

# SPOTLIGHT ON TATARSTAN



# Spotlight on Tatarstan

*Dear readers!*

You are holding a unique magazine «Spotlight on Tatarstan», made by students of the 10th grade of the Municipal Budget Educational Institution «Gymnasium No. 33» of the Kazan Aviastroitelny District under the guidance of the English teachers I.N. Titova and A.S. Urustemkhanova.

By creating this magazine, each student has put his whole soul into it. A significant contribution was made by A. Garifullina, who was engaged in text editing, and E. Dubossarskaya, who was as a graphic designer. Tirelessly, working hard on the creation, we managed to bring the idea to life, as well as learn a lot of new and entertaining information about our motherland. Thanks to the work on the magazine, our homeland has become much closer, more beloved and understandable to us. We invite you to get to know the Republic of Tatarstan better.

Tatarstan is located in the east of the East European Plain, at the confluence of two major rivers - the Volga and the Kama, Kazan is located at a distance of 797 km east of Moscow.

The famous poet Boris Pasternak spoke about Tatarstan: "I have always loved our wilderness, small towns and rural areas more than capitals, and Chistopol is dear to my heart, and winters in it, and residents, and houses, as I saw them in the winter of 1941, when I came to an evacuated family." The capital of Tatarstan is not for nothing famous for its popularity and is one of the best tourist cities in Russia. "Oh

Kazan, you are sadness and cheerfulness! Svetozarnaya Kazan! Here are the deeds of our grandfathers, here are sacred places, here a happy man is waiting for a sweet guria mouth" - famous words of the well-known Tatar writer and poet Gabdulla Tukai about Kazan.

It is important to remember and honor the history and culture of your homeland, to be proud of it.

"Memory resists the destructive power of time. This property of memory is extremely important. It is customary to divide time into the past, present and future in an elementary way. But thanks to memory, the past enters the present, and the future is, as it were, predicted by the present, connected with the past." (S.D. Likhachev).

We hope you will immerse yourself in the culture, traditions and atmosphere of our birthplace. And who knows, you may be able to love Tatarstan as much as we love it. We invite you to visit our Republic.

*Enjoy your reading,  
See you in Tatarstan!*

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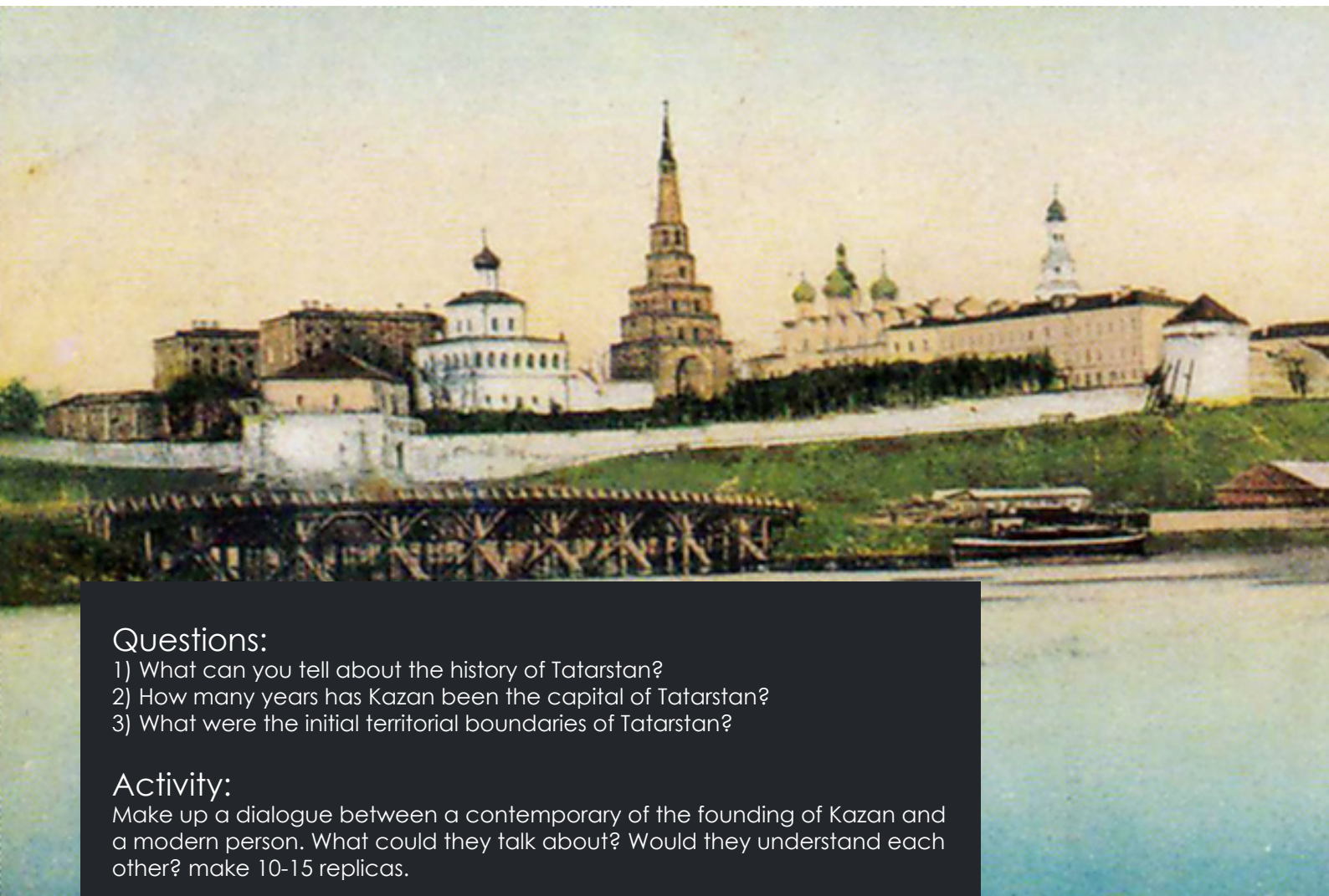
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# HISTORY OF TATARSTAN

**R**ich and interesting but at the same time dramatic history of Tatarstan.

First settlements in the territory of the Republic of Tatarstan date back to the Palaeolithic period (about 100,000 years ago). In the 8th - 9th centuries, the tribes of ancient Bulgars, ancestors of the modern Tatars, began to populate the Volga region . The first state - the Volga-Kama Bulgaria - was set up at the end of the 9th - beginning of the 10th century which was the first feudal state in the north-eastern Europe. In 922, Islam was established as a state religion.



## Questions:

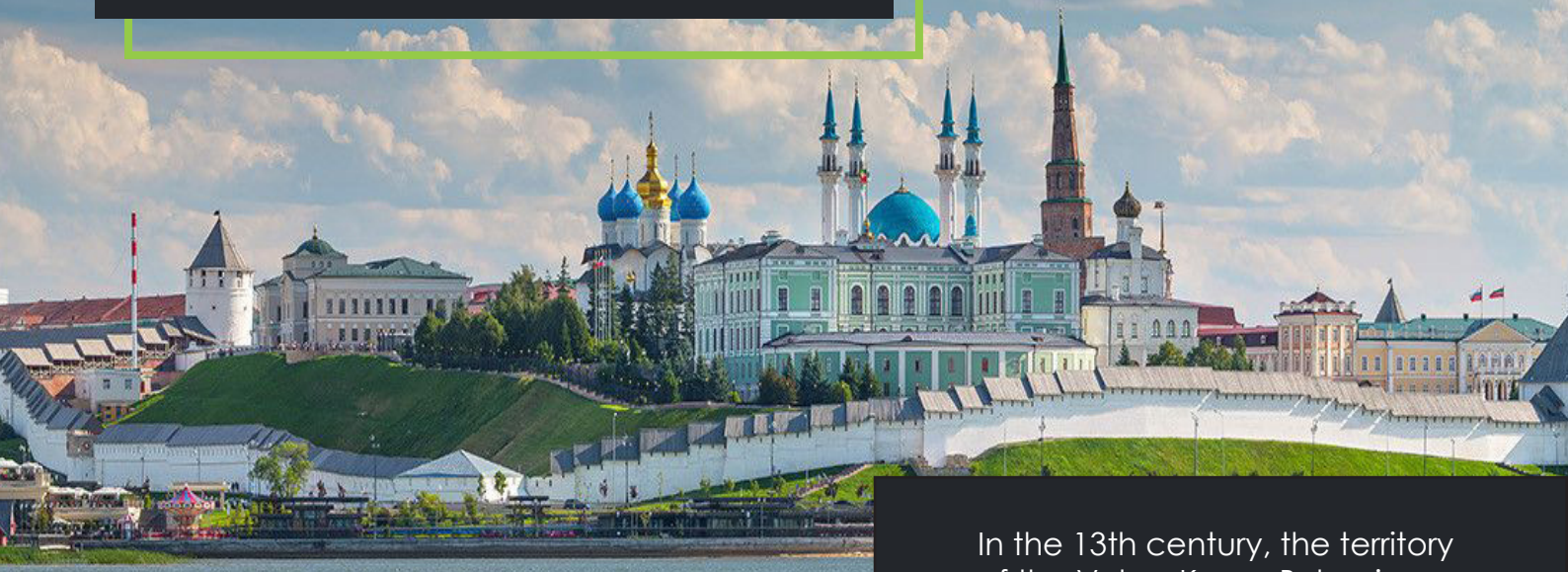
- 1) What can you tell about the history of Tatarstan?
- 2) How many years has Kazan been the capital of Tatarstan?
- 3) What were the initial territorial boundaries of Tatarstan?

## Activity:

Make up a dialogue between a contemporary of the founding of Kazan and a modern person. What could they talk about? Would they understand each other? make 10-15 replicas.

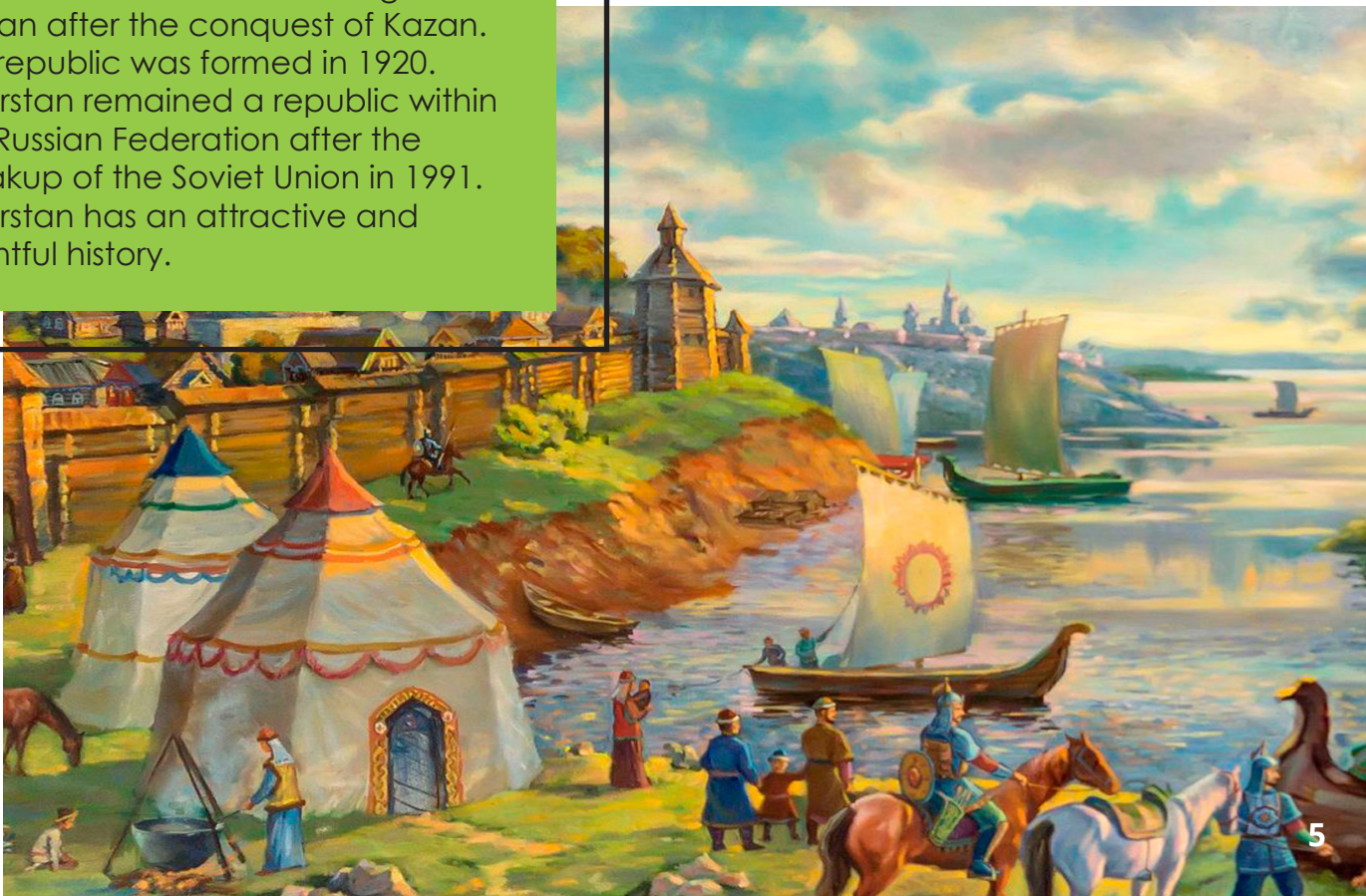


Kazan became the capital of the newly formed state. The Kazan Khanate ceased its existence in October 1552, after a two-month siege when troops of Ivan 4 the Terrible conquered Kazan.



In the 13th century, the territory of the Volga-Kama Bulgaria was annexed to the Empire of Chengiz-Khan and then became a part of the powerful Golden Horde State (in Russian it is called Zolotaya Orda). The collapse of the Golden Horde in the 14th century resulted in the formation of new states including the Khanate of Kazan.

In 1708, the territory of the modern Tatarstan was a part of the huge Kazan province with initial borders reaching Kostroma in the north, Ural in the east, the river Terek in the south, Murom and Penza in the west. Kazan had been keeping the status of the capital of the province for more than 200 years. Russian colonization of the region began after the conquest of Kazan. The republic was formed in 1920. Tatarstan remained a republic within the Russian Federation after the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991. Tatarstan has an attractive and eventful history.





# KAZAN

Kazan is the capital of the Republic of Tatarstan, and one of the largest and most beautiful cities in Russia, which is on the list of UNESCO World Heritage cities.

Kazan took first place in terms of population among the cities of the Volga Federal District. As of January 1, 2020, the population in Kazan is 1.257 million people.

The sixth largest city of Russia, it lies at the confluence of the Volga and Kazanka Rivers in European Russia. Tatar and Russian are the two official languages of the region with completely equal status.

In April 2009, the Russian Patent Office granted Kazan the right to brand itself as the «Third Capital» of Russia. In 2009 it was chosen as the «sports capital of Russia».

## Questions:

1. When was Kazan founded?
2. Where is located?
3. How many people live in Kazan?





1.257 million people – representatives of over 100 nationalities – live in Kazan in the atmosphere of cultural, religious and linguistic diversity. Tatarstan is a secular republic that has over 1,000 registered religious organizations. Islam and Orthodox Christianity are the most widespread. People of Kazan city have their own culture and traditions, which has been created over the centuries, based on the history of our city.

According to historians, Ancient Kazan (Iske Kazan) was founded in the late 13th century by Mongols (Tatars) of the Golden Horde after their overthrow of the Bulgar kingdom on the middle Volga. In the middle of the 16th century it became the part of the Russian Empire and the

population constantly has constantly grown since then.

The capital of Tatarstan, visited by over 1,000,000 tourists every year, was rated third in Europe and eighth in the world.

### Activity:

According to city's history and your imagination, draw your own version of symbol of Kazan.



# DIVERSITY OF NATIONALITIES

Tatarstan is one of the republics of the Russian Federation, occupying the 8th place in terms of population.

A large number of nationalities live on the territory of the modern republic, which are similar to each other, but at the same time have distinctive features that allow each of the nationalities to preserve their own characteristics, traditions and cultural elements.

Among all the people who live in the republic, the Tatars are the most numerous.

The first place in terms of population is occupied by Tatars.

The second place is occupied by Russians, the third by Chuvash, the Udmurts are on the fourth, and the Mordvins are closing the top five leaders.



## THE SHARE OF RUSSIANS IS REPRESENTED BY SLIGHTLY LESS THAN 50 PERCENT!

Due to the fact that Russians are so widely represented in Tatarstan, there could not but be some merging of cultures.

This can be traced in the neighborhood of Orthodox cathedrals and Islamic mosques. In Kazan, for example, the number of Russians exceeds the number of Tatars, even though the city is the capital of Tatarstan

### ALSO:

Mari, Ukrainians, Bashkirs,  
Azerbaijanis, Uzbeks,  
Armenians, Tajiks, Belarusians,  
Jews

### Questions:

1. What is the most numerous nationality in Tatarstan?
2. How can merging of cultures be seen in Tatarstan?
3. What is unique about Chuvash school ?

### Activity:

Speak about 2-3 nationalities in Tatarstan. Try to work in pairs.



The Chuvash, being the third largest group, play a significant role in the cultural, economic and political life of the country.

Today, the culture and language of the Chuvash people are so closely intertwined with the locals that they are accepted as an everyday phenomenon.

There are quite a large number of Chuvash schools in the country, where children study in their native language, or study it as a subject.

There are cultural communities and centers named after Chuvash famous figures, newspapers are published, radio broadcasting is conducted in the Chuvash language.

Tatars are the indigenous population of the Republic of Tatarstan and make up more than half of the population as a percentage.

Tatars have their own traditions, national holidays, many of which are celebrated at the present time.



# THE PRESIDENT OF TATARSTAN

PRESIDENT of Tatarstan - Rustam Minnikhanov Rustam Nurgalieovich Minnikhanov (Tat. Restam Nurgali uly Minekhanov; March 1, 1957, the village of Novy Arysh, Rybno-Slobodsky District, Tatar Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, RSFSR, USSR) - Russian statesman and politician. President of the Republic of Tatarstan since March 25, 2010. Member of the Supreme Council of the United Russia party. It was in the Soviet Union that people like Shaimiev and Minnikhanov could rise from the rural outskirts to the very heights of power, that is, from among the common working people. The President of the Republic of Tatarstan is an outstanding and



Rustam Nurgalieovich Minnikhanov

In early October 2015, a poll was conducted on Instagram, as a result of which Minnikhanov was named the third most popular politician in Russia among the population. Only Vladimir Putin and the head of the Chechen Republic Ramzan Kadyrov were ahead of him.

From an early age, Minnikhanov was fond of skiing and «put» all his friends on them. They went skiing to school, constantly arranged competitions...



## Questions:

- 1) What did you learn about the President of Tatarstan from the text provided to you?
- 2) Do you think it is important to know who governs the region/republic where you live?
- 3) What can you say about the president of your republic or country?

## Activity:

Have you ever wanted to become a famous person? the president of the country or a popular artist? prepare a short story on this topic.





Speed remained forever in the life of Rustam Nurgalievich, only the skis were somewhat “transformed”.

Today, the president of Tatarstan is seriously interested in auto racing and even has the international rank of master of sports.

Already occupying high positions, he participated in the championships more than once and won victories.

To report that Rustam Minnikhanov is a respected person in Tatarstan is to say nothing.

In the last presidential elections in the republic in September 2015, more than 90 percent of voters cast their votes for him. You need to be able to win such a serious level of people's trust...





# THE STATE MUSEUM



The museum opened its doors to the public in 1895. Among the exhibits, the collection of a well-known Kazan archeologist, historian and collector, Andrei Likhachev, is particularly notable. By the end of the 19th century the museum had become one of the largest in the Volga region. Currently, it has been decided to restore the building in its original form. Firstly, the concept of the museum has changed. Walking through the halls of the museum, visitors can trace the development of the Republic of Tatarstan and its people. The museum complex will consist of the following departments:

**ANCIENT AND  
MEDIEVAL HISTORY**

**THE REGION IN THE  
18-19TH CENTURIES**

**TATARSTAN IN THE  
20TH CENTURY**

**ARCHEOLOGY**

**MAN AND NATURE**

**ETHNOGRAPHY**





Nowadays the museum collection numbers over 600 thousand articles. Written sources: chronicles, rare hand-written books, private correspondence occupy a notable place in the collection. One can see a vast collection of photographs of old and present-day Kazan, picture postcards and posters of the 1920's-1930's, canvases of local painters, graphic arts and sculpture.

The archeological collection includes 210 thousand articles, dating from ancient times to the 18-19th Centuries.

Unique objects of world-wide significance are to be seen here: the sarcophagus of an Egyptian woman, the antique red-figure crater and many others.

The natural history section consists of mineralogical collection, having world-wide significance, as well as of botanical and zoological collections.

The ethnographic fund is varied. It contains clothes of the people populating the Middle Volga region - Tatars, Mari, Udmurts, Mordva and Russians.

The collections of the State Museum of Tatarstan are not only the matter of its pride, but are also the national property of Tatarstan and of the whole Russia.

Kazan has long attracted a rich and diverse museum life; Kazan has many museums for visitors to explore. Whether you want to learn more about Tatar culture, world-class art, or the impact of religion in Tatarstan - go to museum.



### Questions:

1. When was the museum established?
2. Whose collection did the museum begin with?
3. What collections are the most notable?

### Activity:

Tell us about the museums in your city.





# TATAR FAIRY TALES

**SINCE** the beginning of the fairy tales, they are moving from the mouth to the mouth. Reading fairy tales, you can close their relationship with Russians, as well as Tatars and Russians live very well, and the plot of the fairy tales can be repeated. We take into account that there are three types of fairy tales: magical, animal and everyday fairy tales. Magical fairy tales are very widely distributed and contain half of all Tatar fairy tales. The most famous of them are Dutan-batyr, Tutai-batyr, Kamyr-batyr, Aigali-batyr. The tale in Tatar is called Ekiyat (Hikayat). Some representatives of the older generation call this fairy tale the word «hikayat» (however, the meaning of this term was much broader: among the printed texts called «hikeyat», there are legends, legends, folk jokes, parables, stories and other prose works besides fairy tales)

Fairy tales are an important educational tool, developed and tested by the people for centuries. Children and fairy tales are inseparable, they are created for each other and therefore, familiarity with the fairy tales of their people must necessarily be included in the course of education and upbringing of every child. My children and I read fairy tales of different peoples, for example: Tatar folk tales like «The Nightingale», «Three Sisters»,

Russian folk tales like «Frost», «Geese-Swans», and fairy tales of other peoples. We discuss with the children the content of the fairy tale, positive and negative characters.

## Questions:

1. What characteristics of heroes are often found in fairy tales?
2. What kinds of fairy tales are there?
3. Why are Russian and Tatar fairy tales similar?

## Activities:

1. Based on this information, try to write a fairy tale
2. Go to the website [edutatar.ru](http://edutatar.ru) and watch the fairy tales in video format





# RAIFA



Just 30 kilometers away from Kazan, there is a place situated on the shore of a beautiful lake surrounded by the forests of Raifa State Nature Reserve. The name of this place is Raifa. Such a melodious word means “guarded by god” and historically descends from old Hebrew language.

The Raifa Bogoroditsky Monastery has its beginning in a skit (a small and secluded monastery) founded by the monk, Philaret, in the early 17th century. The exact year is still being discussed by historians, but is officially accepted as 1613.





Today Raifa Monastery does a great deal of missionary and charitable work. Every day, hundreds (and even thousands on holy days) of pilgrims, come to Raifa. Orphans from troubled families are being brought up in the monastery orphanage. Poor people and their children are baptized free of charge. The monastery buys equipment for schools, hospitals and kindergartens, helps them with building materials and money during the repairs. It also has The Vocal Quartet «Pritcha»

The first thing visitors approaching this saint place see is white stone notched walls and a belfry with its top aspired to the sky. Monastery Gate comes upon every visitor bringing here good intentions.

### Questions:

1. Where Raifa is located?
2. What is the first thing visitors see when approaching this holy place?
3. What is the name of the biggest cathedral there?

### Activity:

There is a legend about silent frogs in the history of Raifa. Find more information about it on the Internet.

On the left from entrance gate, you see a graveyard Monks, priests and benefactors of the Monastery who have been buried there for the past 300 years.

Today you see numerous flowers in this former graveyard wich represents today a flower garden, staying beautiful up to late autumn days.

Obviously, the most important cathedral in Raifa Monastery is the Cathedral of the Virgin of Georgia. It is situated to the right of the monastery's entrance gate.

Magnificent Holy Trinity Cathedral stays high in the center of the Monastery. It is the biggest cathedral here, designed by architect F.N.Malinovsiky in 1904-1910. It boasts excellent acoustics: four monks' singing can be heard for miles.

Opposite to the Trinity cathedral you see the church named in honor of Saint Fathers massacred in Sinai and Raifa right behind this church there is the smallest church in Europe.

Later, it was sanctified in honor of Faith, Hope, Passion and saint Sofia. This church replaced old day of Judgement church.

The Holy Water Chapel, consecrated in 1997 by Patriarch Alexy II, hides another treasure of the Raifa Monastery - spring water. People say that water of this spring is supposed



An aerial photograph of a vibrant turquoise lake, likely the Blue Lakes in Tatarstan. The water is exceptionally clear, revealing the sandy and rocky bottom. The lake is bordered by dense forests with trees in peak autumn foliage, displaying shades of orange, yellow, and brown. Several wooden walkways and platforms are built along the shoreline, with a few people visible walking on them. The overall scene is serene and picturesque.

# BLUE LAKES

Natural pearl of Tatarstan. The natural complex includes three lakes - Big Blue Lake, Small Blue Lake.

Blue lakes are fed by underground sources and do not have any tributaries. The water in them has a temperature of +3..+6 °C all year round.



# Big Blue Lake

Thanks to two karst funnels on the territory of the lake, Big and Small Depths, it is a favorite place for divers and winter swimmers all year round. The depth of the Big Deep is 18 meters, the Small one is only 6. The average depth over the entire area of the Big Blue Lake is 3 meters.



## Plants and inhabitants

Birch, aspen and pine trees grow around the lakes; in general, about 100 species of plants grow in the reserve. As for the fish, not all of them are in the reservoirs due to the constant low temperature. On the shore you can meet frogs, beavers and small snakes. Some species of animals listed in the Red Book of the Republic also live in the reserve.

# Small Blue Lake

The maximum depth of this lake is 4 meters, it is much smaller. This reservoir is equipped with bridges, changing cabins and everything necessary for year-round recreation and swimming in icy water. There are also hiking trails around it. Small Blue is more popular among vacationers.



## Questions:

- 1) What is the water temperature in the blue lake of Kazan?
- 2) How many meters is the average depth of the Big and Small Blue Lakes?
- 3) What living creatures are found in these lakes?

## Activities:

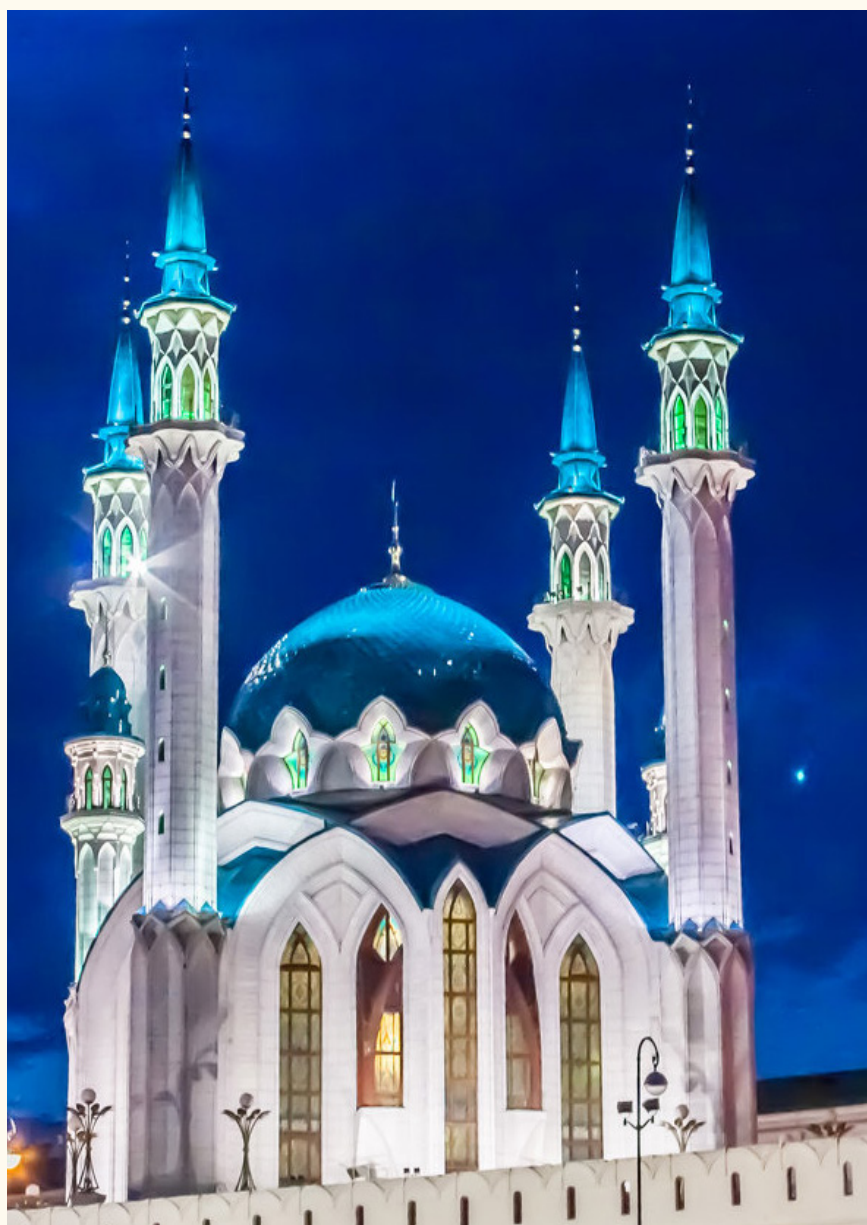
Find information about the most unusual and unique natural attraction in your area of residence. Write a short essay (10-12 sentences) about it and present it to your classmates



# Mosques

Islam has begun to penetrate the territory of the future republic since the VIII century, so you can discover the whole variety of mosques - from classical buildings to modern ones with a combination of unusual elements.

I want to tell you about the most significant objects with a rich history



Kul Sharif Mosque is situated on the territory of the Kazan Kremlin.

It is the main mosque of the Republic of Tatarstan and Kazan.

One of the most beautiful mosques in Russia adorns the panorama of the Kazan Kremlin and attracts the attention of tourists with its original architecture and high turquoise minarets.

The mosque was named after its last imam Kul-Sharif, one of the leaders of the defense of Kazan. It was opened on June 24, 2005, during the celebrations of the 1000th anniversary of Kazan.

The inner space is designed for one and a half thousand people, the square in front of it can accommodate another ten thousand.

What is more, the building and surroundings have spectacular night architectural lighting.



The white Mosque in the city of Bulgarians in Tatarstan is often compared with the famous Indian mosque-the mausoleum of the Taj Mahal. Indeed, they have some similarities. But unlike the Taj Mahal, the attraction of the city of Bolgary is modern.

The mosque was built in 2012 at the initiative of the President of Tatarstan. In addition to the mosque building, a clergy residence and a madrasah - a Muslim religious educational and educational institution - have been erected on the territory.



### Questions:

1. In what year was the Kul Sharif Mosque opened?
2. Which mosque is surrounded by a picturesque park?
3. Which mosque is considered the pearl of Tatarstan and which mosque is it compared to?

**Activity:** Tell us which of the mosques you managed to visit or would you like to visit in the near future.

### Cathedral Mosque

Nizhnekamsk Cathedral Mosque, located in the city of Nizhnekamsk, is the central Muslim temple of the city. It was built in 1996 as a whole cult complex — there is a Center of Culture and History, its own library, a hotel and a Muslim educational institution madrasah, in which Muslim youth from all over Russia study.

It is difficult to pass by the Cathedral Mosque — during the day it is surrounded by a picturesque park, which emphasizes its unusual shape, and in the evening spectacular lighting around it is turned on.





# RESERVERS

## ON THE TERRITORY OF TATARSTAN

### VOLGA KAMA STATE NATURAL BIOSPHERE RESERVE

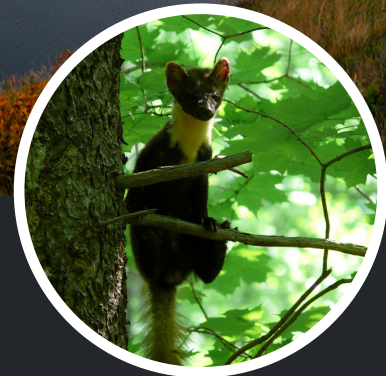
The reserve is located in the Kama region, on the left-bank terraces of the Volga, on the territory of Zelenodolsk and Laishevsky districts of the Republic of Tatarstan.

The territory of the reserve lies on the left-bank terraces of the Volga. The relief of the Raif site is flat. Its central part is greatly lowered, has a dune-bumpy character, with hollows and ancient gullies.

The fauna of the Volga-Kama Reserve is characterized by a mixture of taiga, oak and steppe fauna with a clear predominance of northern forest species. There are 55 species of mammals from 17 families in the reserve.







# LOWER KAMA NATIONAL PARK

The National Park is located on the territory of two administrative districts of the Republic of Tatarstan: Yelabuga and Tukayevsky.

The territory of the park is located in the area of the lower reaches of the river. A characteristic feature of the relief is the extensive development of a gully-beam network, confined mainly to the high right bank of the Kama River.

The fauna of vertebrates as a whole is typical for the east of the middle zone of the European part of Russia. A peculiar color is given to it by the close proximity of some taiga: red vole, chipmunk, cedar and steppe: steppe motley, blue-lark, hoopoe - species of mammals and birds.

Questions:

- 1) How can you characterize the fauna of the Volga-Kama reserve?
- 2) What kind of relief extends on the territory of The Lower Kama National park?
- 3) What rare animals inhabit The Lower Kama National park?

Activity:

What can you say about the two nature reserves that you have just read about? give a brief retelling.





# THE UNIVERSIADE

The Universiade is a world student sports competition, the second largest and most important after the Olympic Games. The compulsory program includes competitions in 13 Olympic sports: basketball, water polo, volleyball, judo, athletics, table tennis, swimming, diving, artistic and rhythmic gymnastics, tennis, fencing, football and plus 3 more competitions to choose from authorities of the venue of the Universiade.

Universiade 2013 in Kazan is the twenty-seventh international sports competition between students from 170 countries. 13 thousand athletes will participate in 27 sports and they will compete for 351 medals. Opening date was July 6, 2013. Closing - July 17, 2013. Competitions were held at 64 sports facilities. The symbol of the Universiade 2013 - Uni - a kitten of a winged white leopard.

It is noteworthy that before the start of the competition in Kazan, all 27 types of competitions were held as a rehearsal. The predecessor was the competition in Shenzhen (China). Then it was the







Chinese athletes who took first place in the overall ranking.

Kazan is the capital of the Republic of Tatarstan. This republic in 2005 celebrated its millennium. The Spanish city of Vigo and the South Korean Gwangju also demanded to host student competitions this year.

Kazan is a young city with about 200,000 students from 63 countries of the world. This plate shows the schedule and results of the Universiade 2013, as well as the overall medal standings. The results of the competitions at the Universiade: chess, diving, synchronized swimming.

### Questions:

- 1) Can you name the opening and closing dates of the Universiade in Kazan?
- 2) Students from how many countries competed at the Universiade in Kazan?
- 3) What was the symbol of the Universiade 2013 in Kazan?

### Activities:

Do you like sport activities? If so, what kind of sports do you prefer to do? Or maybe you prefer to watch sports channels on TV or on your phone? Tell your friend about it in 10-12 sentences.

1. RUSSIA
2. CHINA
3. JAPAN
4. THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
5. BELARUS

6. UKRAINE
7. USA
8. SOUTH AFRICA
9. ITALY
10. AUSTRALIA



# THE ISLAND TOWN



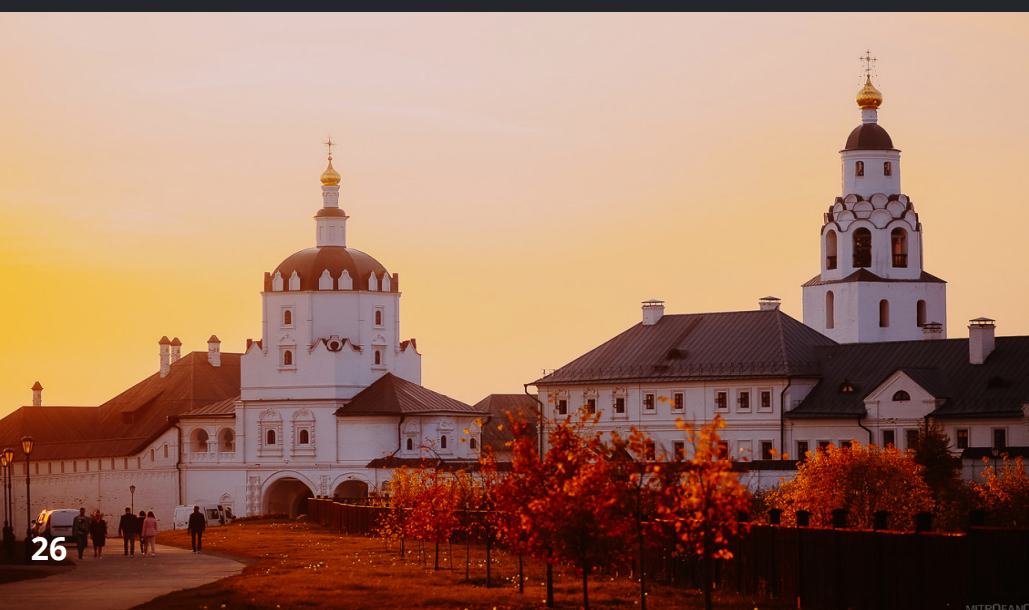
There is an amazing, truly unique place in Tatarstan - the island town of Sviyazhsk. You will not find another alike in the world.

Sailing in these parts along the Sviyaga River, it is impossible to look away from the white-stone churches with shimmering in the sunlight domes of churches solemnly towering on steep banks, from where the amazingly clear chime of bells can

be Sviyazhsk today. Numerous churches, museums, monuments ...

The main decorations of Sviyazhsk are the male and female monasteries: the Assumption-Bogoroditsky and John the Baptist, respectively.

From the right bank of the Sviyaga River, where the popular ski resort «Kazan» is located.



## Questions:

1. What happened in 1806-1906?
2. How many churches does the Ensemble of the St. John the Baptist Monastery consist of?
3. How many people live in Sviyazhsk?

## Activity:

Write a mini-essay about one sight of Sviyazhsk.



The nunnery was abolished, its buildings were transferred to the Assumption Monastery of the Mother of God. The ensemble of the St. John the Baptist Monastery consists of three churches.

The one is wooden, the second is the oldest building in Sviyazhsk, the third is the surviving part of the Sviyazhsk fortress, which was built from logs under Ivan the Terrible. Sergius Church, erected in the 17th century, is the first stone building in the monastery. The cuboid white-stone temple is crowned with a small cupola.

In the center of the courtyard stands the Cathedral of the Joy of All Who Sorrow, erected in 1896-1906. The size of the temple exceeds similar world buildings and is clearly visible from the Volga.

On the opposite side of the island stands the Assumption Monastery of the Mother of God - one of the main attractions of the Republic of Tatarstan. Local cathedrals were built at one time by the carpenters Postnik Yakovlev and Ivan Shiryai. It is important to mention that the monastery presents unique frescoes of the 16th century.

There are also churches of the 16th century, among which there is the Nikolskaya Church (1556) - a rare type of church-bell tower with a tower on a monolithic base. Only monks are allowed to enter there.

The very same Cathedral of the Assumption of the Virgin was erected in 1560. Its main attraction is not architecture at all, but unique frescoes painted during the life of Ivan the Terrible and surviving to this day, which adorn the inner walls of the temple.

The monuments of the times of the Civil War are also of considerable interest. Since then, some temples and museums have been restored in Sviyazhsk. But there are no modern houses here, no cars driving ... In fact, nothing has changed in the town of only 247 inhabitants. There is even a school, where 17 children of different ages study. Their parents work here at schools, museums, serve in churches. The rest are elderly people.

Sviyazhsk will forever remain as an amazing and wonderful place of culture and history.





Favourite food

# Tatarstan Cuisine



One of the most interesting parts of Tatar culture is its food. Tatar cuisine is famous for its richness, delicacy and originality. Nutritious and delicious Tatar dishes are always prepared with affordable and simple ingredients which you can find in any local store.

All of these dishes are really common on every feast and celebration. Tatar people are highly proud of their national food and their culinary traditions have been took over by many other peoples.



Questions:

- 1) What can you say about the most popular Tatar dishes?
- 2) What ingredients are most often used to prepare Tatar cuisine?
- 3) Which of the presented dishes of Tatar cuisine did you like the most?



### Echpochmak

Triangular pie, baked from yeast or unleavened dough, stuffed with meat or potatoes, served with broth. Echpochmak can be called a symbol of the Tatar people and their culture.



### Shurpa

Rich lamb or beef broth, seasoned with chopped vegetables, tender pieces of meat, seasoned with aromatic spices and green onions.



### Kystybiy

An old traditional Tatar dough dish with filling. It is a fried unleavened flatbread, usually stuffed with mashed potatoes.



### Chack-chack

A Tatar dessert, made from deep-fried dough pieces mixed with honey syrup. If in Russian culture guests are being welcomed with "bread and salt", in Tatar culture they are usually welcomed with Chak-chack.

Activity:

What is your favorite cuisine? Which dish from this cuisine do you like the most? Write 5-8 sentences about it.

# TOP 10 MOST POPULAR tatar songs

SONGS have been for long a reflection of the spiritual values of the people. Music has a close relationship with people's lives and traditions.

The original culture of Tatarstan finds its splash in songs, which are different by their specific sound and special mode, characteristic only of Tatar music.

Modern performers decorate pleasant melodies with their unique voice. Soulful, piercing songs, amazingly beautiful clips - music that will take your breath away, it will appeal to even those who are not familiar with the Tatar language, the moral message of the singers becomes clear to everyone and the meaning of the compositions

If you want to discover something new and immerse yourself in modern culture, then we recommend you to familiarize yourself with our rating of the most popular Tatar songs.

We are sure that you will be fascinated by this beautiful and such diverse music, we have included in the list both compositions that have been popular for a long time, and songs that were born just a few months ago, but are already appreciated and loved by most listeners.



## Questions:

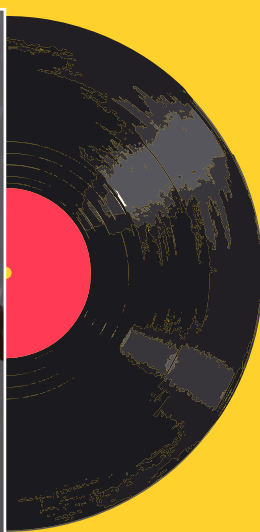
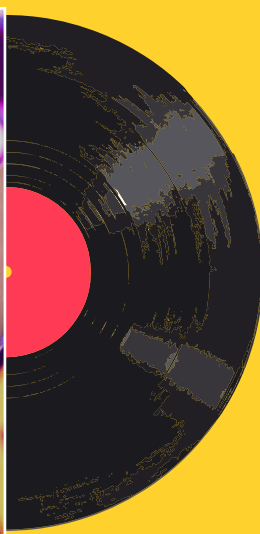
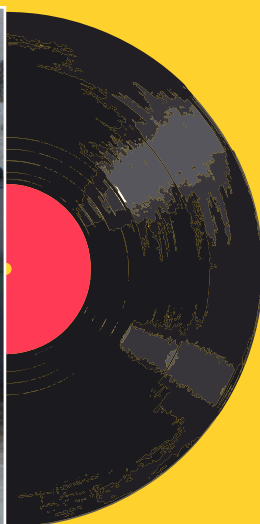
1. What genres of music do you prefer to listen to?
2. Can you name at least one musician/singer from your city?
3. Do you like your national music?

## Activities:

Listen to a few songs from the list provided. Did you like the sound or maybe perhaps the lyrics of the songs? Describe your feelings.



# WHAT TO LISTEN?



19

Munir Rakhmaev- Tugan Kon

9

Rishat Tukhvatullin & Aliya  
Karachurina- Zhylyezli  
zhannar

8

Dinar Ziyangirov- Kitme,  
kitme

7

Nafkat Nigmatullin - Kuzleren  
lilac toslе

6

Gulnaz Gafurova - Abau, uf  
Alla

5

Ilnar Akramov- Nick utyn  
synde

4

Guzelia & Azalia Valeeva -  
Daru

3

Tatarka - Altyn

2

Aydar- Sin minem telagem

1

Aigul Mindiyarova - Daewoo  
ethy, Daewoo these





# CELEBRAT

## BATYR

(winner) traditionally received a live ram. Strongmen also tried themselves on this holiday. Here they competed in lifting weights - kettlebells, sometimes barbells. It is worth mentioning other types of competitions. Basically, these are various running competitions: running with a spoon in your mouth with an egg laid on it; running with buckets filled with water on a yoke; running in bags; running in twos, when one's leg is tied to the leg of the other.



## SABANTUY

The favorite holiday of the Tatar people, Sabantuy, is both ancient and new, a holiday of labor, in which people's beautiful customs, their songs, dances, and rituals merge into one.

Previously, Sabantuy was celebrated in honor of the beginning of spring field work (at the end of April), but now - in honor of its end (in June).

The main, most beloved and most popular type of competition on Sabantuy was still the national wrestling. It was started by two boys a preschool age (sometimes two old men). Then, in turn, schoolboys, young men, and middle-aged men came out onto the carpet.





# IONS

## EID AL-ADHA

The name of one of the main Islamic celebrations - Eid al-Adha (Turk.) or Eid al-Adha (Arabic) - literally is translated as «holiday of the sacrifice.» It is celebrated by Muslims around the world 70 days after the completion of the holy month of Ramadan. Muslims prepare for the celebration in advance and adhere to a certain meal time for 10 days.

Eid al-Adha celebrations start early in the morning. Having performed a full bath and put on neat clothes, Muslims collectively pray in a mosque. In the sanctuary, they read the Koran, listen to the sermon of the imam, which explains the meaning and origin of the rite of sacrifice.

The celebration of Eid al-Adha lasts three to four days and is considered a desirable and blessed time for visits to relatives and friends, to whom it is customary to give gifts.



### Questions:

- 1) When is Eid al-Adha celebrated?
- 2) Can you name 3 competitions that are held on Sabantuy?
- 3) Do you know any other tatar holidays? What are they?

### Activity:

Work in pairs and tell your partner about your favorite national holiday.