

Topic 1: Ancient History of Ukraine

Plan

1. Primitive society on the territory of Ukraine.
2. People who inhabited territory of Ukraine in antiquity (Trypillians, Cimmerians, Scythians, Sarmates, Greeks, Goths, Huns).
3. Old Slavs.

Topic for abstract: Place and role of Ukraine in the world.

Read the text and answer the questions after that:

First human settlements at the territory of Ukraine dates back for more than 1 million years ago at the time of Old Stone Age (Paleolithic Age). First Paleolithic settlements were found by archeologists in Carpathians, in Central and Eastern Ukraine. Periods of Middle Stone Age (Mesolithic Age) and Late Stone Age (Neolithic Age) are widespread in the Crimea's caves, in Northern and in Southern Ukraine. The most popular Archeological Culture in Ukraine is – Trypillian Culture (Eneolithic Period). Settlements of the culture included parts of modern Ukraine – the [Dnieper – Dniester](#) region. At the Epoch of Bronze the Age of primitive society in Ukraine was over.

Ukraine at the Ancient times. During the [Iron Age](#), territory of Ukraine was inhabited by [Cimmerians](#), [Scythians](#), and [Sarmatians](#). From 7th till 3^d centuries BC on the territory of Ukraine was the Scythian Kingdom or [Scythia](#). Later, colonies of [Ancient Greece](#), [Ancient Rome](#), and the [Byzantine Empire](#), such as [Tyras](#), [Olbia](#), and [Hersones](#), were founded, beginning in the 6th century BC, on the northeastern shore of the [Black Sea](#), and thrived well into the 6th century AD. The [Goths](#) stayed in the area but came under the sway of the [Huns](#) from the 370s AD. In the 7th century AD, the territory of eastern Ukraine was the center of [Old Great Bulgaria](#). At the end of the century, the majority of Bulgarian tribes migrated in different directions and the land fell into the [Khazars'](#) hands.

Ancient Slavs. The Slavs are an indigenous European population of Indo-European origin. The Great Migration Period (from 2^d – till 7th centuries AD) gave rise to three groups of Slavonic tribes on the territory of Europe: western, southern and eastern. The South Slavonic People are: Bulgarians, Serbs, Croats, and Macedonians. Slovenians, Bosnians. The West Slavonic group is represented by Poles, Czechs, and Slovaks. The East Slavs are: Ukrainians, Russians and Byelorussians.

Task 1

Answer the questions:

1. When was the period of primitive society in Ukraine over?
2. Who were the main nations, who settled Ukraine in Ancient times?
3. Who were the Eastern Slavs?
4. The main tribal alliances at the territory of modern Ukraine.
5. Tell about cultural process in pre-historic societies.

Topic for abstract:

1. Place and role of Ukraine in the world.
2. Trypillia culture – ancestor of the Ukrainian culture.
3. The origin of Slavs and its theories.
4. Slavonic pagan culture.

Topic 2: Kyivan Rus (9th – 30-s of 12th centuries)

Plan

1. First state of Eastern Slavs and the most famous governors of the state.
2. Social, economical and political peculiarities.
3. Historical heritage.

Read the text and answer the questions after that:

Origin of Old Rus'. The 8th century was marked by the formation of a number of tribal alliances, such as the Polians, Siverians, Drevlians, Dulebs, Tivertsians, and Uliches. They lived on the territory of modern Ukraine. One of the largest East Slavonic tribes was the Polians. Kyiv, the future capital, was founded in the late of 5th – early 6th centuries and it became the center of tribal alliance of the Polians. Oleh, the Prince of Novgorod, united Kyiv and Novgorod lands and established himself firmly in Kyiv in 882. Thus was created the State of Kyivan Rus.

Establishment of the state. The centers of the Slavic tribe unions were fortified settlement - towns, with cultural heathens and a chief as a rule. Traces of ancient towns of the VI-VIII centuries with deep defense trenches, earth

mounds and wooden strongholds have been found in Kyiv, Chernihiv, etc. The chronicle associates the foundation of the future capital of the Kyivan Rus with one of the legendary Polyans'ky princes – [Kyiv](#).

Scientists' debates about etymological meaning of the word **Rus** (and so the origin of Rusy) date back to ancient times.

Guided by an abstract of "The Tale of Bygone Years", a number of German scientists, namely Hotlib Byer, Herhard Miller and August Ludwig Schlozer, who served in Russia in the XVIII century, worked out the so called Norman theory. It proved that Varangians – German-Scandinavian nation, known as Vikings or Normans on the west, have founded the Kyivan Rus. The theory in due time was subjected to sharp criticism by many scientists. In particular, Mykhajlo Lomonosov was a known adversary of the theory, who wrote an irate answer to German proving top-priority role of Slavs in the establishment of the Kyivan Rus. Statements of Lomonosov named as anti-Norman conception have stimulated contradictions that still continue today.

According to other hypothesis, in opinion of many historians, the Scandinavian theory was more acceptable in general context of the European history. The IX-the middle of the XI centuries were called the "Vikings epoch". Since the IX century seafarers started to open up a new trade route to the south, called the Road from Varangians to Greeks. Novhorod was the northern outlet of the new route. River routes of the two largest inflows of Dnipro – Pryp'yat' and Desna met in Kyiv and this localization peculiarity of the future capital of Rus, giving an opportunity to control all Dnipro route, had determined the city attraction for Varangian conquerors.

First rulers of the state. As "The Tale of Bygone Years" describes, in 862 two Varangian leaders Askold and Dir, leaving their prince Ryurik in Novhorod sailed with their army down the Dnipro river. Having evaluated good position of Kyiv on the high riverbank they seized the city and imposed a tribute on polyane, who inhabited this land. Askold and Dir, probably, achieved might and prosperity very soon, because in 860, according to the legend, they decided along with amenable to them polyane to invade Constantinopol'. In short time news about their successes had reached Novhorod. And though Ryurik had already died, and his son Ihor (in Scandinavian Inhvar) was young to be at the head of the army, Oleh, who was a regent (tutor), until Ihor attained his majority, brought together a retinue of Varangians, Slavs and Finns took Ihor and sailed to Kyiv. Askold and Dir had been swindled out of the city and killed, accused in power usurpation. In 882 Oleh settled in Kyiv proclaiming it "the mother of all Russian cities".

The Kyivan Rus was founded by [Rus' people](#), [Varangians](#) who first settled around the lake of [Ladoga](#) and [Novgorod](#), then gradually moved southward reaching Kiev about 880. [Kyivan Rus'](#) included nearly all the territory of modern Ukraine, Belarus, and a part of modern Russia. During the 10th and 11th centuries, it became the largest and the most powerful state in Europe. [Kyiv](#), the capital of modern Ukraine, became the most important city of the Rus'. According to the [Primary Chronicle](#), the Rus' elite initially consisted of [Varangians](#) from [Scandinavia](#). The Varangians later became assimilated into the local Slavonic population and became part of the Rus' first dynasty, the [Rurik Dynasty](#). Kyivan Rus' was composed of several [principalities](#) ruled by the [Ruriks Princes](#). The seat of Kyiv, the most prestigious and influential of all principalities, became the subject of many conflicts among Ruriks as the most valuable prize in their quest for power.

Establishment of Kyivan Rus' state. Prince Oleh (882 - 912) established the Kyivan State proper in 882. He conducted military expeditions to the shores of Caspian Sea and raided Byzantine cities. During [Oleh](#) and his successor [Ihor](#)'s ruling (from Scandinavian Inhvar [Ingvar] (882-945) Kyivan Rus began to obtain more distinct outlines – enlarging possessions of Kyivan princes, overriding the tribes of [derevlyany](#) and [ulychi](#) and after several successful wars with khazars – former khazar tributaries kryvichi, [radymychi](#) and sivityany. At the same time northern Slavonic regions had also endorsed the power of the Kyivan prince – Novhorod, since then submitted to a successor or next of kin of the Kyivan prince, Polots'k and Smolens'k. In 911 Oleh, being at height of his might, invaded Constantinopol at the head of big army and sacked it. By the times of Oleh and Ihor written agreements with Constantinopol appeared, that had become first political acts of a young state; they ratified basis of peaceful relations, commercial affairs and conflicts, besides – security guarantees for merchants from Rus to Constantinopol.

Main features of Kyivan Rus' development. Prince Ihor (912-945) followed Oleh, in 912, who not only continued external raids but also had to fight insubordinate tribes of Ulitches and Derevlans. He died during a battle with Derevlans in 945.

His wife Olha (945-957) revenged his death by brutal suppression of Derevlans. In 964 she became a Christian and established her son Svyatoslav on the throne.

Ihor's son Svyatoslav ended the heroic period of Kyivan Rus formation (962-972), one of the most romantic heroes of annalistic tradition: it was a brave and easy-to-handle prince, did not take in campaign carts and cauldrons, did not hide in tent at night just slept with his army in the open air, putting a saddle under the head, did not attack the enemy unexpectedly, but always threw down a challenge: "Attack you!" Svyatoslav, first of all, was a prince-warrior. Hrushevsky called him "a Cossack on the throne", and his impetuous ruling described as a great venture. His Slavonic name, Varangian education, nomadic life reflected combination of European and Asian principles.

After successful war operations on Slavonic lands [Svyatoslav](#) concentrated on the Balkans. In 968 he agreed to help Byzantines in the war with the Bulgarian Empire. At the head of enormous army he invaded Bulgaria, annihilated the enemy and seized rich cities, taking Pereyaslavets' as his base station. Svyatoslav died on the battlefield as it was natural for legendary heroes. "The Tale of Bygone Years" describes his heroic death on Dnipro rapids along the way from the Balkans to Kyiv, outlining that Pechenih's khan ordered to make a bowl of the Kyivan prince's skull. The ruling of Svyatoslav marked an apogee of early heroic period in the history of Kyivan Rus.

Authors of "The Tale of Bygone Years" were, no doubts, adherents of Olha (in Scandinavian Khelha) – Ihor's wife and a regent in the period of their son's Svyatoslav minority. They described her as a beautiful, energetic, sly and foremost wise ruler. But the most valuable compliment to this woman paid a man-chronicler, reporting to readers about her "male intellect". The main reason, why monk-chroniclers showered praises on Olha can be explained by the fact that in 955 she adopted Christianity. But even disregarding these praises Olha would always remain a prominent ruler.

Olha carried out first "reforms" in the Kyivan Rus clearly determining lands, which after certain period of time could render tributes.

She also paid attention to the way of life of her dependents in order they could be able to render tributes. Securing for princely treasury exclusive right to rich in furs lands, Olha in this way guaranteed a constant intake of profits. To know her vast possessions, Olha often visited cities and lands. In foreign relations she preferred diplomacy instead of wars. In 957 Olha went to Constantinople to negotiate with the Byzantine Emperor. Though many chronicles testify that she outwitted the Emperor, according to other sources the negotiations appeared to be not very productive. But the fact, that the most powerful Emperor of the Christian world agreed to meet Olha, proved the increasing significance of Kyiv. Svyatoslav (957-972) was an able and courageous prince; he fought Asian hordes in the East and conducted raids on Bulgaria. He divided his state between his sons, and then continued with his expeditions and battles. When he died in 972, his sons fought between themselves, often with help from their enemies.

After the death of Svyatoslav the Kyivan Rus suffered political crises: broke out strives between the Ryurykovyches for supreme power in the state. In a clash for the right to gather tributes, Yaropolk killed his brother Oleh. Young Volodymyr, fearing that he would suffer the same fate, escaped to Sweden. In several years he came back at the head of Varangian army forces and broke out a war against Yaropolk, in which Yaropolk met his death.

Having ascended to the throne in 980 and concentrating an integrated power in his hands, [Volodymyr](#) the Great (in Scandinavian Valdemar) initiated a new epoch in the history of Kyivan Rus. Volodymyr introduced more constructive approach in the state system. As distinct from his predecessors, his attention was directed first of all at prosperity of his possessions, not capture of lands and gathering of tributes. Though in due time, he also became famous for military acquiring, namely, his victory over the Byzantine army and destroy of Khersones. In Volodymyr's time ruling, Rus had flourished and developed as an integrated society and state. Varangian princes did not consider Rus as a simple area for further conquests or a land for exploitation.

In 988 Volodymyr [introduced Christianity](#) according to the Byzantine tradition. Adoption of Christianity provoked a number of disputes in the Ukrainian history – still nowadays circumstances and true reasons of the Kyivan prince, which had determined his choice, are not known. But it is obvious, that this event had become a turning-point of the history – Kyivan Rus adjoined to Christian nations, in other words joined to religion, predominant in the most powerful civilization of that times. Based on the principle of [tsar papistry](#), according to which supreme religious power belonged not to the head of a church but the governor of a state, Byzantium Orthodoxy consolidated the positions of the Ryurykovyches dynasty. After having introduced Christianity in Kyivan Rus an impact of Byzantium culture increased. Economic relations with the Byzantium Empire developed, that resulted in its own money coining. On the coins of Volodymyr for the first time a heraldic insignia – tryzub appeared.

The death of Volodymyr caused a new fratricidal war between the Ryurykovyches. With the support of Poles the elder son of Volodymyr Svyatopolk (chronicler often call him "Damned") attacked his younger brothers Svyatoslav, [Borys and Hlib](#) and killed them. Two latter, young and loveable by people, the Orthodox Church proclaimed Saints. Only after the death of Mstyslav in 1036 the period of long wars and political uncertainty had been finished - [Yaroslav](#) ascended to the throne and became a single ruler of Rus.

In 980, Prince Volodymyr (978-1015) defeated all his brothers and unified the country into one powerful state with Kyiv as the capital. He adopted Christianity in 988 and started to convert the population, who earlier believed in Pagan gods. Force was often used against those who resisted. He produced silver and gold coins with his portrait on one side and the trident on the reverse side (The trident is Coat of Arms of present day Ukraine). In History he is known as Volodymyr the Great or Saint Volodymyr.

In autumn 1015 Yaroslav's army approached Kyiv, consisting of 40 thousand Novhorods, the majority of which were members of people's volunteer corps, and about 6 thousand (according to other sources only 1 thousand) mercenaries-Varangians under the direction of Yejmund, the son of the Norwegian prince Rynh. Svyatopolk having heard about Yaroslav's campaign assembled troops of Kyivites and asked nomands-polovtsi for help, promising them great loot; his army was more numerous.

Both armies met near the city of Lyubech. This fortress was not only important for the fact of controlling a certain, dependent on Kyiv territory or serving the rout "From Varangians to Greeks" up or down the main artery of Kyivan state. On the north this outpost protected Chernihiv and Kyiv lands.

Yaroslav the Great (1019-1054) consolidated nearly whole of his father's territory and became one of the most powerful rulers in Europe. A church hierarchy was established, headed by the metropolitan of Kyiv, who was usually appointed by the patriarch of Constantinople. Yaroslav promoted family ties with other kingdoms of Europe, built many churches, improved Kyiv's fortifications, introduced laws and established courts.

However, in the same way as his forefathers, he divided the country between his sons, who after his death in 1054, started to fight among themselves and divide their land between their sons. This resulted in a number of small principalities which not only fought each other, but also had to defend themselves from Turkish and Polovetsian hordes, which plundered the countryside.

After the death of Yaroslav the Wise (1054) the Kyivan Rus had become weaker and broken up into separate provinces. In 1068 Kyivites, being unsatisfied by the ruling of Yaroslav's son Izyaslav, dethroned him and raised to the throne his nephew Vseslav. And even though Izyaslav with the help of Poles came back and overrode rebels, events of 1068 became an important turn in the history, marking the first verified "revolution" on Ukrainian land. In addition to it, Ukrainian borders were under the threat from the steppe. The unity of Kyivan Rus had become weaker for the reason of complicated succession order of Kyivan throne in the Rurykovich family. To eliminate intestine wars between princes confronted with the polovets'ka threat in 1097 the princes met for their first congress in Lyubets'ky of Kyiv. They concluded a treaty according to which common to that time "estate" broke up into three separate "estates" of elder lines of the House of Yaroslavs – Izyaslavychiv, Svyatoslavychiv, Vsevolodovychiv. In this way a principle of succession ownership of dependent territories was formed: "Every one controls his territory". But provisions of Lyubets'ky and the following congresses of princes: Vytychiv'sky 1100, Zolochiv'sky 1101 and Dolob'sky – failed to quash prince's strife.

After Svyatopolk's death and the insurgency of Kyivites in 1113 [Volodymyr Monomakh](#) ascended to the throne (1113-1125). He was invited by the Kyivan boyards, avoiding offense of the provision of Lyubets'ky congress. Coming to the throne Monomakh succeeded to renew the political unity of most of Russian lands. His son Mstyslav (1125-1132) continued the policy aimed at integration of the Russian lands. But he was the last of Kyivan princes, in whose time Kyivan state reserved its unity. By estimate of [Stepan Tomashivs'ky](#) between 1146 and 1246 rulers changed 47 times in Kyiv, ascending to the throne for several times, here ruled 27 princes, at those 35 rulings each continued less than a year.

While on the banks of the Dnipro River a new state was developing, in southern steppes fled its own life. New and new tribes of nomads got control over steppe areas, changing each other. Soon after Yaroslav the Wise defeated old enemies of Kyivan princes – pechenihy, a new threat appeared in steppe – [polovtsi](#). The first attack of polovtsi on Rus dates back from the 60s of the XI century: in 1061 they invaded Pereyaslavs'ka land, defeating the prince Vsevolod Yaroslavych, and in 1068 Vsevolod and his brothers came off second-best by the river of Al't. In general, by the beginning of the 13th century steppers introduced into life about 48 campaigns on Rus. One of the most vivid episodes of confrontation between rusychi and nomads was glorified in "The word about Ihor's Regiment".

It is more than two centuries scientists and students of local lore make a search of the mysterious Kayala River – a place of battle of Ihor's armed forces with polovtsi and cannot succeed to find it. A number of hypothesis have been offered, made up investigations based on the analysis of the text of marvelous poem "The word about Ihor's Regiment" as well as Ipatijiv and Lavrentijs'ky chronicles. Archeological searches have been conducted. Quite a big number of books have been written dedicated to this theme.

In those times Kyivan Rus occupied an area a little bigger than of modern Ukraine. Its western borders passed Murom, Kurs'k, Vorskla, and Dnipro. It comprised 15 provinces, which were at enmity with each other, often waged fratricidal wars. Their allies were polovtsi that intensified more sufferings of people of the Old Russian state. The most painful internecine blow for Kyivan Rus was stricken by **Mongol-Tatars hordes**. It is known, that in the 12th century Mongol-Tatar tribes settled borderlands of China, coming into tribe and clan conflicts for squalid pastures. In the last decades of the 12th century a charismatic and talented leader Temu-chyn appeared. With the help of pipe laying and power, he united hostile tribes making them acknowledge his absolute power and in 1206 he called himself by Chynhizkhan title, that is a khan above all khans. His next purpose was to direct armed forces and aggression of these tribes against neighboring non-nomadic civilizations.

Firstly, Tatar-Mongols reached the borders of the Kyivan Rus in 1223. At that time Russian-polovetski forces met by the Kalka river with Mongol-Tatars in a terrible struggle coming off second-best. But Mongols dispersing their forces decided not to take advantage of this victory and came back home. In return, by the end of 1237 a powerful Mongol-Tatar army appeared at the borders of Rus at the head with Chynhizkhan's grandson [Batyj](#). On December 21, 1237 on the seventh day after siege, Batyj conquered Ryazan', in a month, in January of 1238 fell Moscow, and on February 7 battering rams smashed up walls of Volodymyr on Klyazma, the capital of Volodymyro-Suzdals'ky province of those times. For a short period of time Mongols captured and destroyed cities of Ryazan', Suzdal' and Volodymyr, and in 1240 reached Kyiv. On December 6, 1240 Kyiv had been seized and utterly destroyed. At mouth of the Volha River the khan founded a capital of the state called Gold Horde. Kyivan Rus was taken up by conquerors, its lands got under dependence and laid under severe tribute. In 1242 Mongol-Tatar forces approached Poland and the Balkans with a serious of victories. Western provinces of Rus awfully resisted Tatar invasion for a long time, but they also were forced to acknowledge the supremacy of khan. Thus, in the 13th century the Kyivan Rus practically ceased to exist.

In 1097 all princes agreed to stop fighting between themselves. In 1103 they united their forces under leadership of Prince Monomakh (1113-1125) (one of the grandsons of Yaroslav the Great). However, long wars between the country's economic strength and caused a near collapse of cultural and political system of Ukraine.

After death of Monomakh in 1125 Kyivan Rus' remained fragmented into the numerous principalities, each had their own customs and rules. Gradually Kyiv lost its power and influence; many principalities separated. An outstanding chronicle of events was compiled in Old Church Slavonic language by Monk Nestor in 1136.

Kievan Rus History Chronology

- 853 Askold's arrival in Kyiv
- 878 Prince Oleg's journey from Novgorod to Kyiv
- 907 Travel of Kyivan Prince Oleg to Constantinople

911 Treaty between Prince Oleg and the Byzantine Empire
 940-945 Campaigns of Prince Igor to Constantinople and the TransCaucasus
 945 Treaty between Prince Igor and the Byzantine Empire. Mention of Christianity in Rus'
 957 Olga (first Christian on the Kyivan throne) in Constantinople
 960-972 Campaigns of Svyatoslav. Confrontations with the Khazars; expansion to the Volga and the Danube.
 Svyatoslav died in conflict with the Pechengs
 980-1015 Kyivan prince Volodymyr
 981 Prince Volodymyr the Great annexes the Chervenski areas
 988-989 Christian conversion of Rus'. Marriage of Volodymyr and Byzantine Prince Anna
 990-996 Construction of Desiatynna Church - first stone church
 1019-1054 Prince Yaroslav the Wise, Kyiv governor
 1030-1031 Return of Czerwienski lands. Settlement of the city by Yaroslav
 1030s Defeat of Pechenegs (1036). Construction of St. Sophia Cathedral (1037). First Kyivan Chronicle (Litopys) (c. 1039).
 1043 Last attacks on Constantinople by the Rus'.
 1113-1125 Volodymyr Monomakh, Kyiv Grand Prince

Task 2

Answer the questions:

1. Describe the process of origin of Kievan Rus.
2. Describe the politics of the first rulers of Kievan Rus.
3. Express your own opinion about early history of Ukraine.
4. Describe the cultural process in Kievan Rus.
5. Describe the economical development of the Rus.

Topic for abstract:

1. Kievan Rus: political and economical positions.
2. Norman influence in Kievan Rus politics.
3. Baptizing of Ukraine: roots, process and results.
4. Christian culture in Ukraine.
5. Foreign trade in Kievan Rus.
6. Reforms of Volodymir the Great and Kievan Rus separation.