

The Czech republic

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The Czech Republic

The Czech Republic lies at the very heart of Europe, covering an area of 78,864 square kilometres. It borders Slovakia in the east, Poland in the north, Germany in the north and west and Austria in the south. The highest peak of the Czech Republic, Sněžka (1602), is in the Krkonoše Mountains where the river Elbe also originates. Other major Czech rivers include the Vltava, Odra and Morava.

The Czech Republic is a fairly densely populated country with approximately 10 million inhabitants.

1.Fill in the gaps:

Area:
Our neighbours:
Highest peak:
Major rivers:
Inhabitants:

History

The Czech republic, as it is now, came into existence in January 1993 after the peaceful split-up of the former Czechoslovakia, resulting from the different views of Czechs and Slovaks on how to form a new democratic state. The country consists of 3 historical areas (Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia).

In ancient times this area was inhabited by Celtic and Teutonic tribes. In the 6 th century Slavic tribes came here from the East and in the 9 th century united in the first significant political unit in this region, the Great Moravian Empire, from which an independent Czech state developed.

Until early 14 th century the Czech lands were ruled by the native Premyslid dynasty. Under Charles IV the country became a part of the Holy Roman Empire and the capital, Prague, became the political and cultural centre of Europe. The years of relative prosperity were

replaced with the revolutionary period of the nationalistic Hussite movement, inspired by the ideas of Jan Hus, a religious reformer, who was burnt at the stake in 1415.

In 1526 the Habsburgs took the Czech throne.

In 1620 was the Battle of the White Mountain and marked the beginning of a long period of political, religious and cultural oppression.

An important step towards the establishment of the modern Czech nation was the National Revival Movement in the early 19 century.

The Czechoslovak republic was proclaimed on 28 October 1918. The first president was T.G. Masaryk followed in 1935 by E. Beneš.

In March 1939 Nazi Germany occupied the Czech lands and called it "Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia."

In 1945 we were liberated by U.S. troops and the Red Army. The next few years after the war were marked by the struggle for the future political orientation of the republic.

The dramatic events of November 1989, known as "the Velvet Revolution" because of their non-violent character, brought the Czech lands back among democratic European countries.

2. Complete the timeline according to the text – choose the 5 most important events in our history and write them into the timeline.

The image shows a horizontal timeline consisting of a single line with vertical tick marks at the beginning and end. Below this line, there are five empty rectangular boxes, each aligned with a tick mark, intended for students to write the five most important events from the text.

Použité zdroje

ODEHNALOVÁ, Jana. *Reading Material for the Graduation Exam: Study material*. Ilustrace Irena Hladká. Praha: Práh, 1993, 64 s. ISBN 80-858-0903-6.

EL-HMOUDOVÁ, Dagmar. *Angličtina: maturitní témata*. 2. vyd. Třebíč: Petra Velanová, 2007, 223 s. Maturita (Petra Velanová). ISBN 978-80-86873-04-6.

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