

THE GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION OF UKRAINE

Ukraine lies in the eastern part of Europe. It **borders on**¹ Slovakia, Poland, **Hungary**², **Romania**³ and Moldova in the west. It is washed by the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea in the south. With an area of 233.100 square miles (603.700 sq. km) it is one of the largest geographical **entities**⁴ in Europe, the second largest country on the continent. With the area larger than France, it has a population of about 52 million, of whose 73.6 % - Ukrainians, 5.3 % - **minorities**⁵, 35.1 million **urban**⁶ and 16.6 million **rural**⁷; **density**⁸: 87 persons per 1 sq. km. Ukraine is inhabited by representatives of 128 nations, nationalities and ethnic groups.

The most part of its area is flat, but the **plains**⁹ are broken by highlands, running from north-west to south-west, as well as lowlands.

In the north of Ukraine there are forests, in the west — **the Carpathian mountains**¹⁰, in the eastern and central Ukraine — black-soil steppelands.

The Carpathians are situated in Europe and stretch through Hungary, Poland, Romania, including Ukraine. They are divided into the West Carpathians, East and South ones. The highest point of the Ukrainian Carpathians is Hoverla — 2.061 metres above the sea level.

The second largest Ukrainian mountains are the **Crimean mountains**¹¹, which stretch for about 150 km along the coast of the Black Sea. The highest point of them is the mountain Roman-Kosh — 1545 metres above the sea level. The Crimea is a peninsula located in the south of Ukraine and is washed by the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov.

The **flora**¹² and **fauna**¹³ of our country are extremely rich. Almost all kinds of animals and birds, different plants and vegetables are found on the territory of our vast land.

The nature of Ukraine is beautiful due to a number of rivers and lakes. There are 131 rivers in Ukraine. The longest ones are the Dniester, the Donets, and the Bug. The Dniro is the main river in Ukraine. It divides the country into Right-bank and Left-bank areas. Most of the rivers are **navigable**¹⁴.

Ukraine is rich in **mineral resources**¹⁵: coal, oil, gas, and iron ore.

The rich **deposits**¹⁶ of iron and coal are in the south of Ukraine, the deposits of gas and oil are in the Ukrainian Carpathians, different mineral waters are one more **wealth**¹⁷ of Ukraine.

The geographical position of Ukraine is very **favourable**¹⁸ for the development of its industry and agriculture.

Ukraine is a developed industrial country. It produces modern instruments, electronic microscopes, aeroplanes, ships, **synthetic diamonds**¹⁹ and **consumer goods**²⁰.

Ukrainian climate is good for cultivating different agricultural plenty. Farming areas occupy 41.9 million hectares of Ukraine's **arable soils**²¹. About 4 million persons are employed in the agrarian sector. The most important farming branch is **crops breeding**²².

Animal husbandry is the second major farming branch. Unfortunately now, our country is through a period of great difficulties in its economic system.

Now Ukraine is building its new economy. The geographical position of Ukraine is good for **maintaining**²³ close economic relations with many European countries.

Vocabulary:

1. border on – межувати з
2. Hungary ['hʌŋɡəri] – Угорщина
3. Romania [rou'meɪnjə] – Румунія
4. entity ['entɪtɪ] – сукупність
5. minority [maɪ'nɒrɪtɪ] – меншина
6. urban ['ʊ:bən] – міське населення
7. rural ['ruəl(ə)l] – сільське населення
8. density – густота
9. plain – рівнина

10. the Carpathian mountains [kɑːpeɪθjən] – Карпатські гори
11. the Crimean mountains [kraɪ'miən] – Кримські гори
12. flora ['floːrə] – флора
13. fauna ['foːnə] – фауна
14. navigable ['nævɪgəbl] – судноплавний
15. mineral resources – мінеральні ресурси
16. deposit [di'pɒzɪt] – поклади, місце народження
17. wealth – багатство
18. to be favourable ['feɪvərəbl] – бути сприятливим
19. synthetic diamonds [sɪn'tetɪk 'daɪəməndz] – штучні алмази
20. consumer goods – товари широкого вжитку
21. arable soils ['ærəbl] – орні землі
22. crops breeding – вирощування рослин
23. maintain – підтримувати

EXERCISES

I. Make up the plan to the text.

II. Answer the following questions:

1. What can you say about the geographical position of Ukraine?
2. What is the area of Ukraine?
3. What nations and nationalities live in Ukraine?
4. What mountains in Ukraine do you know?
5. What seas is Ukraine washed by?
6. How many people live in Ukraine?
7. What are the longest rivers in Ukraine?
8. What is the climate of Ukraine?
9. Is Ukraine rich in mineral resources?
10. What kind of mineral resources has Ukraine?
11. What are the main branches of industry in Ukraine?
12. What is the second major farming branch of Ukraine?

III. Fill in the missing words:

1. It ... Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, Romania and Moldova in the west.
2. It is one of the largest geographical ... in Europe.
3. The most part of its area is flat, but the ... are broken by highlands.
4. The second largest Ukrainian mountains are the
5. The ... and ... of our country are extremely rich.
6. Most of the rivers are
7. Ukraine is rich in ...: coal, oil, gas, and iron ore.
8. The geographical position of Ukraine is very ... for the development of its industry and agriculture.
9. The most important farming branch is
10. The geographical position of Ukraine is good for ... close economic relations with many European countries.