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# The Political Map of Ukraine



## Lead-in

- 1 Which region do you live in? What regions surround it?
- 2 Which countries border Ukraine? How many of them used to belong to the Soviet Union?
- 3 Look at the Ukrainian banknotes. Which regions and landmarks are shown on them?

## Reading & Listening

- 4 Listen and fill in the gaps on p. 5 with the following figures. Read the text and check.
  - 1654 • 47 million • 450 • 24 • 1991 • 603,700

- 5 Read the sentences below and mark them *T* (True) or *F* (False). Correct the false ones.
  - 1 The executive power is headed by the Supreme Court. ....
  - 2 The Verkhovna Rada's main function is making laws. ....
  - 3 The Prime Minister secures state independence, human rights and freedom. ....
  - 4 The heads of the local state administrations are elected by the people. ....
- 6 Match the words in bold to their definitions.
  - a Independent and having the power to make decisions.
  - b Those that show their choice or opinion in an election.
  - c Joining the parts of a divided group, party, or country together again.
  - d People who have a legal right to live in a particular country.
  - e Announced something officially or publicly.
  - f Members of the Ukrainian Parliament.



## Important Information and Statistics

On 24<sup>th</sup> August, **1**) ... , Ukraine **proclaimed** its independence from the USSR and began to construct a democratic state. This was a historic moment for Ukraine, as for many years its independence and culture had been in danger.

Since the collapse of Kyivan Rus, present day Ukraine had been under pressure from Tatar, Polish and Turkish invaders, all of them attempting to bring the people and land under one rule. This threat was reduced with the **reunification** of Ukraine and Russia in **2**) ... This event happened at the Pereyaslav Rada under Bohdan Khmelnytsky's guidance. For more than 250 years Ukraine was part of Russia, and in 1922, it became one of the republics of the Soviet Union.

Ukraine is the largest country in Europe. Recent figures show that **3**) ... people live in Ukraine, giving it the fifth largest population in Europe. Ethnic Ukrainians constitute 72 percent of Ukraine's population. Other ethnic groups that are widespread in Ukraine are Russians (22 percent), Belarussians, Poles, Jews, Bulgarians, Hungarians and Tatars (less than 1 percent each).

The territory of Ukraine covers **4**) ... square kilometres. Historically and ethnically, Ukraine's territory is divided into several zones: Polissia in the North, Serednya Prydnipryanshchyna along the central part of the Dnipro River, Podillia in the South-West, along the rivers Pivdenny Boug and Dnistr, Slobozhanshchyna in the East, Volyn in the North-West, the Carpathians and Bukovyna in the West and Crimea in the South.

According to the Constitution of Ukraine, the territorial structure of the country is composed of **5**) ... *oblasts* (regions) and the **Autonomous** Republic of Crimea, with further subdivision into *rayons* (districts), cities (each having its own rayons), settlements and villages. The cities of Kyiv and Sebastopol possess a special status determined by law. Every city has a Mayor and a Mayor's office.

## The Structure of the National Government

Under the Constitution, the powers of the government are divided into three branches – the legislative, which consists of the Verkhovna Rada (the Ukrainian Parliament), the executive, headed by the President with the Cabinet of Ministers as the highest body and the judicial, which is led by the Supreme Court.

The parliament has one house that is represented by **6**) ... people's **deputies**, elected for four year terms by the **citizens** of Ukraine. The Verkhovna Rada's main function is making laws.

The President is elected directly by the **voters** for a term of five years, with no more than two full terms. The President of Ukraine secures state independence, human rights and freedoms. The executive power in *oblast* and *rayons* is exercised by local state administrations. Their heads are appointed by the President and are responsible to him.

Justice in Ukraine is exercised entirely by the courts. It is administered by the Constitutional court and by courts of general jurisdiction. The Supreme Court of Ukraine is the highest body of general jurisdiction.

The Autonomous Republic of Crimea has its own parliament and government.

## Speaking

Use the map to give a brief presentation on Ukraine to your classmates.