

**Glamorgan TLC  
2018-2019**

# **All About Ukraine**

**Student Inquiry Guide  
Part B**

**Grade 3: Communities of the World**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_



# Ukrainian Beliefs



Did you know that Ukrainian people are very superstitious?

Well, they are!

Read about some of their superstitions and beliefs.

Did you know that Ukrainians believe:

- If someone gives good wishes or you talk about good fortune you must spit three times over your left shoulder to keep your good fortune.
- Before leaving a house for a long journey, everyone in the house should sit for a minute in silence.
- All your bills must be paid before December 31 or you will be in debt for the entire year.
- Before you enter a newly built house you must send in a cat first to greet the house spirit.
- If a knife falls from the table, a male guest will come soon. If a fork or spoon falls from the table, a female guest will come soon. If you don't want them to come you have to knock three times with the knife or fork on the table and say "stay at home".
- It's good luck to break a dish.
- It is rude to whistle while indoors. People will stare at you and it is believed you will lose a lot of money soon.
- If you buy flowers for somebody make sure the number is odd. Even numbers are for funerals.
- You must never throw bread crumbs in the trash or you'll go hungry.
- If you give a purse or wallet as a gift remember to put money in it first.
- A birthday must be celebrated on the day it falls or after it. It is bad luck to celebrate it before the day it is supposed to take place.
- If you sit between two people with the same name you will have good luck.
- You are never to shake hands or give keys or anything else in the doorway of your home or it will give your guest bad luck.

## Living in the Ukraine



Ukrainian people live in large cities or out in the country. Some even live in the mountains. Our homes are small and often overcrowded. Even though our homes are not large and fancy and people are not paid well, Ukrainians are very happy and proud of their new independence.

In the country, people usually live in villages and own their own homes. Homes in the country are one-storey buildings with a kitchen, a living room, and a bedroom. The living room is also used as a second bedroom. The outside of the house is whitewashed and has very colorful decorations.



*A house in the Ukrainian countryside*

Very few homes have indoor plumbing. The toilet is in an outbuilding in the backyard. Water used for cooking and bathing is taken from a well. Most Ukrainian people

have a vegetable garden and a small shelter or barn for a cow and some chickens. Many families in the village grow and raise most of their own food. Any food that the family does not need is taken to local city markets to be sold or traded for things the family needs.

Some Ukrainians own their own farms while others work on a state farm or a collective farm. A state farm is a large farm run by the government which employs and pays many people. A collective farm is also a large farm run by the government which employs and pays many people wages and a share of the farm's profits.

In the cities, people live in apartments. Some of the people own their apartments or rent them from the government. An apartment has a kitchen, a bathroom, and from one to three other rooms. The toilet and the



# Living in the Ukraine



bathtub are often in separate rooms.

Many people move to the cities looking for work in factories or offices. This has caused a housing shortage. Many times a three-room apartment might be home to five or six people, such as one or two children, their parents, and one set of grandparents. In an apartment, the bedrooms are used by the adults while the children sleep in the living room.



*An apartment complex in a Ukrainian city*

The apartments have electricity and indoor plumbing but at times it does not work well. Many cities have "rolling blackouts". A rolling blackout happens when the electrical power is off in different parts of the city throughout the day at certain times. This is done on purpose to save

electricity. The water in apartment buildings is sometimes rusty and undrinkable. At times there is no water or no hot water. Extra water is often kept in containers so the people will have water when it is shut off. Water is often heated and added to cold water for washing and bathing.

The most important room in a Ukrainian home is the kitchen. Meals are prepared and eaten in this room. In the village, the ceramic oven is not only used for cooking but also heats the house.

Shopping in Ukraine can be annoying as there are long line-ups to stand in while buying food. Most Ukrainians prefer to shop for food at markets because the prices are lower and the food is fresher. Markets are found in the country as well as the city. Grocery shopping is done once a week and enough food is bought to last an entire week. Shopping is also done at grocery stores found in large cities and small towns. Some cities have western-style supermarkets that sell pre-packaged foods and department stores containing clothes and household items.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Lifestyles in Ukraine: Student Activity 13*

# Living in Ukraine



Living in the Ukraine is not the same as living in other countries.

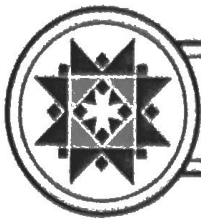
Hopefully, our country will grow and get richer and our lifestyle will improve.

Where does each statement take place? Does it take place in the country or in the city or both?

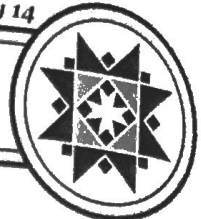
Record one of the following words on the line at the end of each sentence.

country    city    both

1. People work on farms owned by the government. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The most important room in a Ukrainian home is the kitchen. \_\_\_\_\_
3. A ceramic oven is used to heat the inside of the home. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Electricity and water are often turned off at certain times during the day.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. The living room is often used as a bedroom at night. \_\_\_\_\_
6. The toilet is in a building in the backyard. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Chickens and a cow are kept in a barn near the house. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Water used for cooking and bathing is taken from a well. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Extra water is kept in containers to be used when the water is shut off.  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. People prefer to shop at markets because the food is cheaper and fresher.  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Homes do not have indoor plumbing that works all the time. \_\_\_\_\_



## Farming in Ukraine



In my country crops are grown and animals are raised on large farms.

Many Ukrainians work on these farms.

People often call Ukraine the "bread basket of Europe". Its rich, black soil can grow enough food to supply the whole continent.

About one-fifth of the Ukrainian people work on farms. These farms are very large. They are owned by the government. One type of farm is called a "state farm". Another type is called a "collective farm". People who work on state farms are paid by the government. People on collective farms are paid a wage by the government and a share in the farm's profits. Only a small number of farms are privately owned. These farms produce the most food and raise the most animals.

Farmers in Ukraine still use horse-drawn equipment because they cannot afford tractors or gasoline.

There are many different types of crops grown on the steppes of Ukraine. Sugar beets and wheat are two important ones. Other crops are barley, corn, oats, rye, millet, and buckwheat. On the irrigated steppe melons, peppers, tomatoes, and rice grow well.

Ukraine is one of the world's largest producers of sunflowers. They are grown

for their oil. In northern Ukraine potatoes grow well, and in the mountains grapes are grown for wine. In the central and eastern regions, many apple and cherry orchards are found.



*Ukraine's black soil supports many crops*

Large and small farms raise chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, and pigs. Sheep and goats are raised in the mountain areas. In northern Ukraine beef cattle are raised. Dairy cattle are fed on the meadows near Ukraine's large cities.

Today, small farms are growing slowly. The government is encouraging people to grow crops and raise animals on smaller farms. The land on large farms is gradually being given back to the people.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# Farming in Ukraine

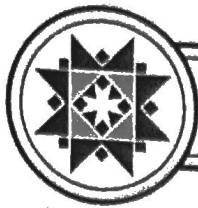


Farming is a very important industry in my country. It feeds the people and gives them jobs. Many crops are grown and different kinds of animals are raised on Ukraine's farms.

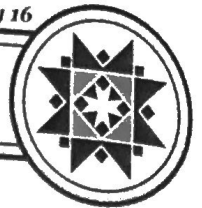
Answer each question with a good sentence.

1. Why is the Ukraine called the "bread basket of Europe"?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What are the names of the two kinds of farms in Ukraine?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Who owns both kinds of farms?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Which kind of farm would be the best one to work on? Tell why.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Which type of farm in the Ukraine produces the most food? Tell why.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. List the kinds of crops grown and the animals raised in the Ukraine on the following chart in alphabetical order.

Ukraine's Crops		Ukraine's Animals	
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____



## Manufacturing in Ukraine



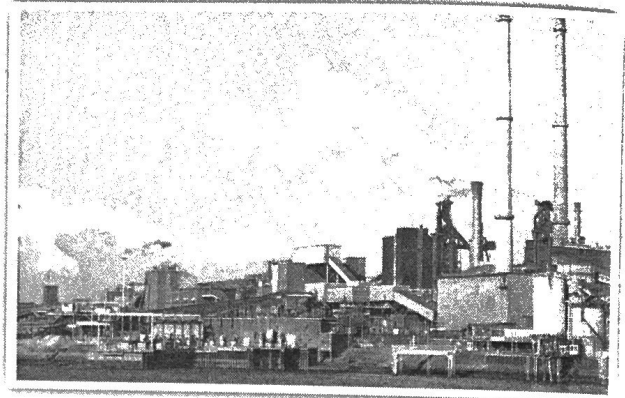
In many of Ukraine's cities are factories in which Ukrainian men and women work. These factories make different kinds of products.

At one time Ukraine's factories made military weapons, rockets, missiles, fighter planes, and ships. Our country was then part of the U.S.S.R. When the U.S.S.R. was dissolved, there was no need to make all of these weapons anymore.

Many of Ukraine's factories were changed to make peacetime goods. The factories began making trolley buses, tractors, motorcycles, and firetrucks. They also began to make things that people needed such as automobiles, refrigerators, television sets, washing machines, clothing, shoes, and packaged foods.

Most of Ukraine's manufacturing is related to the farming industry. Factories make tools and equipment to be used on farms. Chemical factories make fertilizers and pesticides to help the country's crops grow bigger and better. Some factories process food products such as sugar refineries, meat processing and packaging plants, fruit and vegetable canneries, dairies, and wineries. The factories make sugar from sugar beets; flour, pasta, and baked goods from grain; and oil and margarine from sunflower seeds.

In the eastern Ukraine many mines produce iron ore, coal, and natural gas. Some of Ukraine's factories use iron ore to make cast iron, rolled steel, and steel pipe. My country is one of the top steel producers in the world.



*An East European factory*

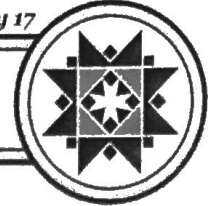
Ukraine exports goods to other countries in Europe and to North America. These goods are metals, fuel, oil products, chemicals, machinery, and food products. Ukraine's main imports are oil, natural gas, rubber, wood products, textiles, and consumer goods. Because Ukraine imports more goods than it exports, it has a "trade deficit". This means that Ukraine has more money going out than it has coming in.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Ukraine's Economy: Student Activity 17



# Manufacturing in Ukraine



In our factories we now make things that Ukrainians need and can buy. Ukraine's factories also export goods to other countries.

1. List the things that Ukraine factories made while it was part of the U.S.S.R.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. List 10 things the factories make in Ukraine since their independence.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. List the types of factories found in Ukraine.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Tell what is made from each of the following crops grown in the Ukraine.

sugar beets: \_\_\_\_\_ grain: \_\_\_\_\_

sunflower seeds: \_\_\_\_\_ iron ore: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Ukraine exports and imports products. Beside each product record the word **import** or the word **export**.

metals: \_\_\_\_\_ wood: \_\_\_\_\_

oil: \_\_\_\_\_ machinery: \_\_\_\_\_

fuel: \_\_\_\_\_ oil products: \_\_\_\_\_

natural gas: \_\_\_\_\_ textiles: \_\_\_\_\_

chemicals: \_\_\_\_\_ food products: \_\_\_\_\_

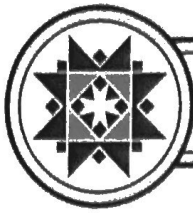
rubber: \_\_\_\_\_ consumer goods: \_\_\_\_\_

6. List the names of the continents that Ukraine trades with.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_





## Mining and Energy in Ukraine



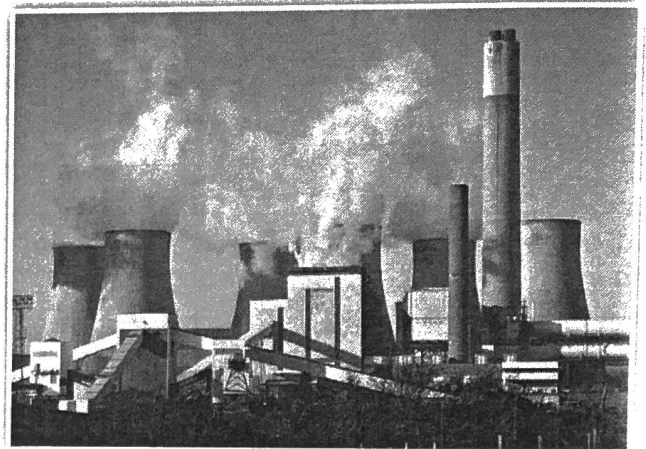
My country has many natural resources such as coal, iron ore, nickel, sulphur, and titanium. Throughout Ukraine there are different kinds of mines.

Near the Donet River in eastern Ukraine and the Dnipro River in northwestern Ukraine, coal is mined. These coal mines are the most dangerous in the world. The mines were poorly cared for when Ukraine was part of the U.S.S.R. and still need a great deal of repair. A gas explosion, in March of the year 2000, killed eighty miners. It was the worst mining accident to ever happen in the Ukraine. Almost 900 miners were killed in mining accidents between the years 1997 and 1999. In 1999, about 13,000 coal miners were hurt in mining accidents. Miners often go on strike to demand better working conditions and to be paid. Sometimes the government is unable to pay the miners for long periods of time.

In southern Ukraine, iron is mined. Other minerals mined are manganese, bauxite, titanium, mercury, and salt. Ukraine relies on oil, gas, and electricity for energy to keep its factories and machines going. There are large deposits of oil and natural gas but the Ukraine has not developed them. The country must

import most of its oil and gas from Russia.

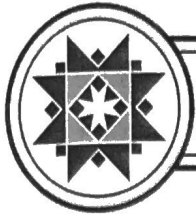
Electricity is produced at hydro-electric plants on dams along the Dnipro and Southern Buh Rivers using water power. It is also produced at plants that burn coal. More than half of Ukraine's



Coal burning power station

electricity depends on nuclear reactors. Using nuclear reactors to produce electrical power can be dangerous. Early one morning on April 26, 1986, Reactor 4 at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant exploded. The workers at the plant were





# Mining and Energy in Ukraine



doing a safety experiment when the blast took place. More explosions started a fire and blew the heavy metal and concrete lid off the reactor. Nine metric tonnes (10 tons) of radioactive material shot up in the air. The winds carried this radioactive fallout to nearby countries such as Belarus, Russia, and Poland. It traveled as far away as France, Italy, and the Baltic countries.

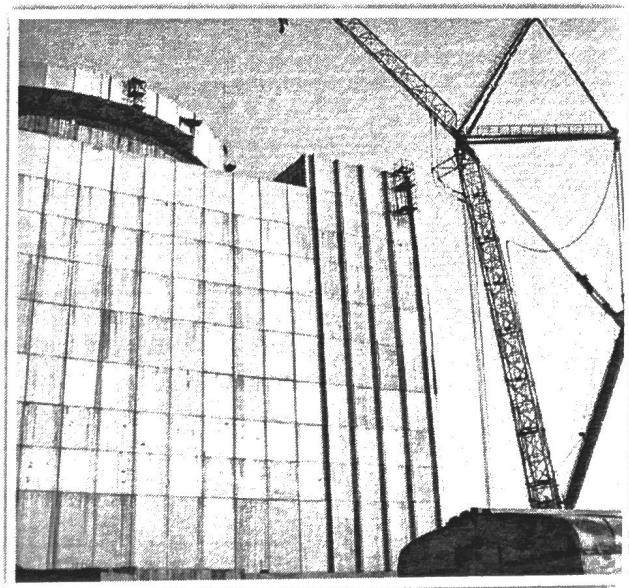
Two power plant workers were killed during the explosion and fire fighters who put out the fires gave their lives as well. They died because they were exposed to radiation. The Chernobyl plant is located near the town of Prypyat. Millions of Ukrainians were in danger because of the explosion. The next day, the Soviet government began to move all the people from the town. The people had to leave behind everything that they owned because it was contaminated as well. Today, Prypyat is a ghost town.

The workers who were working during the explosion died shortly after from radiation poisoning. These people were not wearing the proper clothing for protection. Later, the Soviet government sent thousands of people to clean up the contamination at the plant. These people were not properly dressed and many of them have died of radiation poisoning since 1986. Thousands of children and adults in the area of the plant also became contaminated. Many developed

leukemia and thyroid cancer and have died.

Ukraine has suffered in a number of ways since the Chernobyl disaster. Many people have died from radiation poisoning and other illnesses caused by it. Women are not having babies. Babies are born with defects. There is a shortage of workers due to the fact that many people left the area after the explosion to find jobs in other areas of the country. Farming stopped in the area because the land was contaminated and factories were closed.

In December 2000, the last working reactor was shut down. The reactor is enclosed in a concrete coffin to keep the radiation from leaking. Hopefully this accident will never happen again in Ukraine or in any other country that uses nuclear power.



*An old nuclear plant*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# How Do You Feel?



When the Ukraine was part of the U.S.S.R. there were many problems and the Ukrainian people suffered a great deal.

Tell how you feel about each of the following statements with a few complete sentences.

1. Ukrainian miners work in unsafe mines and often do not get paid on time.

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2. Many of the power plants in the Ukraine use nuclear power to produce electricity.

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3. The Soviet Union did not value the lives and safety of its citizens when it was ruling Ukraine.

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4. Tell how you feel about a government that forces people to live a lifestyle that is not to their liking.

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