

Smart Time

culture

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Contents

Culture 1	School Life	p. 4
	Teenage Pastimes	p. 5
Culture 2	Błędów Desert	p. 6
	Biskupin	p. 7
Culture 3	A Powerful Dragon	p. 8
	Climate & Weather	p. 9
Culture 4	Warsaw Marathon	p. 10
	A Special Dish	p. 11
Culture 5	An International Street Art Festival	p. 12
	Time for a Break	p. 13
Culture 6	Status: Endangered	p. 14
	Tatra National Park	p. 15
Culture 7	Polans	p. 16
	Shop till you Drop	p. 17
Culture 8	Lights! Camera! Action!	p. 18
	Kino Ars	p. 19

Culture 1

1 What is a typical day like for a student in Poland? Read the text to find out.

2 Read the text and answer the questions.

1 How many days in the year do students go to school in Poland?

.....
.....

2 When do students have holidays?

.....
.....

3 What time do lessons start in Poland?

.....
.....

4 How long do lessons last?

.....
.....

5 What is the 'second breakfast'?

.....
.....

3 What is typical school day like for you? Write a few sentences.

School Life

In Poland, lessons in schools usually begin on the first weekday in September and end on the last Friday in June. Students go to school for 190 days in the year. They always have holidays at Christmas and Easter. They also have a mid term winter break and summer holidays.

Lessons usually begin at 8 am in most schools so many students get up at between 7 and 7.30 in the morning. They get dressed and have breakfast and then get ready for school. Students who live far from school leave early to take a bus or other form of transport. Some of them live near their school and leave the house at 7.45 or 7.50 am. One of the most important rules for Polish students is to be in school on time.

From the first to the third year of primary school, children have one teacher for all subjects and from the fourth year upward, students have a different teacher for each subject. Lessons usually last 45 minutes and students often get very short breaks between them. Then, at about 11.30, there is a long break called 'the second breakfast' when students can eat a snack.

School usually ends at about 2.30 pm and then most students go home and do their homework.



In the UK...

In the UK school starts at 9 am and finishes at 3.15 pm? They get 12 weeks school holidays every year and all the children wear a school uniform.



Teenage Pastimes

A lot of teenagers around Europe and the world wonder what teens in other countries do in their free time. Do they do similar activities or completely different things? In Poland, teenagers have a lot in common with other teenagers in the rest of Europe.

A lot of Polish teenagers like to do sports in their free time. The most popular sporting activities are football and cycling. There are lots of football pitches and cycling routes all over Poland. Teenagers also like to play basketball and volleyball and to go swimming or

rollerblading. In winter, skiing and snowboarding are popular sports.

After school, students often go to sports clubs or other clubs. In their free time most teenagers listen to music too. When it is cold or wet outside a lot of teens usually stay in and listen to music, read a book, or watch TV. Computers are also very popular, of course. Most teenagers have their own computer so they often surf and chat online or play video games. Boys like playing adventure or sports video games while girls prefer to chat with friends, do sports or go shopping.

1 How do teenagers in Poland usually spend their free time? Read to find out.

2 Read the text and mark the sentence *T* (true) or *F* (false).

- 1 Teenagers in the rest of Europe have very different hobbies than Polish teens.
- 2 The most popular sport among Polish teenagers is swimming.
- 3 There are lots of places to go cycling in Poland.
- 4 In Poland, teenagers don't read anymore.
- 5 Shopping is popular with both boys and girls.

3 Name some typical activities Polish teenagers do in their free time.

4 What are your favourite pastimes? Write sentences.



In the UK...

The scout movement is a youth organisation in the UK that helps 400,000 young people every year to experience the outdoors, learn new skills and have adventures.

Błędów Desert

1 What do you know about the place in the picture? How did it come to be? Read to find out.

2 Read the text again and choose the correct answer A, B or C.

1 Why is the Błędów Desert special?

- A It is in the Silesian Highlands.
- B It is a sandy desert in Europe.
- C It looks like the Sahara.

2 According to legend, the sand

- A belonged to evil creatures.
- B was silver.
- C was from the Baltic Sea.

3 The desert now covers an area of

- A thirty-two square kilometres.
- B forty square kilometres.
- C eighty square kilometres.

3 What did you learn about beliefs about how the desert was formed?

4 **ICT** Collect information about another area in Poland and how it was formed. Is there a story about it? Write a short text.

The Błędów Desert is a unique area of sand located mainly in the Silesian Highlands in southern Poland. It is the largest mass of sand, away from the sea, in Central Europe. It looks similar to parts of the Sahara Desert of North Africa and many people call it the Polish Sahara.

According to an ancient legend, strange creatures created the Błędów Desert in the Middle Ages. At that time, people used to mine in the area for tin and silver and evil creatures who lived underground were tired of the noise. One of them suggested flying to the Baltic Sea and bringing some sand to bury the mines. Unfortunately, on his night flight back he bumped into a tower and all the sand got scattered across the place where Błędów Desert is today.

In the 19th century, Błędów Desert was about 80 km² in size but has decreased since. Today, it covers an area of about 32 km² and the sand is up to 40 metres deep. Its landscape of sand dunes and steppe plants is truly unique and it is now a protected area.



In the UK...

Dungeness Nature Reserve in Romney, Kent is the UK's only desert. It is a bird sanctuary and a unique shingle landscape.

1 Why is Biskupin called the Polish Pompeii? Read the text to find out.

2 Read the text again and mark the statements *T* (true) or *F* (false).

- 1 The village of Biskupin is now open to the public.
- 2 People used to live in Biskupin a thousand years ago.
- 3 The people left Biskupin because it wasn't peaceful anymore.
- 4 There was only one entrance to the village of Biskupin.
- 5 There was only one roof for every three houses in Biskupin.

3 What do you think it was like to live in Biskupin? Write sentences. Tell you partner.

4 **ICT** Collect information about the festival which is held in Biskupin every September and prepare an advertising brochure. Write: *name of festival – place/date – activities – how to reach the place.*

BISKUPIN

Biskupin is a reconstruction of an Iron Age Lusatian village. It is an archaeological site and an open-air museum. It is on a peninsula of Biskupin Lake in the Kuyavian-Pomeranian region in north-central Poland.

Almost three thousand years ago about a thousand people used to live in Biskupin. They were farmers and hunters and lived a peaceful life. But when the climate became colder, and the water of the lake rose, people could not live there anymore. They left, and water and mud from the lake covered most of the town. This water and mud kept the buildings and roads in very good condition until archaeologists found them. Biskupin was so well preserved that people often call it 'the Polish Pompeii'.

Biskupin had a wall of sticks, three metres high, around it and the only access was by a 250-metre-long bridge running from the southern shore of the lake to a gate. Inside the village, there were thirteen rows of wooden houses, which were so close together that there was only one thatched roof for every three. In all there were around a hundred houses, one for each family. Each home was about eighty square metres with an entrance and one big room. The big room had a fireplace in the centre and a large bed where a whole family of eight to ten people could sleep. Between the rows of houses there were wooden roads and there was also a ring road around the village.



In the UK...

Beamish Open Air Museum in County Durham, England shows every day life in the Victorian and Edwardian eras in North East England. There's a town village, a railway and a farm.