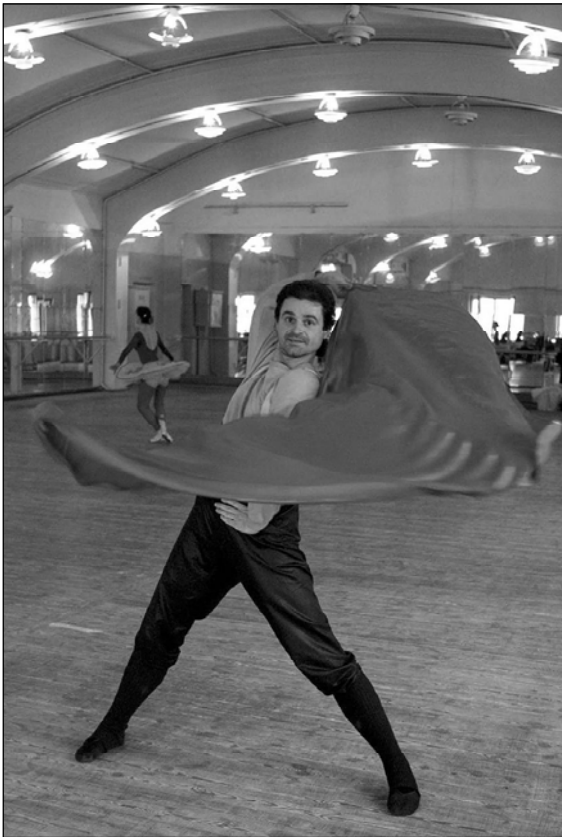
Расквітнець - to flourish
 Прыватнаўласніцкі - private
 Уладальнік - owner
 Паставіць - to put on
 Оперная труппа - operatic company
 Галоўная партыя - a leading part
 Прэм'ера - first night

ГІСТОРЫЯ БЕЛАРУСКАЙ ОПЕРЫ

Опернае мастацтва расквітнела на беларускіх землях у другой палове XVIII стагоддзя. Сярод шматлікіх прыватнаўласніцкіх тэатраў асаблівым размахам і высокім мастацкім узроўнем вылучаліся тэатры ў Нясвіжы, Слоніме, Гораднэ, Ружанах і Шклове. Іх уладальнікі – польска-беларускія магнаты Радзівілы, М.К.Агінскі, А.Тызенгауз, Сапегі і рускі вельможа, фаварыт Кацярыны II – Г. Зорыч.

У 1784 годзе ў Нясвіжы была пастаўлена опера Я. Д. Голанда на лібрэта М. Радзівіла “Агатка” – першая з опер, што былі напісаны на беларускай зямлі і дайшлі да нашага часу.

У 1851 годзе ў Менску ажыццявілася першая



Аляксандр Фурман, вядучы саліст Дзяржаўнага тэатра оперы і балета Рэспублікі Беларусь, падчас рэпетыцыі

пастаноўка оперы “Ідылія” (“Сялянка”) аднаго з ранніх твораў класіка польскай музыкі, ураджэнца Мінскага павета Станіслава Манюшкі.

У сезон 1890-1891 гадоў у будынку Менскага гарадскога тэатра працавала оперная труппа на чале з дырыжорам В. Сукам (будучым галоўным дырыжорам Вялікага Тэатру ў Маскве). У рэпертуар тэатра ўваходзіла 17 спектакляў, сярод якіх была і зусім нядаўна створаная опера Дж.Вердзі “Атэла”.

25 мая 1933 года лічыцца днём нараджэння беларускага тэатра оперы. У гэты дзень у будынку БДТ-1 прайшло прадстаўленне оперы Ж.Бізе “Кармэн” з Л.Александройскай у галоўнай партыі.

10 сакавіка 1939 года прэм'ерай оперы Я.Цыкоцкага “Міхась Падгорны” адкрыўся ўласны будынак тэатра на Траецкай гары, узведзены па праекце архітэктара І.Лангбарда. Значна пашкоджаны ў час вайны, ён быў рэканструяваны і набыў сучаснае аблічча ў 1948 годзе.

Выступленне на дэкадзе беларускага мастацтва ў Маскве ў 1940 годзе прынесла тэатру званне “Вялікі”. Былі паказаны тры нацыянальныя творы: акрамя “Міхася Падгорнага” оперы “У пушчах Палесся” А.Багатырава і “Кветка шчасця” А.Туранкова.

У 1964 годзе пасля паспяховых гастроляў у Маскве тэатр атрымаў званне “акадэмічны”.

З 1993 года беларуская опера рэгулярна гастралюе за мяжой. За гэты час труппа выступіла ў гарадах Гішпаніі, Партугаліі, Нямеччыны, Ізраіля і Польшчы, Бразіліі і Швейцарыі.

Сёння адміністрацыйнае і мастацкае кіраўніцтва тэатрам ажыццяўляе народны артыст Беларусі, кампазітар Сяргей Картэс. Галоўным дырыжорам з'яўецца сусветна вядомы музыкант, заслужаны дзеяч мастацтваў Расіі А.Анісімаў, галоўным хармейстрам - заслужаны дзеяч мастацтваў рэспублікі Беларусь Н.Ламановіч.

TEXT FOR ANNOTATION

I. Read the title of the text. Can you guess what the text will be about?

II. Read the text.

WAY TO GOLGOTHA: DRAMATIC FORTUNE OF BELARUSIAN

It is common knowledge that if people are deprived of their native language, they will gradually vanish from the face of the earth. That is why for many centuries of alien, disguised or undisguised domination of Belarus there has been a fierce war against the Belarusian language in our country.

To continue the thought we quote the words of the prominent Russian philosopher I. Ilyin: «There exists a law of Man, Nature and Culture, in accordance with which words are worthy of note, if they are pronounced by Man only in his own original way; and things can be great, if they originate only from the national spirit, experience and lifestyle. If denationalized, a man loses his way to the deepest sources of spiritual virtues, because they are always national and embody the centuries-old labour and struggle, reflections and thoughts, sufferings and prayers of his people. A man like that turns into a tramp without kith and kin, he becomes a miserable vagrant with strange spiritual values, he converts into an internationalist without any trace of individuality. Grief is in store for him and his children, as they are in danger of turning into dust and ashes...»

One of the main Mephistophelean actions of numerous political figures, who are in power in Belarus at present, is their five year struggle against the mother tongue and their anti-Belarusian linguacide strategy and tactics. Everything what they do, is deliberate and purposeful, but sometimes it is cloaked with fine words and epithets.

We give some quotations from the interview of the first Belarusian President. To the correspondent of «Soviet Belorussia» (July 27, 1990), which sums up the five-year way of «struggles and victories».

«I am perfectly aware of the tragic fates of Belarusian enlighteners and bards, I clearly realize the importance of the Belarusian language for the perfection of the nation... We have chosen the most democratic way, we have given our people a chance to speak, write and sing in the language which is more suitable for them...»

Suppose this interview is read by a Russian politician or a member of the Council of Europe. How will they interpret it? They will probably think that language is not a problem in Belarus. Actually, the strategy of exterminating the native language of the Belarusians is simple and cynical - it aims at making the mother tongue unnecessary in all spheres of life. With that end in view, Belarusian is removed from official documents; it is not admitted to colleges, universities, army, militia, law-courts, customs-houses, banks and other institutions; it is replaced by visual, design of towns and villages in Russian; it is made shamefully poor in the sphere of culture. All this is legalized in the new variant of Laws on Languages by using the word combination «Belarusian or Russian» to please all types of functionaries, who eliminated Belarusian from official use without a moment of hesitation. When addressed in Belarusian, they find a great pleasure in answering only in Russian, the language of Ivan the Terrible, Mikalai I and Uladzimir Ulyanau.

But the results of the last general census in the country turned out to be undesirable to the enemies of Belarusian national identity. In spite of numerous violations, the data show that nearly 4 million people (37%) speak Belarusian with their family members at home. And this is equal to the population of the present-day Lithuania, our neighbour.

That is why it is not yet time to bury the Belarusian language, it is too early!

It was not only yesterday when the process of exterminating Belarusian began. The process began much earlier.

Our national poet Yanka Kupala had all grounds for writing about it in his play «Local People» in the early 20th century.

In the second half of the 17th and 18th centuries the Belarusian language was increasingly displaced by Polish, and the process of polonization achieved its culmination in the first half of the 19th century. Later it was followed by total russification, which was methodically pursued, by tsarist governments. After the infamous Riga Peace Treaty (1921), when Western Belarus was given to Poland, the Head of Poland Juzaf Pilsudski, a Belarusian by birth who knew the native language well, launched a campaign against Belarusian education, history and culture.

*Aleh Trusau,
Chairman of Scaryna Belarusian Language Society*

EXERCISES:

I. What are the main problems raised in the text?

II. Find the sentences, which render the main idea of the text. Express the main idea in one sentence.

III. Whom is the text addressed to?

IV. Do you agree with the author? What is your own point of view on this problem?

V. Write an annotation. These phrases will help you:

This article deals with ...

It is pointed out that ...

The importance of ... is stressed

... are given

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. You are a diplomat. You have spent two years in Belarus. Now you tell your English colleague about the culture of this country.

2. Have you ever been to a Belarusian Art Gallery, one of Belarusian theatres? Answer your friend's questions about this visit.

3. Make a report about any Belarusian poet, writer or painter and present it to the group.

4. They say that the national culture of Belarus is dying. Do you agree with this statement?



THE NATURE OF BELARUS

GENERAL REMARKS ABOUT BELARUSIAN NATURE

At first glance, Belarusian nature is not marked by a variety of colours and **diversity** of images. Maybe it does not impress one as much as the nature of the tropics, the mountains or the seaside. However, those who look closely at Belarusian nature and listen attentively to its tones and sounds will be **overwhelmed** by the wealth, depth, and substance of its phenomena.

The nature in Belarus has many things in common with that in Eastern European countries **located** on a plain in a fairly cold climate. A **bird's-eye**

view of Belarus is that of a vast plain heavily covered with forest. Its western and northern parts are quite hilly. The southern part is fairly marshy lowland. Among primeval forests (pushcha) and **sandy** hills the mirrors of uncountable lakes shine. Silver ribbons of big rivers cut through the country's territory carrying their waters either to the Black or to the Baltic Sea.

That was the bird's-eye view of the country. The **close-up view** is quite different and very **fascinating**. The nature of northern Belarus cannot be regarded as monotonous. Views, one more beautiful



Молодзь купаецца ў воз. Свіцязь.
Наваградскі р-н Гарадзенскай вобл.

than the other, change there very quickly with every road turn, every hill and **gully**. Southern, **low-laying** Belarus, in the sense of relief, is more monotonous. It fascinates one by the mysterious width of its **landscapes** and the wild intact character of its nature.

EXERCISES:

I. Guess the meaning of the words in bold type.

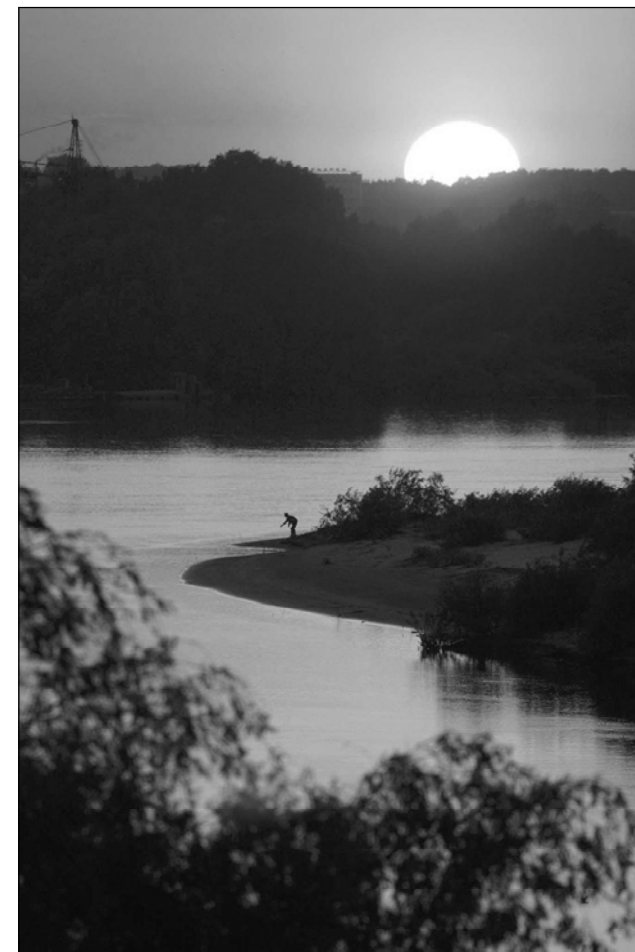
II. Put the words in the right order to make up a sentence.

1. nature, not, by, variety, Belarusian, marked, colours, is, a, of.
2. western, Belarus, The, of, is, hilly, part, very.
3. southern, fairly, lowland, The, is, part, a, marshy.
4. are, lot, in, a, lakes, There, of, Belarus.
5. nature, Belarus, not, northern, The, of, is, monotonous.
6. one, wild, of, It, there, intact, its, by, fascinates, character, nature.

ADDITIONAL READING

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

Uplands and lowlands are the main types of landscapes that can be distinguished in Belarus. Belarusian uplands were created during the Ice Age. The limit of the last advance of the ice-sheet lays across the country and is marked by a line of terminal moraines, known as the Belarusian randge. This randge runs west-southwest to east-northeast from the Polish frontier north of Brest toward Smalensk and consists of low, rolling hills. River valleys cut the randge into a series of uplands, the



sequence being: Hrodna upland, Vaukavysk upland, Shchara valley, Navahradak upland, Neman valley, Mensk upland, Biarezina valley, Dzvinna and Vitsyebsk-Nieviel upland, Dnieper upland and a final group of uplands along the eastern boundary. The highest group is Mensk upland, which reaches 365 meters in Lysaya Mountain. There are extensive lowlands to the north and south of the randge. To the south there is the biggest Belarusian lowland called Palesseye

Надосвітку. р. Прыпяць, г. Мозырь

which is drained by the Pripyat river and its tributaries. The Pripyat river flows eastward to join the Dnieper river which crosses the eastern part of Palesseye from the north to the south. In northern Belarus there are two more large lowlands: Neman lowland, drained by the river of that name, in the northwest, and the Polatsk lowland, drained by the Western Dzvina, in the north. These two lowlands are separated by two morainic ranges, the Ashmiany and Svientsiany ranges, with the Viliya valley between them. The two northern basins contain many lakes of glacial origin, the largest of which is Lake Narach. Thus, Belarus falls into three main drainage basins, the Dnieper-Pripyat basin draining into the Black sea, and the Neman and Western Dzvina basins, draining into the Baltic sea.

THE HISTORY OF BELAVEZHSKAYA PUSHCHA

The words «Belavezhskaya Pushcha» are familiar to each Belarusian. The word Pushcha is one of the most expressive and euphonious in the Belarusian language. The word's sounds make the listener imagine a primeval forest which has preserved its prehistoric nature. As for the name Belavezhskaya Pushcha, it appeared in Lithuanian and Polish chronicles in 1409 and has lived till today. The forest acquired its name thanks to the white tower (Belaya Vezha) which was erected more than 700 years ago (between 1276 and 1288) near the small town of Kamianec. The original name of the tower is Kamianeckaya Vezha - after the name of the town. The tower had strategic military purpose - to watch the approach of enemy troops.

At that time the tower was surrounded by dense forest. Now only from the top of the tower can one see an immense space of forest. Nowadays Belavezhskaya Pushcha is what is left of the primeval forest which in 12th century stretched from the Baltic sea to the Bug river and from the Oder to the Dnieper river.

The first mentions of the Pushcha appeared in 983. An archaeological

investigation showed that in prehistoric times bull, cave bear, north elk, and mammoth lived on the territory of today's Pushcha. As for man, science is silent as to when he appeared in the Pushcha. Only a tribe of Yacviahi are mentioned in the Kieu chronicles. The origin of Yacviahi is unknown. Some believe that they were Lithuanians; others consider them Slavs. In 983 Kieu Prince Uladzimir began to force Yacviahi out of the Pushcha. Lithuanian Prince Traiden in 1281 «succesfully» finished the extermination of the ancient tribe. The rest of Yacviahi were assimilated by the Belarusians.

The first attempt to profit from the Pushcha dates back to the middle of the 16th century. During the reign of Polish King Sigizmund August, four iron producing plants were built on the territory of the Pushcha. At the same time collection of resin, distilling of tar, and burning of coal started.



The industrial development of the Pushcha flourished during the reign of the last Polish King Stanislaw August. Rivers flowing through the Pushcha were cleared and the floating of timber to Dancig began.

In 1795 after the division of Rzech Pospolita Belavezhskaya Pushcha found itself a part of the Russian empire. The empress Katherine the Great distributed the Pushcha among her servants who took part in the subjugation of the forest territory. Since then the an-

cient forest has suffered from both natural disasters and human activities. In May 1811 the Pushcha suffered from a conflagration which was extinguished only in the middle of October by rains. The fire caused the number of animals living in the Pushcha to decrease sharply. But not only the fire was the cause of the decrease in the number of animals. In 1812 the forest became one of the theatres of the martial operations of Napoleon. The French troops were followed by the Austrian troops of Schwarzenberg. All these troops needed food, which they found in the Pushcha. In the 1830s the Pushcha was often visited by boat builders from St. Petersburg who found in the forest very rich resources of timber. Three thousand people were involved in the cutting of the oaks and pines there. At the end of the 40s of the 19th century the Pushcha suffered another mass cutting. In 1864 the first twenty noble elks, which had been exterminated by 1705, were brought from Germany and released into the terrain of the Pushcha. In 1888 the Russian czar Nicolai II took Pushcha's lands under his patronage. World War I did not bypass the ancient forest. German invaders constructed 300 km of railroads and in two years cut down and took to Germany 4.5 million cubic meters of the best timber. Exploitation of the forest did not terminate after the war when the Pushcha was acquired by Poland. Every year more than a million cubic meters of timber were taken to England. In 1939, after the Soviets «liberated» Western Belarus, the Pushcha was declared a state reserve. The silence did not last long. World War II began and the Pushcha was again occupied by Germans. During the war the library and scientific archives of the forest were burnt down. After the Pushcha was cleared of Nazis, the forest resumed its reserve status. Many well known scientists came to study the natural heritage of the Pushcha. In 1944 part of the reserve was given to neighbouring Poland.

In 1957 the reserve entered another stage when it was turned into a hunting reserve. Power keepers treated the Pushcha not as a natural



Віскулі – урадавая рэзідэнцыя

heritage but as a place for rest and hunting. However, it is worth mentioning that the new status contributed to the improvement of the living and working conditions of the workers of the forest reserve. A hotel, school, museum, and administrative buildings were erected very quickly. At the same time governmental residence was built in the part of the Pushcha called Viskuli.

The World learnt about Viskuli in December 1991 when the USSR ceased to exist. It was in Viskuli where the leaders of three Slavonic republics of the USSR were summoned to dissolve the Soviet Union. Belavezhskaya Pushcha proved its historical significance having become a noticeable point on the political map. The same year the hunting reserve was dissolved. Belavezhskaya Pushcha was declared a national park. The residence in Viskuli acquired the status of governmental residence of the Republic of Belarus.

On December 14, 1992 UNESCO included the ancient forest on the list of the World Heritage of Humankind. A year later UNESCO gave the Pushcha the status of biosphere reserve. Thus the Pushcha entered a world system for surveying changes in the environment.

EXERCISES:

I. Find the words which suit the following definitions in the text.

- adj., of the earliest time in the world's history, very ancient;
- n., tall, square or circular building, either standing alone or forming part of a church, castle, etc.;
- n., unit of cavalry under the command of a captain;
- n., racial group, esp. one united by language and customs, living as a community under one or more chief;
- n., apparatus, fixtures, machinery, etc., used in an industrial process;

- f) n., period of sovereignty, rule;
- g) v., to give or send out, spread out over a large area;
- h) v., to feel or have pain, loss, etc.;
- i) adv., in an abrupt manner;
- j) v., to allow to go, to set free;
- k) n., wood prepared for use in building, etc.;
- l) v., to come or bring to an end, stop.

III. Use the verbs in brackets in the correct tense and voice form.

1. The name (to appear) in Lithuanian and Polish chronicles in 1409 and (to live) till today.
2. The White Tower (to erect) more than 700 years ago.
3. The tribe of Yacviachi (to mention) in the Kieu chronicles.
4. The prehistoric times bull, cave, bear, elk, mammoth (to live) on the territory of today's Pushcha.
5. The industrial development of the Pushcha (to flourish) during the reign of the last Polish King.
6. Since that time Katherine the Great (to distribute) the Pushcha among her servants the ancient forest (to suffer) from human activities.
7. The French troops (to follow) by the Austrian troops.
8. At the end of the forties of the 19th century the Pushcha (to suffer) another mass cutting.
9. In 1939 the Pushcha (to declare) a state reserve.
10. In 1957 the reserve (to enter) another stage when it (to turn) into a hunting reserve.

III. Translate the following sentences from Belarusian into English.

1. Гучанне гэтага слова прымушае нас уявіць сабе першабытны лес, які да сённяшняга моманту захаваў дагістарычныя рысы.
2. У той час вежа была акружана густым лесам.
3. Некаторыя мяркуюць, што гэта былі літоўцы, іншыя лічуць іх славянамі.
4. Першая спроба атрымаць карысць з пушчы датуецца ся-рэдзінай 16 ст.
5. У 1795 годзе, пасля падзелу Рэчы Паспалітай пушча апы-

- нулася часткай Расейскай імперыі.
- 6. Пажар прывёў да рэзкага памяншэння колькасці жывёлін у пушчы.
- 7. Першая сусветная вайна не мінула пушчу.
- 8. Пасля таго, як пушча была вызвалена ад нацыстаў, яна зноў набыла першапачатковы статус.
- 9. Улады лічылі пушчу не прыроднай спадчынай, а месцам адпачынку і палявання.

*Render in English.

Суседняя - neighbouring

Быць уключаным - to be included

Заказнік - reserve

Запаведнік - preserve

Запаведна-паляўнічая гаспадарка - preserve-hunting forestry

Беларускі нацыянальны парк Белавежская пушча ўяўляе сабой адзіны прыродны комплекс з такім жа паркам у суседняй Польшчы. Яны уключаны ў спіс Сусветнай культурнай і прыроднай спадчыны. Наш запаведнік – адзін са старэйшых у свеце, бярэ пачатак у 13 стагоддзі. Плошча – 87,6 тысячы гектараў з лясістасцю тэрыторыі 88 %. Працягласць ляснога масіву з поўначы на поўдзень каля 70 кіламетраў. Адміністрацыйны цэнтр знаходзіцца ў пасёлку Камянюкі Камянецкага раёна, за 60 кіламетраў ад Брэста. За час існавання, у залежнасці ад форм аховы, меў розныя назвы – заказнік, запаведнік, запаведна-паляўнічая гаспадарка, нарэшце – нацыянальны парк.

BELAVEZHSKAYA PUSHCHA

Belavezhskaya Pushcha is the last ancient and virgin forest massif that exists on the Central European lowland. More than a thousand of 300-700 year-old oak trees are registered here. Situated at the mixed and broad-leaved forests junction, the Pushcha is notable for different natural complexes and forests, meadow and water ecosystems which are preserved in their initial state. The Pushcha's originality is in the combination of East European dark-coniferous and West European broad-leaved forests. It is conditioned by the peculiarities of climate, terrain, soils and hydrology, by proximity of the Palesye lowland in the south and the Belarusian range in the north. Winters in the Pushcha are the shortest in Belarus and the vegetation period is the longest here. The Pushcha also provides favorable habitat for various animals and plants, including rare and disappearing species. They are most common in extreme eastern and north-eastern parts of the reserve.

908 species of high vascular plants and more than 250 moss and lichen species grow in the Pushcha. The flora contains 25 tree and 34 bush species. The most popular here are pine, oak, maple, and hornbeam forests. Their mean age is 130 years. The durmast oak-tree is found only on the island of one thousand hectares, forming a mixed old-age tree-stand. Various plant species such as silver fir, ivy, dark geranium and many others are unique in Belarus. 40 plant species in the Pushcha are under special control. Two have been put down in the Belarusian Red Data Book.

The high-moor bogs have low-salient or even terrain with one-tier standing pine-trees.

One will not find natural lakes in the Pushcha but there are 10 artificial reservoirs. The Lyady reservoir (220 hectares in area), located in the Perevoloka floodlands is the largest among them.

The natural state of wild flora and fauna of the Pushcha made it famous all over the world. But the most wonderful thing about it is the rebirth of the Belavezhsky aurochs whose number today is nearing 320. The Belavezhsky auroch, like the Pushcha, is the relic of the ancient period. The aurochs is the most ancient animal widely spread in the past. The first written mention about the aurochs dates back to the 3rd century B.C.

The European deer numbering 1,500-2,000 heads nowadays is well settled in the Pushcha. There were times, however, when its herd reached 5,000 animals which adversely affected the nature and the deer themselves. Today, extra deer are caught and resettled.

The Belavezhskaya Pushcha's fauna contains 59 mammal, 227 bird, 7 reptile, 11 amphibia, 27 fish and nearly 8,500 insect species.

The fauna of Belavezhskaya Pushcha is also rich in such carnivorous birds as blackgrouse and lesser-spotted eagle. Rare species of golden eagle and red eagle are often seen. In remote parts of the Pushcha there are nine black stork-nesting places. The world of passerine is very rich and diversified.

Forest improvement activities have been pursued in the Pushcha since 1842. Thanks to the quarterly estimates processes that have developed

in the Pushcha for 150 years are under good control. Research work began in the Pushcha at the turn of the 17th century. The present large-scale research carried out in the Pushcha has changed it into a true laboratory. Scientists are engaged in enlightenment-educational work on nature preservation. To boost this work, there is a museum of flora and fauna containing 10,000 exhibits.



Мікалай Дзэнiсюк, таксiдэर्मiст, падчас работы над чучаламi
ваўкоў, Нацыянальны парк Белавежская пушча

EXERCISES:

I. Explain the meaning of the following words and phrases and compose your own sentences with them.

Lowland, vegetation period, favorable habitat, disappearing species, to be under special control, an artificial reservoir, rebirth, large-scale research.

II. Write questions for these answers.

1. Yes, more than a thousand of 300-700 year-old oak trees are registered here.
2. It is conditioned by the peculiarities of climate.
3. They have been put down in the Belarusian Red Data Book.
4. The natural state of wild flora and fauna of the Pushcha made it famous all over the world.
5. It is the European deer that is well settled in the Pushcha.
6. The world of passerine is very rich and diversified.
7. Yes, it has been changed into a true laboratory.

III. Speak about Belavezhskaya Pushcha using the information given in the previous texts. Follow the plan.

1. The origin of the name.
2. The first mentions of the Pushcha.
3. A brief history of the Pushcha.
4. The Pushcha today.
5. The flora and fauna of the Pushcha.

CHERNOBYL TRACE IN BELARUS

On April 26, 1986, in Kieu region, the Ukraine, 12 kilometers from the Belarusian border, a catastrophe occurred - the major **breakdown** of a power unit at the Chernobyl nuclear power station. By its scale, complexity, and long-term consequences, it is the most severe catastrophe in the entire world history of atomic energy use. As the result of the **explosion** of the failed reactor, a huge amount of radioactive substances were emitted into the atmosphere. The accident has left its radioactive fall-



Словы з гімна СССР на сцяне дома ў горадзе-прывідзе Прыпяць, насельніцтва якога (30 тыс.) было эвакуіравана пасля трагедыі

out trace on 23% of the territory of Belarus, 3778 settlements with more than 2 million people **had resided** therein; on 4.8% of the territory of the Ukraine; and 0.5% of the territory of Russia. The density of contamination with caesium-137 radionuclides constitutes more than 1 Ci/sq.km.

The radioactive trace, left on the ground surface, corresponded to the direction of movement of the radiation clouds. The first days after the accident the radioactive clouds moved north-west, north,



Чацвёрты блок Чарнобыльскай АЭС

and north-east from the Chernobyl nuclear power station near Belarus. By April 30, the direction changed to the north and east.

After the Chernobyl accident Belarus became a zone of ecological disaster.

The situation got worse since the newly emerged areas of radioactive **contamination** coincided with the formerly existing areas of high chemical pollution. Radionuclides spread from the areas to all regions of the Republic. But the trace of radiation has an extremely uneven, spotted nature. A lot of small areas have both clean and contaminated strips. The area of agricultural lands contaminated with radioactive caesium-137 with a **density** of more than 1 Ci/sq.km. constitutes 1600 thousand hectares in the republic, from which more than 200 thousand hectares cannot be used for agricultural purposes. 1685 thousand hectares of forest in Belarus are contaminated with radioactive elements. The catastrophe has affected the destinies of millions of the Belarusians. The radioactive contamination of the ecosystem will stifle normal agricultural production and forestry for many decades.

The most affected regions in Belarus are those of Homel and Mahilyow. Outside the boundaries of the evacuation zone, the high density of contamination with caesium-137 was observed in a number of places. Spots of strontium with levels of radiation ranging from 2 to 3.2 Ci/sq.km. were found in Hoiniki, Vetka, Brahlin, and Dobrush districts; few spots of plutonium-238, -239, and -240 with the level of more than 0.1 Ci/sq.km are in Narovlya district. All other regions of Belarus are contaminated to a lesser extent with caesium.

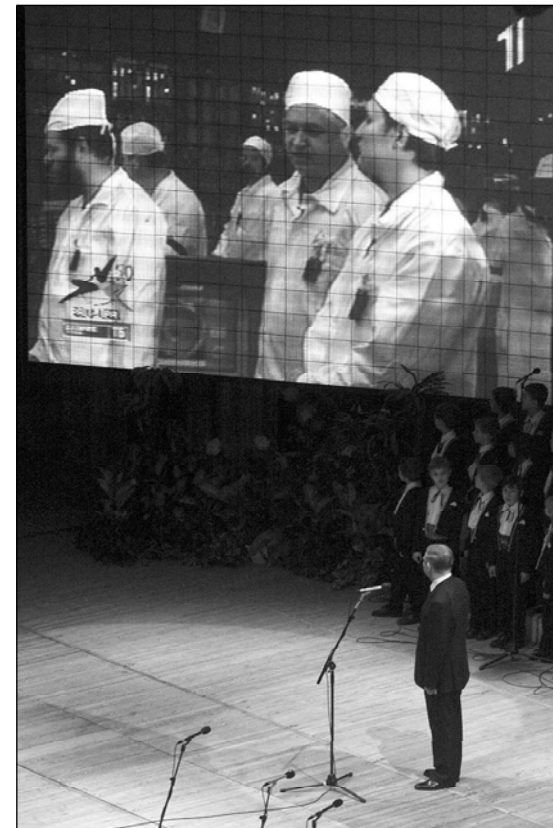
Investigation showed that from the end of 1986, after the termination

of blow-out from the reactor's active zone, a marked space of migration of the long-existent radionuclides was not observed. Migration of strontium-137 and strontium-90 in the soil varies. At present the main share of caesium is in the soil layer from 0 to 5 cm. The behavior of strontium-90 and caesium-137 in the system of «soil-plant» has a number of peculiarities in Belarus: usually the **induction** of strontium in plants is about 10 times higher than that of caesium. But in the light sand and in the peat soils, the migration of caesium is very intensive and can be regarded as comparable to the accumulation of strontium in them.

A lot of work has been done in Belarus in the post-accident period in order to decrease the influence of radiation on people. Measures were taken **to evacuate** people from the most dangerous districts and provide

them with medical treatment. However, the measures are far from being adequate because the extent of the disaster is too great for Belarus to cope with it on its own.

Currently, a great part of the population still resides in the areas of increased radiation. Very often agricultural products from private plots of land are used for food in the contaminated areas. This consumption of tainted foods results in higher radiation doses received by people not only from outer but also from inner exposure. The impact of radiation on the human body is expressed in many



Леанід Кучма, прэзідэнт Украіны, дае каманду аператару пульту на закрыццё трэцяга, апошняга блока Чарнобыльскай АЭС. 15 снежня 2000г.



«Чарнобыльскі шлях-97». Штогод дэмакратычная грамадскасць ладзіць 26 карасавіка шматтысячныя шэсці, мітынгі супраць палітыкі замочвання сапраўдных вынікаў трагедыі. На здымках: удзельнікі шэсцяў розных гадоў у Менску

ways, one of the most dangerous of which is the chromosome aberrations **causing** mutations. The mutations in the case of Chernobyl were mostly recessive, which means that their accumulative effect **will not be obvious** for several generations. However, cases of mutations in **mammals** and plants have already occurred in the contaminated area, and there have been a few cases of mutation in newly born children. But, again, the worst has yet to come.

One of the most delayed effects of radiation is the induction of cancer. As the experts predicted, in the

contaminated territories of Belarus, especially in Homel and Mahilyow regions, the increase in leukaemia, or blood cancer, caused by the Chernobyl disaster is already frightening. What is even worse, there are dozens of cases of leukaemia among the children in Mensk, the capital of Belarus, a city with 1.7 million people. Mensk was considered to be clear from radiation; however, there are several big radioactive hotspots around the city, and there is absolutely no guarantee that these spots haven't spread over Mensk. Most of those children didn't visit the regions of high levels of pollution, but still they got the radiation-induced disease. They are being treated in a special radiological hospital, but in order **to cure** leukaemia they need a complicated bone marrow transplant. This operation is very expensive and few people have such sums in the Republic that is undergoing the heaviest economic

crisis. Almost every day in the Belarusian newspapers, one can see the **ads**, begging for financial help written by the despairing parents who don't want to watch their children dying of cancer. But few people can afford to spend thousands of dollars when the average monthly **salary** is no more than 70 dollars.

The topic of the children of Chernobyl is most shocking and awful. The only world these children see are the white walls of the hospitals, and they have to take painful procedures every day - in this way, the doctors are trying **to postpone**



«Чарнобыльскі шлях-2000»



«Чарнобыльскі шлях-98»

the fatal moment. The discarded dolls and toys in the villages within the 30-kilometer-zone around Chernobyl were shown on TV, but no one seems to care for the 3-year-old kids with daily headaches caused by radiation taken in with food, air, and water. The children's immune systems can't resist the invisible enemy, and the result is the statistical fact that the number of absolutely healthy children in Belarus does not **exceed** 20 per cent. The rest have more or less serious health disorders. And everything can be included as a reason - Chernobyl, the general ecological situation, nitrates in food, the economic crisis, etc.



«Чарнобыльскі шлях-99»

The Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus passed laws defining the legal and socio-economic status of the radiation contaminated areas as well as the living conditions of the population in them. Nevertheless, the consequences of the accident are so enormous that it is impossible for Belarus to liquidate them alone. The Republic badly needs medicine and **contemporary** medical equipment. The realization of protective anti-radiation measures requires expenditures exceeding those available to the Republic of Belarus. The

Belarusian people, guiltless **victims** of the horrendous catastrophe, need the help of the international community. International cooperation with the goal of studying and minimizing the effects of radiation serves the interests of the entire mankind.

EXERCISES:

I. What do the following phrases refer to? Explain their meaning.

Long-term consequences, a huge amount of radioactive substances, radioactive trace, a zone of ecological disaster, to be used for agricultural purposes, the boundaries of the evacuation zone, to provide with medical treatment, the impact of radiation on smth., the induction of cancer, to undergo an economic crisis, to pass laws.

II. Guess the meaning of the words in bold type.

III. Express the idea given in the following sentences in your own way.

1. The area of agricultural lands contaminated with radioactive caesium-137 with a density of more than 0,1 Ci/sq.km. constitutes 1600 thousand hectares in the republic, from which more than 200 thousand hectares cannot be used for agricultural purposes.
2. But in the light sand and in the peat soils, the migration of caesium is very intensive and can be regarded as comparable to the accumulation of strontium in them.
3. A lot of work has been done in Belarus in the post-accident period in order to decrease the influence of radiation on people.
4. The measures are far from being adequate because the extent of the disaster is too great for Belarus to cope with it on its own.
5. The mutations in the case of Chernobyl were mostly recessive, which means that their accumulative effect will not be obvious for several generations.
6. As the experts predicted, in the contaminated territories of Belarus, especially in Homel and Mahilyow regions, the increase in leukaemia, or blood cancer, caused by the Chernobyl disaster is already frightening.
7. Minsk was considered to be clear from radiation; however, there are several big radioactive hotspots around the city, and there is absolutely no guarantee that these spots haven't spread over Minsk.
8. International cooperation with the goal of studying and minimizing the effects of radiation serves the interests of the entire mankind.

IV. Answer the following questions.

1. Why is the Chernobyl catastrophe considered to be the most severe in the world history of atomic energy?
2. Where did the radioactive trace correspond after the catastrophe?
3. Why is it said that the trace of the radiation has a spotted nature?
4. How did the catastrophe affect millions of the Belarusians? What are the most delayed effects of radiation?
5. What are the most affected regions in Belarus?
6. What work was done in the republic in the post-accident period in order to decrease the influence of radiation?
7. Why is the topic of children of Chernobyl treated as shocking and awful?
8. What can be done to minimise the impact of radiation upon the people?

V. Find the sentences containing the main idea of the text. Compose a plan and retell the text according to your plan.

TEXT FOR ANNOTATION

I. Read the title of the text. Say what the text will be about.

II. Read the text. What is the theme of the text, whom is the text addressed to?

ECOLOGY IN BELARUS: A CHANCE FOR PRIPYAT

Disappearance is threatening the Pripyat marshes - the last virgin marsh landscape on the European continent.

The point is that 175.000 hectares of swamped areas near the river Pripyat are planned to be drained and turned into agricultural land. This is supposed to compensate the loss of useful agricultural lands, polluted by radio-activity. For realizing this gigantic project the Belarusian Government has already inquired the World Bank about a billion dollars credit.

Is it necessary for agricultural lands to appear just on the place where the Pripyat marshes are located now? Could the needs of the Belarusian population in provisions and the saving of unique European swamped landscape fail to coincide?

If you look at the Pripyat marshes from the height of a bird's flight, a majestic picture can be seen: the gigantic water spaces, lakes, water-meadows, swamps.

A lot of specimens of flora and fauna, which are rare or became extinct in other places, can be met here. These places are the centres of populations of such birds as a spotted eagle, a corncrake and a reed-warbler. Take a reed-warbler, for example, we can see what catastrophic consequences could be



Буслы – сімвал сучаснай Беларусі



Хто стане сімвалам краіны меліяратараў?

made by drainage of the Pripyat marshes. This small grey and brown bird with a shrill voice used to be widespread in Europe: from France to the Urals. Nowadays in many countries a reed-warbler is extinct or at risk of disappearance. Drainage of marches overgrown with reed is the reason of it.

For the last 30 years population of the reed-warbler has been decreasing on 90 per cent in Belarus. The matter is, that during this period millions hectares of marshes have been drained. However today's the biggest population of

the reed-warbler inhabit the untouched watermarshes of the Pripyat. Drainage will simply destroy this population.

As a result, tens of thousands different ducks, corncrakes, thousands storks, which are still inhabiting the flood-lands of the river, will disappear. Traditional means of agriculture especially cattle-breeding, which use the water-meadows, will suffer from this. There is a correlation between the diversity of species, inhabited here and agricultural traditions. The rare species are bred on the meadows, where the cattle pulled the grass out.

In some places drainage work is being done already. Every day buckets of excavators gnaw the land. We can imagine consequences of this activity: rare species of flora and fauna have disappeared, ecologically important water balance is broken. Drained areas are seen around: in some years they will lose their fertility, and then we will have to put into practice artificial irrigation. We can't but see that it will tell on the climate.

«There were fertile soils here, but now I have to plough pure sand» - says a tractor driver who has been already cultivating drained ground for 15 years. Enlargement of agricultural areas in this way is nonsense both economically and ecologically.

In Western Europe people have realized it today. Belarusian scientists and conservationists try to prove that there are other ways. They work in two directions. Firstly, they explore the places where a reed-warbler, which is put in the Belarusian Red Data Book, lives. Secondly, they work out the conception of creating of large natural reserves. The areas have been already marked on the map and are temporally under protection.

The natural reserves call for saving the ecologically sensitive landscapes of the Pripyat from destruction.

Today the drainage canals and bunched elevators are on the decline. But we could get more useful areas with less expenses. We just need far-sighted decisions. This is to the large extent related to the World Bank.

I. Find in the text the sentences, which render the main idea of the article. What is it?

II. What is your own attitude towards the problem?

III. What was the aim of the author?

IV. Write an annotation. These phrases will help you:

The article is concerned with ...

It is shown that ...

The concepts of ... are considered

It should be noted that ...

The fact that ... is stressed

The following conclusions are drawn:

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. You are a guide at a tourist office. Your task is to advertise a trip to Belavezhskaya Pushcha.

2. Make a report on ecological problems existing in our country. Present it to your group.



APPENDIX

IRREGULAR VERBS

I форма	II форма	III форма	IV форма
to arise	arose	arisen	arising
to awake	awoke/awaked	awaked/awakened	awaking
to be	was, were	been	being
to bear	bore	borne	bearing
to beat	beat	beaten	beating
to begin	began	begun	beginning
to bend	bent	bent	bending
to bind	bound	bound	binding
to bite	bit	bitten/bit	biting
to blow	blew	blown	blowing
to break	broke	broken	breaking
to bring	brought	brought	bringing
to broadcast	broadcast/broad-casted	broadcast/broad-casted	broadcasting
to build	built	built	building
to burst	burst	burst	bursting
to buy	bought	bought	buying
to catch	caught	caught	catching
to choose	chose	chosen	choosing
to cut	cut	cut	cutting
to deal	dealt	dealt	dealing
to dive	dived/dove	dived	diving
to do	did	done	doing
to draw	drew	drawn	drawing
to drink	drank	drunk	drinking
to drive	drove	driven	driving
to eat	ate	eaten	eating
to fall	fell	fallen	falling
to feed	fed	fed	feeding
to fight	fought	fought	fighting
to find	found	found	finding
to fly	flew	flown	flying
to forbid	forbade	forbidden	forbidding
to forget	forgot	forgotten	forgetting
to forgive	forgave	forgiven	forgiving
to freeze	froze	frozen	freezing
to get	got	gotten/got	getting
to give	gave	given	giving
to go	went	gone	going
to grow	grew	grown	growing
to hang	hung	hung	hanging
to have	had	had	having
to hear	heard	heard	hearing
to hit	hit	hit	hitting
to hold	held	held	holding
to hurt	hurt	hurt	hurting
to know	knew	known	knowing
to lay	laid	laid	laying
to lead	lead	lead	leading
to leap	leapt/leaped	leapt/leaped	leaping
to leave	left	left	leaving
to lend	lent	lent	lending

I форма	II форма	III форма	IV форма
to let	let	let	letting
to lie	lay	lain	lying
to lose	lost	lost	losing
to make	made	made	making
to meet	met	met	meeting
to pay	paid	paid	paying
to put	put	put	putting
to read	read	read	reading
to ride	rode	ridden	riding
to ring	rang	rung	ringing
to rise	rose	risen	rising
to run	ran	run	running
to say	said	said	saying
to see	saw	seen	seeing
to sell	sold	sold	selling
to send	sent	sent	sending
to set	set	set	setting
to shake	shook	shaken	shaking
to shine	shone	shone	shining
to shoot	shot	shot	shooting
to show	showed	shown/showed	showing
to sing	sang	sung	singing
to sink	sank	sunk	sinking
to sit	sat	sat	sitting
to sleep	slept	slept	sleeping
to speak	spoke	spoken	speaking
to spend	spent	spent	spending
to spring	sprang	sprung	springing
to steal	stole	stolen	stealing
to stick	stuck	stuck	sticking
to strike	struck	struck/stricken	striking
to swear	swore	sworn	swearing
to sweep	swept	swept	sweeping
to swim	swam	swum	swimming
to take	took	taken	taking
to teach	taught	taught	teaching
to tear	tore	torn	tearing
to tell	told	told	telling
to think	thought	thought	thinking
to throw	threw	thrown	throwing
to wake	woke/waked	waked/awoken/wakened	waking
to wear	wore	worn	wearing
to weep	wept	wept	weeping
to win	won	won	winning
to wind	wound	wound	winding
to write	wrote	written	writing

THE SYSTEM OF ENGLISH TENSES

NON - FINITE FORMS

INFINITIVE

ACTIVE VOICE

INDEFINITE	CONTINUOUS	PERFECT	PERFECT CONTINUOUS
<u>to ask</u>	<u>to be asking</u>	<u>to have asked</u>	<u>to have been asking</u>

PASSIVE VOICE

INDEFINITE	CONTINUOUS	PERFECT
<u>to be asked</u>	<u>to be being asked</u>	<u>to have been asked</u>

GERUND. PARTICIPLE I

ACTIVE VOICE

INDEFINITE	PERFECT
<u>asking</u>	<u>having asked</u>

PASSIVE VOICE

INDEFINITE	PERFECT
<u>being asked</u>	<u>having been asked</u>

PARTICIPLE II

asked

FINITE FORMS

ACTIVE VOICE

	INDEFINITE	CONTINUOUS	PERFECT	PERFECT CONTINUOUS
Present	I ask	I <u>am asking</u>	I <u>have asked</u>	I <u>have been asking</u>
Past	I <u>asked</u>	I <u>was asking</u>	I <u>had asked</u>	I <u>had been asking</u>
Future	I <u>shall ask</u>	I <u>shall be asking</u>	I <u>shall have asked</u>	I <u>shall have been asking</u>

PASSIVE VOICE

	INDEFINITE	CONTINUOUS	PERFECT
Present	I <u>am asked</u>	I <u>am being asked</u>	I <u>have been asked</u>
Past	I <u>was asked</u>	I <u>was being asked</u>	I <u>had been asked</u>
Future	I <u>shall be asked</u>		I <u>shall have been asked</u>

ACTIVE VOCABULARY

1. General facts about Belarus

access, n. – доступ;
 appear, v. – з'яўляцца;
 authorities, n. – улады;
 average, adj. – сярэдні;
 deposit, n. – залегі;
 equipment, n. – абсталяванне;
 include, v. – уключаць;

influence, v. – уплываць;
 inhabit, v. – насяляць;
 literacy, n. – пісьменства;
 predominate, v. – пераважаць;
 prevalent, adj. – распаўсюджаны;
 source, n. – крыніца;
 spread, v. – распаўсюджваць.

2. A bit of history

abolish, v. – адмяняць;
 adherent, n. – прыхільнік;
 ancient, adj. – старажытны;
 comprise, v. – змяшчаць;
 defeat, n. – паражэнне;
 emerge, v. – з'яўляцца;

inherit, v. – атрымліваць у спадчыну;
 preserve, v. – захоўваць;
 retain, v. – захоўваць;
 settle, v. – пасяліцца, уладкоўвацца;
 suppress, v. – падаўляць;
 up-rising, n. – паўстанне.

3. Belarusian towns

accommodate, v. – размяшчаць;
 arrange, v. – наладжваць;
 artificial, adj. – штучны;
 church, n. – царква;
 dwell, v. – жыць;
 enterprise, n. – прадпрыемства;
 establishment, n. – установа;

exist, v. – існаваць;
 homestead, n. – сядзіба;
 junction, n. – злучэнне;
 research, n. – даследаванне;
 sight, n. – славатасць;
 surround, v. – акружаць.

4. The culture of Belarus

chorus, n. – хор;
 contribution, n. – уклад;
 create, v. – тварыць;
 devote, v. – прысвячаць;
 enrich, v. – узбагачаць;
 playwright, n. – драматург;
 pottery, n. – ганчарства;

prominent, adj. – буйны;
 revival, n. – адраджэнне;
 secular, adj. – свецкі;
 tapestry, n. – габелен;
 train, v. – рыхтаваць;
 value, n. – каштоўнасць.

5. The nature of Belarus

affect, v. – уплываць;
 aurochs, n. – зубр;
 decline, n. – заняпад;
 drain, v. – асушваць;
 fertile, adj. – урадлівы;
 hunt, v. – паляваць;

marsh, n. – балота;
 plain, n. – раўніна;
 soil, n. – глеба;
 surface, n. – паверхня;
 tributary, n. – прыток;
 valley, n. – даліна.

LIST OF CLICHES FOR SYNOPSIS WRITING

1. This work rests on
2. The work is divided into . . . major parts.
3. The book is a contribution to
4. The objective of this book (volume) is
5. The study presents a picture of
6. The book gives (introduces)
7. The book draws a realistic picture of
8. The book reveals the problem how
9. The book points out that
10. The book is supplemented with extensive notes.
11. The paper discusses
12. The paper treats the opinion
13. The article, intended to strike up a debate, contains
14. The study is completed by . . . figures and tables.
15. The first part (chapter) deals with
16. The second chapter endeavours to clear up
17. The third chapter shows (presents, regards, examines)
18. The fourth chapter contains (studies, stresses)
19. The fifth chapter concentrates on
20. The sixth chapter analyses (describes)
21. The author considers (outlines, concludes, points out)
22. The author views (reviews, presents, sketches out)
23. The author analyses how
24. The author examines why
25. The author stipulates that
26. The author mentions
27. The author believes (stresses, underlines) that
28. The author goes on to discuss (to examine)
29. Finally the author outlines (introduces)
30. In examining the problem the author points out that
31. In the first part the author determines
32. In the opinion of the author
33. The author emphasizes that
34. According to the author
35. The author used various methods of analysis to draw the conclusion that
36. The author calls attention to the fact that
37. The author summarizes the results of
38. In summing up the author
39. At the end of the article the author sums up
40. The author warns that
41. The author gives an argument stating that
42. Evaluating the situation the conclusion can be drawn that
43. Summaries in English are attached to the book.
44. Further data cover (show)
45. Attention is called to the fact that

ДЛЯ НАТАТАК:

ДЛЯ НАТАТАК:

ДЛЯ НАТАТАК:

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