



Answer 1.

b) Romania and Slovakia do not have common borders. Slovakia shares a border with the Ukraine in the east, with Hungary in the South, with Austria in the West, and with Poland and the Czech Republic in the north.

Answer 2.

a) The High Tatra is the world's smallest high mountain range, but definitely Slovakia's highest one. Here is also the country's highest peak, the Gerlachovský štít with a height of 2655 m.

Answer 3.

b) With about 10% of the total population, the Hungarians are the largest minority group. Most of them live in Southern Slovakia. There, it is normal to have school education, theatres, media and church in Hungarian language. The Hungarian party SMK is part of the government coalition.

Answer 4.

c) In 1968, Alexander Dubček (1921-1992) was the head of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia which he had set out to reform. He became a symbolic figure of the movement of the Prague Spring, which aimed at establishing "socialism with a human face".

Answer 5.

d) Since 2004, Ivan Gašparovič is the third president of the Slovakian Republic. For quite a while, he was associated with national-populist Ex-Premier Vladimír Mečiar but founded his own party "Movement for Democracy" in 2002. The current head of government is Mikuláš Dzurinda. Václav Klaus is the president of the Czech Republic.

Answer 6.

b) "Ahoj" means "Hello/Goodbye". Traders which had frequent contact with sailors came back using this term and it became an established feature of Slovakian language. Among young people other greetings such as "Čau" or "Servus" are common as well.

Answer 7.

b) It is a known fact that Prague lies on the Vltava, the largest river of the Czech Republic. But Slovakia's largest river is the Váh with 405 kilometers, followed by Hron with 290 kilometers. The Danube is a border river for the most part.



Answer 8.

c) After great final match at the 2002 Ice hockey World Championships in Sweden, Slovakia defeated her archrival Russia. At Bratislava airport, as many as 3000 fans waited and cheered for the new World Champions. 2004 the national ice hockey team was not as lucky: it lost against the USA and ended up in the fourth position.

Answer 9.

c) Whoever walks over Bratislava's main square is very likely to stumble over Čumil, a bronze statue. Looking out from a manhole, he pursues his favourite hobby: peeping under the women's dresses.

Answer 10.

d) After VW had discovered Slovakia for the car industry, Audi, Opel, Suzuki, Peugeot, Citroen and Rover followed. Kia Motors, an affiliate of the South Korean Hyundai Motors, is planning to produce 200,000 of its vehicles in the new factory in Žilina, starting in 2006. With this, Slovakia becomes the world's fifth largest producer for automobiles.

Answer 11.

d) Germany is Slovakia's most important trade partner, followed by the Czech Republic. The main exports include raw materials, unfinished goods, cars, machines and chemicals.

Answer 12.

a) Famous pop artist Andy Warhol (1928-1987) was born in Pittsburgh/Pennsylvania as Andrew Warhola. His parents had immigrated to the USA from the small town Miková in Eastern Slovakia. There are only two museums worldwide exclusively featuring Warhol's works: in Pittsburgh, USA and in Medzilaborce, Slovakia.

Answer 13.

a) The "Oblievačka" tradition always is a great fun – especially for the boys. On Easter Monday, they pour water on the girls and try to hit them with a rod made from willow twigs. Of course, the "beating" is not meant seriously. They say traditional rhymes and in return, the girls give them colored eggs or Slivovica. This ritual is said to be a source for health and luck.



Answer 14.

b) According to the legend, Juraj Jánošík (1688-1713) was the leader of a gang of thieves, which robbed traders and travelers on their way through the Carpathians. Peasants and serfs in need, however, were given part of the prey. This is why he is often compared to Robin Hood. Each July, the town of Terchóva celebrates the Jánošík festival with folk dances and music in honor of this Slovakian folk hero.

Answer 15.

a) The castle Orava, which lies on a rock 122 m high in Slovakia's northeast, repeatedly provided the setting for vampire movies. Here, Fritz Murnau filmed his famous silent movie "Nosferatu" in 1921 and in 1979 Werner Herzog his version with Klaus Kinski und Bruno Ganz.