**The Czech Republic & Prague**

The Czech Republic is situated in the middle of Europe. We can say that the Czech Republic is the country in the hearth of Europe. Our country is historically divided into three parts: Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia. In the Czech Republic, there are more than 10 million inhabitants and it covers an area of 78 thousands square kilometres. The capital is Prague. There are other big cities like Brno, Ostrava, Plzeň, Olomouc or Liberec. Flag; Greater coat of arms; motto; anthem; currency.

**Geography**

 Like I said before, the Czech Republic is situated in Central Europe. It shares borders with Germany (west), Poland (northeast), Slovakia (east) and Austria (south). The borders are mainly firmed by mountains: The Giant Mountains (Krkonoše), The Sumava mountains, The Jeseníky mountains or The Eagle mountains. The highest Czech mountain is Sněžka (1603 m). There are many highlands (the Bohemia-Moravian highland) and lowlands along the rivers. The longest river is Vltava River. The biggest river is the Elbe River. Other big rivers are the Oder and the Morava. The Czech Republic has moderate climate with warm summers and cold, cloudy and snowy winters. The temperature difference between summer and winter is relatively high.

 **Politics**

 The Czech Republic is a unitary parliamentary republic. The parliament has two chambers: The House of Deputies (200) and The Senat (81). The head of the state is the president, now Miloš Zeman, who was the first directly elected Czech President. The head of government is the Prime Minister, Andrej Babiš. There are 14 ministers. The highest court is the Supreme Court in Brno.

 **Demography**

Tables in presentation. The Czech Republic is divided onto thirteen regions and the capital of Prague.

 **History**

 The first mention about Czech state was in Middle Ages. In the 13th century, we had a kingdom. The most famous king was Charles IV (14th century). He established a University in Prague in 1348. After year 1620 – Battle of the White mountain, the Czech Lands became part of Austria and in 1867 part of Austro-Hungarian Empire. After The First World War, on October 28 1918, The Czechoslovakia was established. Thomas Garrigue Masaryk became the first president. After Hitler’s occupation in 1938, Czechoslovakia was split into The Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, and the Slovak state. The Second World War ended in 1945. Then the Communist Party won the elections in 1946 in Czechoslovakia. Many people had to leave our country. November 1989 or we can say Velvet revolution, changed our history. Velvet revolution ended communism and Soviet power. On 1st January 1993 Czechoslovakia was peacefully split into independent Czech Republic and Slovakia. The first president became Václav Havel.

 **Places of interest**

* 12 places are on the UNESCO list
* The historical centre of Prague, Telč and České Krumlov
* The town Kutná Hora, Třebíč, Žďár nad Sázavou (St. Jan Nepomucký church)
* Lednice = Valtice Castle and gardens
* Vila Tugendhat in Brno

**Prague**

 Prague is the capital of the Czech Republic. It has population of 1.2 million inhabitants. It is situated in the centre of Bohemia, on the river Vltava. Prague is the seat of Czech president (Prague castle), Czech Parliament and Government. The city is divided into 22 districts. Prague 1 and 2 are the best known historical parts. The oldest parts of the city are the Lesser Town. The Lesser Town was founded in 1257, and then the New Town was founded by Charles IV in 1348.

 Prague is the most popular city for tourists in the CR. There are many hotels and restaurants. But there are also other industries. Prague is a large city so transport is very important. There are different means of transport – buses, trams, underground, airplanes, taxis, cars… The Prague underground is the only underground in the CR.

 **Interesting places**

* Prague Castle, the seat of president
* St. Vitus Cathedrale
* The Lesser Town
* Charles Bridge
* Old town Square (the Astronomical clock)
* Wenceslas Square
* National Museum
* National Theatre
* Vyšehrad