



Answer 1.

a) In the middle of the 12th century, German settlers came to Romania and settled in the region of Transylvania. They became known as the Transylvania Saxons. Because of the excellent economic performance of those settlers and their flourishing trade, agriculture and crafts, the German settlements were granted privileges such as tax relief and an autonomous status.

Answer 2.

b) The legend of Dracula is probably one of the things Romania is most famous for. It is based on the life of Prince Vlad and his favorite method of torture, staking. Because of this, he was feared by his enemies, mainly Ottoman troops, but his subjects regarded him as a good and just sovereign.

Answer 3.

a) In 106 A.D., the Dacians settled in the larger part of today's Romania and Moldova. The Roman emperor Trajan conquered the Dacian Empire and made it a Roman province, which was exploited by the Romans for its gold and salt deposits until 271 A.D.

Answer 4.

b) An especially colorful and eye-catching building in Chişinău is the cathedral of St. Tiron, built in 1836. This church is painted in light blue color.

Answer 5.

a) Bucharest is known for its magnificent boulevard "Soseaua Kisseleff" and its triumphal arch. Those sights indeed evoke the flair of Paris, which is why the Romanian capital is also called the "Paris of the Balkans".

Answer 6.

c) Moldova, on a surface area of 33.700 km², is mainly used for agriculture because of its fertile soil. The mountainsides are excellent for winegrowing, since the climate as well is quite beneficial to the country's agriculture.

Answer 7.

a) The names Neptune, Jupiter and Saturn are usually associated with a mythical and astronomical context but in Romania, they stand for lots of sun, fun and beach. Especially families like those sea resorts, of which there is far more than those three, because of the shallow water and the relatively good prices.



Answer 8.

b) Especially old and sick people benefit of the saline and mud treatments in the various health spas of Romania and Moldova. Here, for example, rheumatism and skin diseases are treated. But apart from the health aspect, the spas also provide for a relaxing experience.

Answer 9.

b) The world's longest river is the Nile in Egypt, but the Danube still has the right of being one of the most famous rivers in Europe. Especially the "Iron Gate" and the beautiful delta are popular natural sights along the river's course.

Answer 10.

a) The traditional social structure, the extended family, still exists in large parts of Romania and Moldova. Often, the nuclear family lives together with the grandparents who assist in raising the children. This helps the women to have a job and to contribute to the family earnings. Old people's homes hardly exist in Romania and Moldova.

Answer 12.

c) In 1453, Constantinople, until then the capital of Christianity, fell to the Ottomans. From then on, the Balkans was gradually subdued by the Ottomans. Romania was lucky to keep at least a certain degree of autonomy in matters of ethnic and religious identity. The monasteries played an important role in preserving traditions and language.

Answer 13.

d) Lately, the Moldovan wine industry has found an economical niche in organic wine growing. The vineyards, many of which lay fallow for quite a while, often fulfill the strict soil standards for organic agricultural products. It is estimated that the share of organically produced wine can reach a percentage of 20-30% in relation to conventional products.

Answer 14.

a) Mihai Eminescu is regarded as the most important Romanian poet of the 19th century. His works have significantly influenced the development of the Romanian language. Eminescu is also seen as the national poet in Moldova, where most people are of ethnic Romanian origin.

Answer 15.

a) At 24 April 2006, Romania and Bulgaria celebrated the signing of their contracts to the EU accession in 2007. This "Return to Europe" is seen as a very important step in those countries. With the accession of Romania and Bulgaria, the EU will grow to 27 member states.



Answer 16.

d) Bessarabia is a historical region on today's territory of the Republic of Moldova and the Ukraine. For a long time, it was a buffer area caught in between the great powers of Austria, Russia and Turkey.

Answer 17.

b) The Maramures region in Romania is probably still one the most traditional in the country. Because of the isolated location in the mountains, the villages have kept many of their traditions. This is why many people there still show their wealth by the number of pots in front of the house.

Answer 18.

b) With 2544 m, the Moldoveanu is the highest mountain in Romania. It is situated in the South Carpathians and displays an original natural landscape. Maybe this is because tourism is still low here. On a hike, one can marvel at the beautiful view as well as see rare animals such as groundhogs and chamois.

Answer 19.

a) According to the Guinness Book of Records, the Mileștii Mici vineyard has the largest wine cellar in Europe. A widely ramified system of corridors extends over a total length of 250 km. About 1.5 million bottles of wine are stored there. Also very large and famous is the wine cellar of Cricova, which competes with Mileștii Mici for the title of "largest wine cellar".

Answer 20.

c) Chișinău's partner city in the USA is Sacramento, the capital of California. Altogether, Chișinău has seven partner cities, among them the Romanian capital Bucharest and Mannheim in Germany.