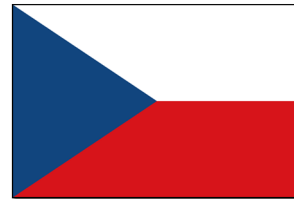


Český Krumlov, Czech Republic



Flag of
Czech Republic



Coat of Arms of
Czech Republic



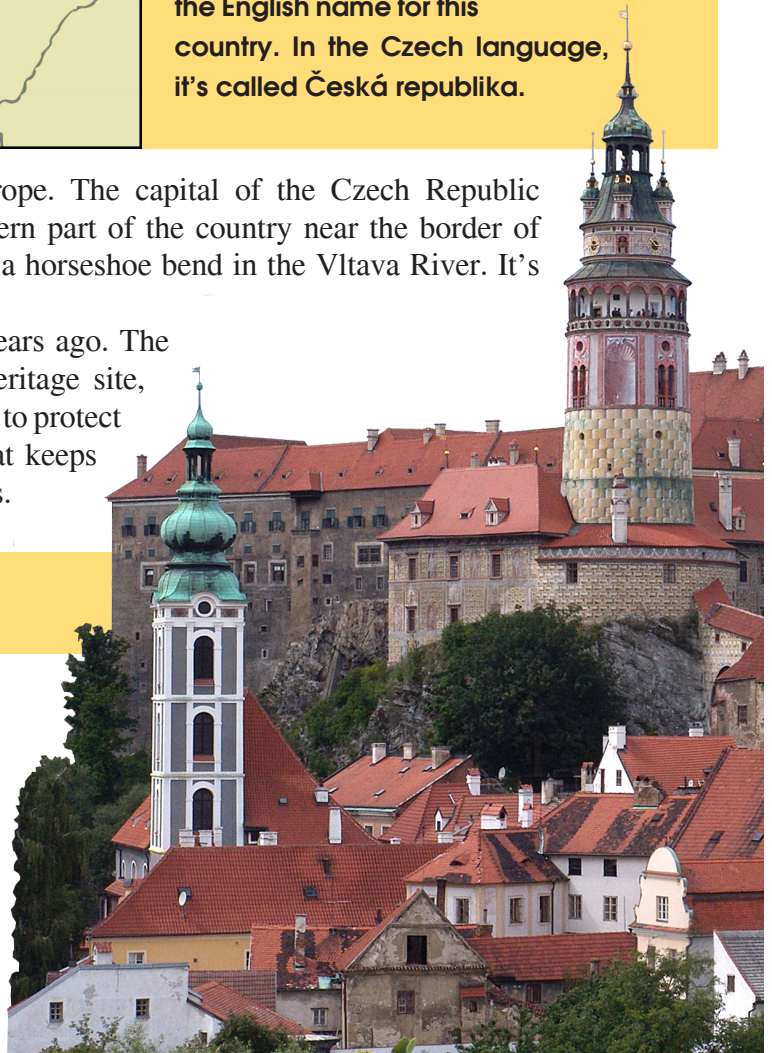
The Czech Republic is the English name for this country. In the Czech language, it's called Česká republika.

The Czech Republic is located in Central Europe. The capital of the Czech Republic is Prague. Český Krumlov, located in the southern part of the country near the border of Austria, is a small but amazing town located on a horseshoe bend in the Vltava River. It's absolutely beautiful...just like a fairytale village.

Construction on the town started over 700 years ago. The town's historic center is a UNESCO World Heritage site, which means the Czech government has promised to protect and preserve the beautiful buildings. That's what keeps this town looking like it has for hundreds of years.

Krumlov Castle

Towering over the town is the impressive Krumlov Castle. Construction on the castle began 700 years ago. It started out as a small tower where the lord of the region controlled the river and surrounding area. As the centuries passed, it was made bigger and bigger and more buildings and beautiful courtyards were added. Today, Krumlov Castle is one of the most popular places to visit in the Czech Republic.



Český Krumlov, Czech Republic

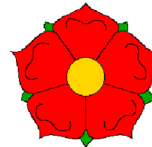


TheTravelingTrio

Five-Petalled Rose



One thing you will notice after spending some time in Český Krumlov is how often you see this very special flower, a five-petalled rose. It's the symbol of Český Krumlov. You see it everywhere, from the Český Krumlov flag to the manhole covers and everything in between, including doors, above windows, on the front of buildings, on drain pipes... Ingram even found a thumbtack with one.



The flag of Český Krumlov has a 5-petalled rose on it!

Baroque Theater

Stage plays have been a big part of European culture for hundreds of years. That's why many castles had their own theaters. Inside the Krumlov castle is the Český Krumlov Baroque Theater. That means it was built during the Baroque period, about 250 years ago. When this theater was built, only the royal family and their guests were allowed to attend performances. This was a time before electrical lighting was invented so candles were used to light the stage. The reason there are so few of these very old theaters left is because so many of them burned. This theater is only used three times a year nowadays, which helps preserve it for future generations.



Do you think Baroque-period kids' clothes look comfortable?

Think it Through!

Riddle 1

How many flowers do I have if all of them are roses except two, all of them are tulips except two, and all of them are daisies except two?

Riddle 2

What occurs once in every minute, twice in every moment, yet never in a thousand years?

(answers on page 6)



Olivia Says:

Inside the Baroque Theater it was really dark, even with all of the electric candles turned on. I liked seeing all of the contraptions they used to use to make the special effects happen on stage. My favorite was the wooden roller that made the sound of thunder.

Český Krumlov, Czech Republic



A person who operates a marionette is called a manipulator.

Bear Moat

Most castles have a moat. Usually they have water in them, but the moat at Krumlov Castle is full of bears. Bears are part of the history of this castle and have been kept in this moat since 1707. That's about 300 years. The bears kept here are brown bears. The Latin word for bear is *ursa*, so a place where bears are kept is called an **ursinarium**.

The bears in the Krumlov moat love to eat watermelon, and every day they drink a mixture of milk, honey, vitamins and fish oil. They drink 20 liters a day, over 5 gallons per bear. Could you imagine drinking 5 gallons of milk every day? That's a lot of milk.

Everett Says:

When I saw the bears up close, I couldn't believe how big they were. Their teeth were the size of my fingers. Yikes!



Marionette Museum

In Český Krumlov is an amazing Marionette Museum. A marionette is a type of puppet that is controlled with strings that are attached to sticks. Inside the museum, you can find just about every character you can imagine....from kings and queens to snails and ducks. Puppets have been part of history for several thousand years. They have been found in Egyptian tombs and were written about in ancient Greek writings. During the times of castles, puppets were mostly enjoyed by the royal families and wealthy citizens. Imagine the days when there were no TVs, no movies, no video games and no computers. Seeing a puppet show was like going to the movie theater. It was a really big deal.



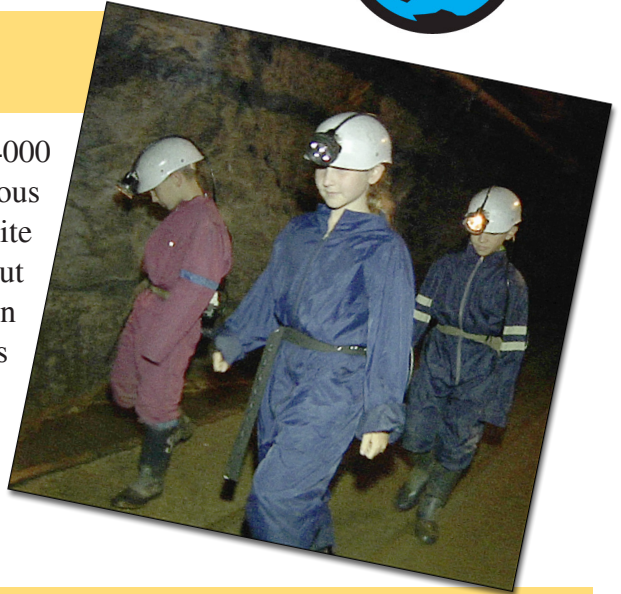
Český Krumlov, Czech Republic



Graphite Mine

People have been mining the Czech Republic for about 4000 years. They have collected silver, gold, minerals and precious gems. One of the things also mined here is graphite. Graphite is the stuff you find in pencils. Most people call it lead, but it's really graphite. It's also used in electric motors and in some types of batteries. The graphite inside this mine was once at the bottom of the sea and is actually made up of dead fish and plants that died 300 million years ago.

Today, the Český Krumlov graphite mine is only used to teach people how mining works. They don't remove graphite from it any more.



Ingram Says:

The graphite mine was really cold and wet inside, but it was still fun exploring in the dark with our headlamps on. Our guide told us that rubbing graphite on your face would bring you good luck, so I rubbed a LOT on my face.

Crowns for Money

Whenever you visit a foreign country, you usually have to change your money for the local currency. The money in the Czech Republic is called Czech Crowns.



Learn the Language

In English	In Czech	Sounds like
How are you? (informal)	Jak se máš?	Yawk se mawsh
How are you? (formal)	Jak se máte?	Yawk se maw-tay
Good day	Dobrý den	Doe-bree Den
Please and You're welcome	Prosím	Pro-seem
Thank you	Děkuji	Jee-kwee
Goodbye	Na shledanou	Nah Skle-daw-no

In some languages there are two ways to say things; formal and informal. If you are speaking to a close friend, you use the informal word. If you are speaking to a stranger or someone older than you, you use the formal word.

Český Krumlov, Czech Republic



Test Your Memory

(answers on page 6)



Place the names below in the correct locations on the map.

Prague
Germany
Poland
Slovakia
Austria
Český Krumlov

Multiple Choice

(answers on page 6)

1. The capital of the Czech Republic is which of the following cities?
a. Vienna b. Bratislava
c. Prague d. Berlin
2. Which flower is on the flag of Český Krumlov?
a. daisy b. 5-petalled rose
c. tulip c. sunflower
3. The person who operates a marionette is called a _____.
a. puppet-master b. operator
c. maneuverer d. manipulator

Which of these flags belongs to the Czech Republic?



Review

(answers on page 6)

1. The historic center of Český Krumlov is a UNESCO World Heritage site. That means the Czech government has promised to do something regarding the town. What have they promised to do?

2. The Český Krumlov Baroque Theater is one of the few theaters that has survived from the baroque period. How were many of the others destroyed?

3. The Latin word for bear is *ursa*. What do you call a place where bears are kept?

4. Graphite is made of what things that built up on the bottom of the sea over 300 million years ago?



Use your imagination to answer this question:
What is this bear thinking?

Český Krumlov, Czech Republic



Test Your Memory (solution)



Hot Topic:

Why is Geography so important to learn when we've got GPS to find places for us? What do you think?

Answer Key

“Think it Through” from page 2.

Riddle 1. Three flowers: rose, tulip, daisy.

Riddle 2. The letter m.

“Review” from page 5.

1. The Czech government has promised to protect and preserve the town.
2. These theaters were lit by candle light and because of that, many of them burned.
3. An ursinarium.
4. Dead fish and plants.

“Multiple Choice” from page 5.

1. c. Prague
2. b. 5-Petalled Rose
3. d. Manipulator

Which of these flags belongs to the Czech Republic?

England



Czech Republic



Germany



Get Yourself Thinking

These questions are intended to help get the thought process going, and are well suited for group discussion.

1. The management of the Český Krumlov Castle realizes that the living conditions of the bears in the bear moat are not as good as they should be. They are working with the Prague Zoo to improve the bears' living conditions. If you were a bear, what are some specific improvements you would want the management to make?
2. During the Baroque period, some of the kids' clothes were very bulky with heavy fabric and trim. In fact, a single dress, worn by a young girl, could have weighed more than 10 pounds. Have you ever thought about how heavy your clothes are? Try weighing your favorite outfit to find out.
3. If you were going to perform a modern movie with marionettes, which movie would you perform, what type of props, and how many marionette puppets do you think you would need?

Czech Language Guide

With the pronunciation guide given here, you can read back over this fact sheet and correct any words you may have accidentally said incorrectly.

In Czech	Sounds like
Česká	Chess-kah
Český	Chess-key
Krumlov	Kroom-lawv
republika	ree-poo-blik-ah
Baroque	Bah-roke
Vltava	Vul-tah-vah

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