

1. The Czech Republic and Prague



1. SEKCE

🧐 Udělej si myšlenkovou mapu všech věcí, které tě napadají k tématu „Česká republika a Praha“.

- ▶ *Kdybys měl/a charakterizovat Českou republiku pěti slovy, která by to byla?*
- ▶ *Která česká nebo moravská města a místa jsou podle tebe známá i v Evropě? Proč právě tato?*
- ▶ *Která místa v ČR bys doporučil/a turistům k navštívení? Proč právě tato?*
- ▶ *Co je typické pro jižní Čechy? Která města tě napadají?*
- ▶ *Čím jsou známé západní Čechy?*
- ▶ *V čem se odlišují Morava a Čechy?*
- ▶ *Kdybys měl/a vybrat pět důležitých událostí v české historii, které by to byly?*
- ▶ *Jaký máš vztah k Praze? Je to tvé rodné město?*
- ▶ *Praha přiláká až 9 milionů turistů ročně. Čím myslíš, že to je?*
- ▶ *V čem je Praha jedinečná (jiná než ostatní evropská velkoměsta jako Londýn, Paříž)?*
- ▶ *Máš v Praze nějaké oblíbené místo?*
- ▶ *Chtěl/a bys žít (studovat, pracovat, mít rodinu) v Praze? Proč?*
- ▶ *Pokud není Praha tvé rodné město, jaké je tvé rodné místo? Porovnej ho s Prahou.*
- ▶ *Jaké jsou výhody a nevýhody velkých a malých měst?*

I was born in the Czech Republic and I have been to many different parts of the country. I think that we Czechs can be proud of our country – it's full of variety and interest.

🧐 Some History

King Charles IV, who ruled from 1346–78, was one of the most important figures in Czech history. During his rule, the Czech nation enjoyed a 'golden age.' In 1348 he founded a university in Prague and he worked to establish the city as the cultural capital of Europe. He also did a lot to promote the Czech language.

In the 16th century, the Czech lands came under **Habsburg** rule and were to remain part of the Austro-Hungarian empire until the collapse of the Habsburg Empire at the end of the First World War.

In 1918, the first Czechoslovak Republic was established. **T. G. Masaryk**, a great believer in democracy, was president of the Republic from 1918–35.

During the Second World War, the Czech lands were occupied by the Nazis until liberation by American and Russian troops in 1945. The next forty years were a period of Communist rule. In the 1960s, during the 'Prague Spring,' the country seemed to be moving towards liberalisation, but this was stopped by the 1968 invasion of Warsaw Pact troops.

Communist rule ended in 1989 with the peaceful 'Velvet Revolution' and the election of **Vaclav Havel** as the first Post-Communist president. On January 1st 1993, Czechoslovakia split up into two independent states and the Czech Republic started to exist.

🧐 Bohemia

heritage: dědictví

The Czech Republic is made up of two parts – Bohemia in the west and Moravia in the east. The capital city, Prague, is in Bohemia. There are a number of other important cities in the region too. Plzen is famous for producing Pilsner Urquell beer, which some people say is the best beer in the world! If you go further west from Plzen, you get to the great spa towns of West Bohemia – Karlovy Vary, Mariánské Lázně, and Františkovy Lázně. Karlovy Vary is the most famous of these towns, with its beautiful 19th-century architecture and picturesque woodland setting. Karlovy Vary hosts an international film festival every year and it's visited by a lot of big names in film. If you like skiing, you can go to the Krkonose mountains in North-East Bohemia – Harrachov and Pec pod Sněžkou are two of the best resorts. Sněžka is the highest mountain in the Czech Republic, at 1602 metres.

The countryside of South Bohemia is particularly beautiful – I like the area around the fish ponds near Trebon. Ceske Budejovice is the major town in South Bohemia and has a well-preserved old centre, but the most-visited town in the region is Cesky Krumlov. This beautiful little town, set on a winding river, is a UNESCO-protected world **heritage** site. It was badly affected by the floods in 2002 but has since been well restored.

The Sumava region of mountains and forests is another good reason to visit South-West Bohemia. It's an ideal place to go hiking.

🧐 Moravia

Moravia is home to the Czech Republic's second city, Brno. Brno may not be as beautiful as Prague, but it's still an interesting place – Spilberk castle is certainly worth seeing. Another major town in North Moravia is Olomouc – this is a university town and has a youthful, laid-back feel.

South Moravia is well-known as the major wine-producing region in the Czech Republic, but there is more than just wine to enjoy there! Towns such as Mikulov and Znojmo, with their well-preserved old centres, are attractions in their own right. It's true, though, that the wine bars are a good place to spend some time!

🧐 Prague

Sometimes called 'the heart of Europe,' Prague is certainly the centre of business, commerce and tourism in the Czech Republic. The Old Town and Mala Strana are the most popular parts of Prague with thousands of tourists who visit every year. They have been relatively undamaged by wars, so there are a lot of great examples of Old Baroque, Gothic and Renaissance architecture. The most striking buildings are the Tyn church in Old Town Square and St Nicholas's Church in Mala Strana Square. But the most famous landmark in Prague must be the Charles Bridge, which joins the Old Town and Mala Strana across the