

INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

PRAGUE

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Cílová skupina	vyšší stupeň osmiletého gymnázia, čtyřleté gymnázium
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Metodický pokyn**Zdroje:**

[1] CHUDÁ, Jana a Tomáš CHUDÝ. *Topics for English conversation (we get ready for the graduation exam)*. 2. vyd. Praha: Fragment, c1996, 87 s. ISBN 80720005192.

[2] LUDVÍK, Marcel, Soňa SCHEINPFLUGOVÁ a Josef ŠKVOR. *Prague: brief characteristics, points of interest, walks through the city, practical information*. 3rd ed. Překlad Till Gottheinerová. Praha: Olympia, 1996, 132 s. Olympia Guide. ISBN 80-703-3400-2.



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Introduction

Prague - the capital city of the Czech Republic, is rightly regarded as one of the most beautiful towns in Europe. It is sometimes called *Prague of Hundred Spires*, *Golden Prague* or *The Mother of Cities*.

Prague is the seat of the President, the Czech Government and Parliament and the political, cultural and economic centre of the country. It spreads out on both banks of the river Vltava in the centre of Bohemia. It covers an area of 497 sq. km and it has 1.257 million inhabitants. The whole city consists of 10 administrative districts and 22 boroughs. The oldest parts are the Old Town, The Lesser Town, the New Town, Josefov, Hradčany and Vyšehrad. Together they make a town preserve which is quite unique. In 1992 Prague historical centre was put on the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List. On the other hand Prague is now surrounded by a ring of modern housing estates serving as residential quarters.

Prague is also the centre of banking, the seat of the major corporations, the main road, rail and air transport junction of the country. In the sphere of culture it is home to the best-known theatres, orchestras, the largest museums and art galleries. It is the centre of scientific research and education (Charles University, the University of Technology).

History

A legend connects the foundation of Prague with **Princess Libuše of the1.....dynasty** who prophesied the future glory which "would touch the stars". The oldest settlement of this area goes back to the Stone Age (25,000 years ago) but **the Slavs** came to the Prague valley in the2.....century. In **the 9th century Prince3.....** founded a castle on a hill above the Vltava valley and it became the seat of princes of the Přemyslid dynasty. In the 10th century another castle, **Vyšehrad**, was built and became temporarily a seat of the Přemyslid Princes too. Prague became the imperial residence of **Charles IV** (1346-1378) and during his reign it flourished and grew. Charles IV established an Archbishopric (1344), founded Charles University (1348), the New Town with the Horse Market (now Wenceslas Square) and the Cattle Market (now Charles Square), and promoted the construction of Charles Bridge and St. Vitus Cathedral.

In the **15th century** Prague was the centre of **the4..... movement** - the movement against the church practice, which continued after John Huss's death. In 1419 the defenestration of the counsellors from the windows of the New Town Hall took place. In 1420 Jan Žižka defeated the first anti-Hussite crusade on Vítkov Hill.

At the end of the **16th century** Prague regained its cosmopolitan character again when it became the seat of5.....**II**, who invited artists and scientists there (Tycho de Brahe, Johannes Kepler). On November 8th, 1620 the Czech estates rose up against the Habsburgs and were defeated in **the Battle of the6.....**, near the place where the Star Summer Palace stands until now. A few months later, in 1621, 27 representatives of the uprising were executed in the Old Town Square. The Thirty Years' War, re-catholicization and germanization followed. The fact that Prague was not the capital of the monarchy any more, preserved many historical buildings from the old times there.

At the end of **the 18th century** it became the centre of the Czech cultural life when Czech scholars and writers began the process of national revival. In **1918** Prague was the capital of the independent Czechoslovak Republic again. In **1939** it was occupied by German troops and in **1942** severely persecuted after the assassination of the Nazi deputy protektor R. Heydrich. After the Prague Uprising against the fascists the town was liberated by the Russians on **9th May, 1945**. The August occupation of Prague in **1968** stopped the democratic reforms in the country and began the process of "normalization". On 17th November, **1989**, the Velvet Revolution began democratic changes in our society. The whole process continued with splitting of former federal Czechoslovakia into two independent states and on **1st January, 1993**, Prague became the capital of the Czech Republic.

Places of interest

The7....., the seat of the President, is the dominant of the city. From the square outside the castle tourists can admire the city below with the roofs of ancient Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque houses and palaces and hundreds of church spires for which Prague is renowned. The monumental complex of the castle includes three courtyards and over 700 rooms among which the late Gothic8.....**Hall**, and newly decorated9..... **Hall** and **Rudolph Gallery** serve for ceremonial and cultural purposes.



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The most impressive building at the Castle is **St.10.....Cathedral**. It was completed in 1929, thousand years after the foundation of the first church on this site. The Gothic Cathedral was founded by Charles IV in connection with the establishment of the Prague Archbishopric. The present cathedral is the result of the work of two famous architects, **Matthias of Arras and Petr Parléř**. The most admired parts of the church are the Gothic **St.11..... Chapel**, the coronation chamber where the coronation jewels are kept, and the Royal Crypt which contains the sarcophaguses of Czech kings and queens.

In the neighbourhood of the Castle on **.....12.....Hill** above the Lesser Town, the **.....13.....Monastery** is located. Founded in the 12th century, it is a Museum of Czech literature. Nearby the **Petřín14..... Tower** (the watchtower) can be found. It was built for the Jubilee Exhibition in 1891 as a free copy of the Eiffel Tower.

Along Neruda Street we can go from the Castle to **the15..... Town** below. It is a poetic quarter with picturesque narrow streets, stylish taverns, ancient houses and palaces and romantic gardens. The jewel of Baroque architecture is **St.16.....Church** in the Lesser Town Square, the masterpiece of I. K. Dienzenhofer and A. Lurago. From this square we can easily get to **.....17..... Bridge** over the Vltava River. This oldest (14th century) and most charming of many Prague bridges has become a favourite place for walks and tourists attractions. In summer it is always full of tourists, souvenir stalls and street artists. It was commissioned by Charles IV in 1357 and built by a famous Gothic architect Petr Parléř. On the both ends of the bridge there are Gothic Bridge Towers. It is 520 m long and 10 metres wide and is decorated with 30 sculptures and groups of statues mainly of Baroque origin (some of them by M. B. Brown and J. M. Brokoff) which together with the Bridge Towers make it a unique work of architecture.

Along Charles Street we can get to **the18.....**, the centre of the Old Town. It is surrounded by beautifully decorated houses with coloured facades and gables of all styles. A monumental medieval tower-like building of the **house At the Stone Bell** and the Rococo Kinský Palace which now houses a graphic collection are the most remarkable. The best known building in the square is **the Old Town Hall**. It was near the town hall where 27 representatives of the anti-Hapsburg uprising were executed after the lost Battle of the White Mountain. Tourists come to see an **.....19.....** with the statues of the Apostles on the tower. The Astronomical clock strikes every 60 minutes and is controlled by a very complicated mechanism built in the Middle Ages. In the upper part of the horologe a procession of the Apostles can be seen every hour. The horologe is decorated by 12 medallions representing the course of village life, painted by famous Czech painter Josef Mánes. There are also 12 signs of the Zodiac. The visual dominant of the Square is **the Týn church** where Danish astronomer Tycho de Brahe was buried in 1601. The centre of the Square is beautified by **the20.....Monument**. Not far from the Square there is **the21..... Chapel**, the most important centre of the Reformation movement where John Huss preached. The Old Town Square was a part of **the Royal Route** which led along Celetná and Karlova Street to Charles Bridge and the Castle .

The other street, **Celetná Street**, leads to **the22..... Tower** which forms a monumental entrance to the Old Town. This Tower stands on the end of Prague's new pedestrian zone called **King's Road**.

Close to the Powder Tower there is **the23..... House**, in the 14th and 15th centuries the Royal Court. At the turn of 20th century it was rebuilt in the late 19th century decorative style. The best known of its 6 halls is **the Smetana Hall** in which concerts of the **Prague Spring Music Festival** and balls are held. The Na příkopě Street, now a pedestrian precinct, takes us to the bottom of **.....24.....Square**. It is the heart of the New Town and present-day Prague. It is a 750 m long and 60 m wide boulevard lined with banks, department stores, boutiques, shops, hotels, restaurants, cafés, theatres and cinemas. The upper end of the square is closed by the Neo-Renaissance building of **the25.....** from the end of the 19th century. This museum contains historical and natural history collections. In the upper part of the square there stands the St. Wenceslas Memorial. It is the bronze equestrian statue of Prince Wenceslas by J.V. Myslbek, a favourite meeting place of tourists. From the bottom of the square we can go along Národní Street to the Vltava River.

On the bank of the Vltava River the most beautiful Neo-Renaissance building – **the National Theatre** - is situated. It was built from the public money collection of the people in the second half of the 19th century. Before its ceremonial opening in 1881 it was severely damaged by fire and was rebuilt within the next two years. The best artists of the 19th century decorated the theatre (M. Aleš, F. Ženíšek, V. Hynais).

The.....26..... is the oldest building of **Charles University** founded on 4th April 1348 as the first institution of this kind in Central Europe.



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Solution:

1) Přemyslid, 2) 6th, 3) Bořivoj, 4) Hussite, 5) Rudolph, 6) White Mountain, 7) Prague Castle, 8) Vladislav, 9) Spanish, 10) Vitus, 11) Wenceslas, 12) Petřín, 13) Strahov, 14) Observation, 15) Lesser, 16) Nicholas, 17) Charles, 18) Old Town Square, 19) horologe, 20) John Huss, 21) Bethlehem, 22) Powder, 23) Municipal, 24) Wenceslas, 25) National Museum, 26) Carolinum

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