



# Natural Wonders of Ukraine

- 1** What is a natural wonder? Have you ever visited one? Which natural wonder of the world would you like to visit? Why?

## Reading

- 2** Read the headings and look at the pictures. Do you know any of these places? What do they have in common? What makes each place special? Read to find out.

- 3** Match the statements (1-7) to the natural wonders (A-G). There is one extra statement that does not match any of the wonders.

- 1 You can see water falling from a height at this place.
- 2 People like visiting this place when the weather is hot.
- 3 There used to be a sea where this place is now.
- 4 Visitors can travel around this place in different ways.
- 5 There is more to discover about this place.
- 6 This place attracts a lot of tourists in winter.
- 7 People have made efforts to stop this place from becoming larger.
- 8 There are two different names for this place.

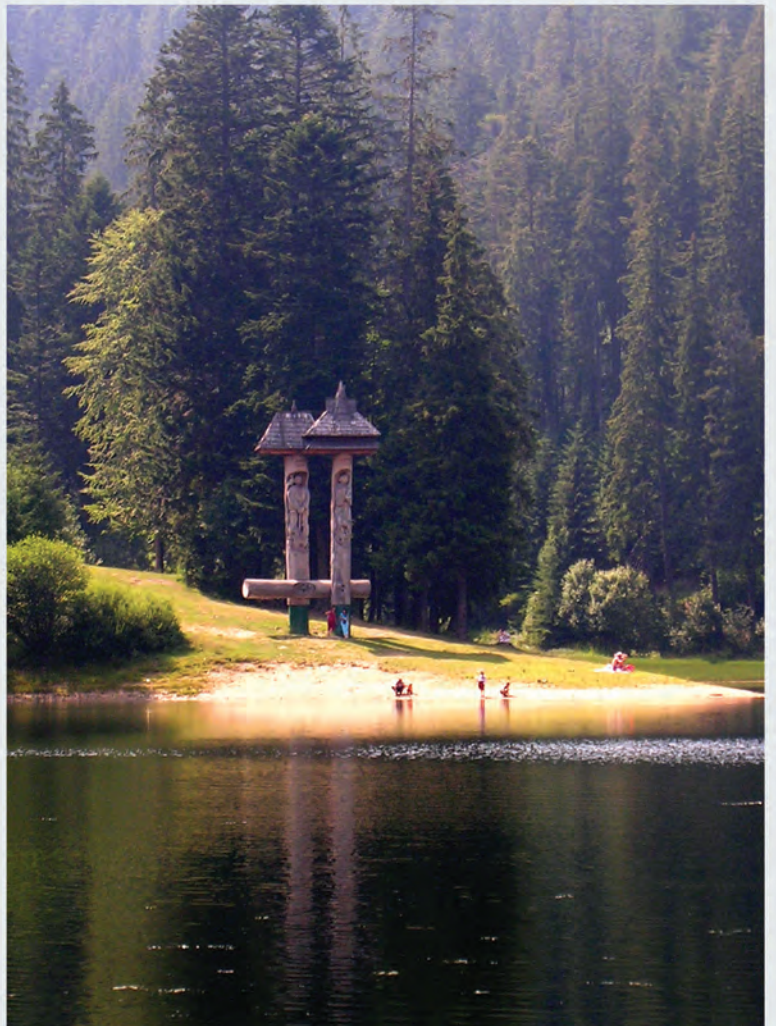
### CHECK THESE WORDS!

elevation, mountain slope, coniferous tree, nature reserve, hectare, elms, junipers, maple, breathtaking, mountain ridge, limestone

## A Lake Synevyr

Lake Synevyr is a place of extraordinary beauty. It is certainly the loveliest lake in Synevyr National Park and one of the most beautiful lakes in the Ukrainian Carpathians. The lake has an elevation of 989 meters above sea level and a water surface of over 4 hectares. Its average depth is over 8 metres, while it reaches a maximum depth of 22 metres. Experts believe that the lake is more than 10,000 years old.

Lake Synevyr is surrounded by mountain slopes covered in coniferous trees, many of which are a couple of centuries old. Another name for Lake Synevyr is Morske oko (Eye of the Sea). This local name comes from the small island that is in the centre of the lake.



## **B** Askaniia Nova, a natural reserve



Askaniia Nova is considered the oldest nature reserve in Ukraine and the largest among European steppe protected areas. The reserve covers an area of 11 thousand hectares. It is home to more than 400 species of grasses and flowers. Part of the reserve, covering an area of about 200 hectares, is known as The Park. This area consists of different sections where you can find about 150 species of trees including elms, junipers, firs

and maples. More than 60 species of birds and many species of steppe mammals live in the Park. Visitors to the reserve are likely to see beautiful birds such as white and black swans and flamingos as well as steppe eagles. Other animals in the reserve include camels, llamas, buffalos and wild horses. Tourists can explore certain parts of the reserve on foot, on horseback or on tourist buses.

## **C** Podilski Tovtry

Podilski Tovtry is a national park covering an area of 2,613 km<sup>2</sup>. This area of breathtaking beauty is unique in the world. It features the only mountain ridge in the world which was formed as a result of the activity of organisms living along the coastline of an ocean that existed there 20 million years ago. With the passing of time, the shells of the molluscs that lived in the ocean became limestone ridges. Today, these ridges are over 400 metres high.

The park has 1,700 different plant species and nearly 220 different animal species living there. Sadly, 60 of the park's plant species and 29 animal species living in the park are listed in the Red Book of Ukraine – a list of endangered animals and plants that live in Ukraine. Thanks to the conditions that exist in the park we can find several rare plants there. A lot of these plants can be used in the treatment of illnesses and injuries.





## D Lake Svitiaz

Svitiaz is the biggest and deepest lake in Ukraine. One of the impressive things about this lake is that during a storm, waves as high as sea waves can rise from its surface. Svitiáz is one of the Shatski Lakes, which are famous for their great natural beauty. The lake reaches a width of 4,000 metres and a length of 9,225 metres. Its

maximum depth is 58.4 metres. In the middle of the lake there is an island of 7 hectares in size. The water of Svitiáz comes from different springs. Svitiáz Lake has very clean and clear water, whose transparency is up to 8 metres. This and its sandy bottom make the lake a popular summer tourist spot.



## E Optymistychna Cave



Optymistychna Cave is a gypsum cave near the village of Korolivka in the Ternopil Oblast. With a total length of 230 km, it is the world's longest gypsum cave.

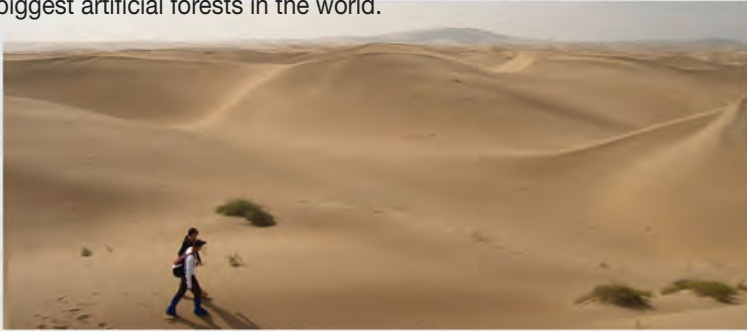


A team of speleologists – cave experts – discovered the cave in 1966. Since then, cavers from all over Europe have taken part in over 170 expeditions in order to further explore the cave. Optymistychna Cave offers a stunning combination of underground lakes, stalactites and stalagmites. It is divided into 10 different sections according to the structure of the passages and the gypsum as well as the number, size, shape and colour of crystals each section has. One peculiar fact about the cave is that you can find drinking water there. Scientists are still exploring the cave so more of its secrets will be revealed in the future.

## F Oleshky Sands

Oleshky Sands forms the largest open area of sand in Ukraine, and the second largest in Europe. It is in the Kherson Oblast, near the lower reaches of the Dnipro River and it spreads across an area of 1,612 km<sup>2</sup>.

Oleshky Sands is not exactly a desert. The temperature and amount of rain that falls in the area make it a semi-desert. The landscape of Oleshky Sands consists of sand dunes, which can be as high as five metres, and some vegetation. 30 to 40 metres deep, there is an underground lake that plays an important role in the local environment. Around the sands, people have planted dense forests which prevent the sand from spreading and turning the rest of the region into a desert. These forests cover an area of 100,000 hectares and are among the biggest artificial forests in the world.



## G Dnistrovskiy Canyon

Dnistrovskiy Canyon is a 250-kilometre stretch of the Dnister River from the mouth of the Zolota Lypa River to the mouth of the Zbruch River. The Dnister flows through the valley among amazing natural sights. The canyon owes its beauty to the plants and animals that are found there, which, in combination with the beautiful rock formations and the waterfalls, create an extraordinary landscape. Near the canyon, there are plenty of small, picturesque villages. Visitors there get the chance to see ruins of castles and fortresses, beautiful old churches and impressive monasteries found inside caves. All this, coupled with the mild weather of the area, makes Dnistrovskiy Canyon the perfect place for a weekend of exploration and adventure.




## Vocabulary


### 4 Replace the words/phrases in the sentences with synonyms from the list below.

- vegetation • artificial • dense
- slopes • breathtaking • peculiar

- 1 The village is on the edge of a **thick** forest.
- 2 The stalactites and the stalagmites in the cave had **strange** shapes.
- 3 We enjoyed the **amazing** beauty of the countryside.
- 4 A team of scientists is examining the **plants** in the area.
- 5 The largest **man-made** lake in Ukraine is in Bukovel, in the Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast.
- 6 The mountain **sides** are covered with snow in winter.

## Speaking & Writing

- 5  Work in pairs. Imagine that you are doing a project about places of beauty in your country. Which two of the natural wonders would you include in your project? Why? Discuss with your partner.

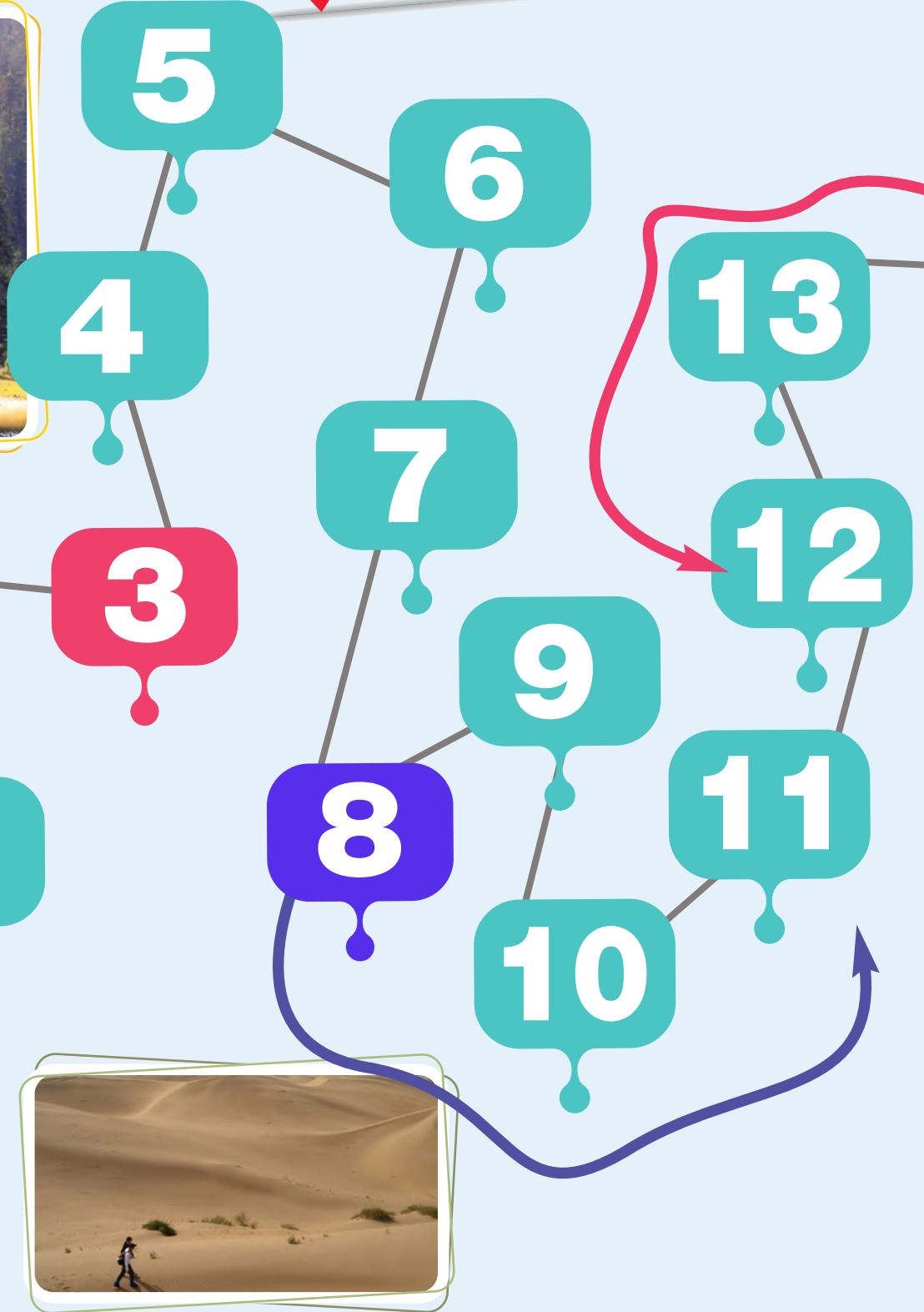
- 6  Do some online research to find out about a natural wonder in an English-speaking country (e.g. the Great Barrier Reef in Australia or the Grand Canyon in the USA). Write a short paragraph about the place including information on the location, wildlife and importance of it. Read your paragraph to the class.

### CHECK THESE WORDS!

spring, transparency, speleologist, gypsum, stunning, peculiar, reveal, reach, dune, vegetation, dense, artificial, stretch, mouth, valley, coupled with



Let's **Play**



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FINISH



- 1 Name three types of trees which you can find in Ascaniia Nova.
- 2 What is the transparency of the water in Lake Sviatiaz?
- 3 Miss a turn.
- 4 What is strange about Optymistychna Cave?
- 5 What makes Oleshky Sands a semi-desert and not a desert?
- 6 Why is Lake Synevyr called Morske Oko? What is its maximum depth?
- 7 Which place provides a lot of medical plants?
- 8 Go to 11.
- 9 How long is Dnistrovskiy Canyon?
- 10 What is Zolota Lypa?
- 11 How many species of birds can be found in Ascaniia Nova?
- 12 Which is the deepest lake in Ukraine?
- 13 When was the Optymistychna Cave discovered?
- 14 Go to 12.
- 15 What surrounds Oleshky Sands? Why?
- 16 Go to 19.
- 17 What is the Red Book of Ukraine? How many types of animals from Podilski Tovtry are in the Red Book of Ukraine?
- 18 Name 4 animals you can see in the oldest nature reserve in Ukraine.
- 19 How were the limestone ridges of Podilsky Tovtry formed?