

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Belarus .....	4
Czech Republic .....	20
Greece .....	42
Poland.....	64
Romania.....	85
Russia.....	107
Ukraine .....	127
Answer Key .....	147
Additional Resources .....	150

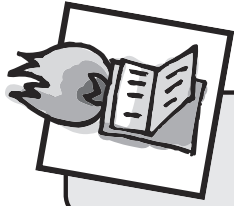
# BELARUS



# WELCOME TO BELARUS!

After seventy years as a republic of the Soviet Union, Belarus (Byel-uh-ROOS) has been independent since 1991. However, it still maintains close ties to Russia. In 1999, Belarus and Russia signed a friendship and cooperation pact to maintain their political and economic ties. But neither their governments nor their economies are integrated yet.

The first president of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, has maintained an extremely tight hand on the country since his election in 1994. Today there continue to be many government restrictions on basic freedoms. As with the old Soviet Union, Belarus is still cloaked in secrecy. People in the West hear little about it. So let's explore!



## ***FAST FACTS***

<b>Official Name:</b>	Republic of Belarus
<b>Location:</b>	Eastern Europe Belarus is bordered by Russia to the north and east, Ukraine to the south, Poland to the west, and Lithuania and Latvia to the north.
<b>Population:</b>	9,612,632 (2010 estimate)
<b>Capital City:</b>	Minsk
<b>Area:</b>	80,155 square miles (2010 estimate); Belarus is a bit smaller than the state of Kansas.
<b>Major Languages:</b>	Belarusian Russian
<b>Major Religion:</b>	Eastern Orthodox: 80% Other (including Roman Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, and Muslim): 20%
<b>Currency:</b>	The Belarusian ruble (paper only); 1 ruble = 100 kapeikas (kă-pā-kăs) There are eleven Belarus bank notes, ranging from 10 rubles to 100,000 rubles. There are no coins in Belarus.
<b>Climate:</b>	Cold winters and warm summers. Some parts of Belarus have sub-zero temperatures more than a third of the year.
<b>The Land:</b>	Generally flat with much marshland
<b>Type of Government:</b>	Presidential Republic
<b>Flag:</b>	A red horizontal band at the top signifies past struggles and oppression. Below this is a green horizontal band that is one-half the width of the red band; it represents hope and the country's many forests. The white vertical stripe on the hoist side of the flag has Belarusian national ornamentation in red.



**National Emblem:** The National Emblem of Belarus features a ribbon in the colors of the national flag, a map of Belarus, wheat ears, and a red star. At the bottom of the emblem is the name of the country. The elements on the emblem are not tied to any official symbolism.

**National Flower:** Centaurea (basket flower)  
(Unofficial)

**National Symbol:** the Stork

**Motto:** “Zhive Belarus!” (“Long live Belarus!”)



## Natural Environment

Belarus is one of only 44 landlocked countries in the world. It has large areas of marshy land, and about 40 percent of it is covered by forests. It has 11,000 lakes and three major rivers: the Neman, the Pripyat, and the Dnepr (nē-per).

Peat, oil and natural gas, granite, limestone, chalk, sand, gravel, and clay are among the natural resources of this country. Unfortunately, about 70 percent of the radiation from the Ukraine’s nuclear disaster at Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in 1986 (one of the reactors exploded) entered Belarus. As of 2005, about 20 percent of its land (mostly farmland and forests in the southeast) is still contaminated. The agriculture that had once been a part of the country has, in large part, been destroyed.

### *Plants and Animals*

About 80 percent of the plants in Belarus are made up of thousands of species of algae and fungi! In the sky, on the land, and in the water, you’ll find 310 species of birds, 13 species of amphibians, 7 species of reptiles, and 46 species of fish that are indigenous to Belarus. Of the 76 types of mammals found in Belarus, the European bison is the best known. It’s also the fastest-growing! The country’s program to conserve and reintroduce the bison has swelled the number of bison in Belarus to several hundred. Belarus now has the world’s largest population of bison.

## UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Belarus

Belarus has four UNESCO World Heritage Sites of cultural significance maintained by UNESCO’s World Heritage program. These include the Mir Castle Complex (built in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries), the Niasvizh Castle (built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century), and the Belovezhskaya Puscha (an ancient forest on the border of Belarus and Poland). The fourth site, the Struve Geodetic Arc, is one of a chain of arcs that go through nine other countries; they were used to survey the shape and size of the earth before the age of satellites.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# PLANTS AND ANIMALS OF BELARUS

Belarus is filled with plants and animals! Find them in this word search. The words can be listed across, down, up, or backwards.

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| ASH      | BISON     | ELK       |
| HORSE    | POTATO    | WHEAT     |
| BEAVER   | CENTAUREA | FALCON    |
| MUSHROOM | RYE       | WILD BOAR |
| BERRIES  | DEER      | GOAT      |
| OAK      | STORK     | WOLF      |
| BIRCH    | EAGLE     |           |
| PINE     | TURKEY    |           |

W	D	C	E	N	T	A	U	R	E	A
I	E	H	A	I	S	J	A	S	M	S
L	B	F	L	O	W	E	S	R	O	H
D	O	K	D	S	H	O	R	P	O	R
B	E	R	R	I	E	S	T	O	R	K
O	L	O	E	Z	A	H	U	T	H	A
A	K	G	O	A	T	N	R	A	S	O
R	E	V	A	E	B	C	K	T	U	D
B	I	S	O	N	L	H	E	O	M	P
F	A	L	C	O	N	R	Y	E	C	I
X	O	P	N	E	O	E	L	R	H	N
B	I	R	C	H	D	E	A	G	L	E
Q	A	K	N	I	T	D	E	I	A	T

