The Czech Republic
General information

• the CR is situated in Central Europe (it is said "in the heart of Europe")
• the Capital is Prague; largest cities are Brno, Ostrava, Plzeň
• the official language is Czech
• the currency is Czech Crown
National symbols

• the flag consists of a white and a red stripe and a blue triangle

• the Czech anthem is the song "Where my home is" by J.K. Tyl
International Organizations

• The CR joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 1999.
• In 2004 the CR joined the EU.
Land and Climate

• Our country is divided into three historical parts: Bohemia in the west, Moravia in the south-east and Silesia in the north-east.
• The CR is surrounded by four countries: Germany to the west, Poland to the north, Slovakia to the east and Austria to the south.
• The CR has a humid continental climate with cold winters and warm summers.
Rivers and Lakes

• The longest river is the Vltava (there are many dams: Lipno, Slapy). Another important rivers are the Labe, the Morava, the Berounka.
• several ponds are traditionally in southern Bohemia
• a favourite place for recreation is Máchovo Lake (a pond in fact)
People

- the population is about 10,300,000 inhabitants; the Czechs are descended from Slavonic tribes, but there are also ethnic groups: Slovaks, Poles, Germans, Roma, Russians, Ukrainians
• eating and drinking is very popular in the CR; roast pork, sauerkraut and dumplings (together with the traditional Czech beer) is our traditional meal
• Czech people like spending their weekends in their country houses or cottages
Industries

- metallurgy in Ostrava,
- chemical industry in Ústí nad Labem, Neratovice;
- breweries in Plzeň, České Budějovice, Litovel;
- textile, clothes and leather industry,
History

- Charles IV - Charles made Prague the imperial capital and was a great builder in the city, which uses his name in many spots (Charles University, Charles Bridge, Charles Square).

- On the 1st of January in 1993, the Velvet Divorce occurred, and two separate states were created out of the former Czechoslovakia: the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic.
Public holidays

• 1 January - Restoration Day of the Independent Czech State; New Year's Day
• March, April Easter Monday - Easter is celebrated for two days (Sunday and Monday)
• 1 May - Labour Day
• 8 May Liberation Day 1945, the end of the European part of World War II
• 5 July - Saints Cyril and Methodius came to propagate Christian faith and literacy.
• 6 July  Jan Hus Day - The religious reformer Jan Hus was burned in 1415.
• 28 September  - St. Wenceslas Day, Czech Statehood Day
• 28 October Independent Czechoslovak State Day - Creation of Czechoslovakia in 1918.
• 17 November  - Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day
• 24 December - Christmas Eve - Christmas is celebrated during the evening of the 24th.
Places of interest

• **The Castle of Karlštejn** – the castle was built by Charles IV as a safe place for the crown jewels

• **The Mountain of Říp** – according to the legend Forefather Čech went up to the top of the mountain and decided and claimed that this was the land where his nation settled for good
• **The Třeboň Ponds** – in Southern Bohemia, it has its natural beauty and breathtaking scenery, but the major importance of the ponds is fish farming

• **The Slovacko District** – the local wine is of first class quality
The Czech Republic is:

• One of the youngest countries on the world map
• Surrounded on all sides by mountains
• a country at the very heart of Europe
• Divided into Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia
• Prague: the astronomical clock, the Old Town Square, the National Theatre, Charles Bridge
• Moravian wine cellar
• Bohemian beer pub
• Food: pork with dumplings and sauerkraut, roast beef in cream sauce, fruit dumplings, home made apple pie
• Member of NATO and EU