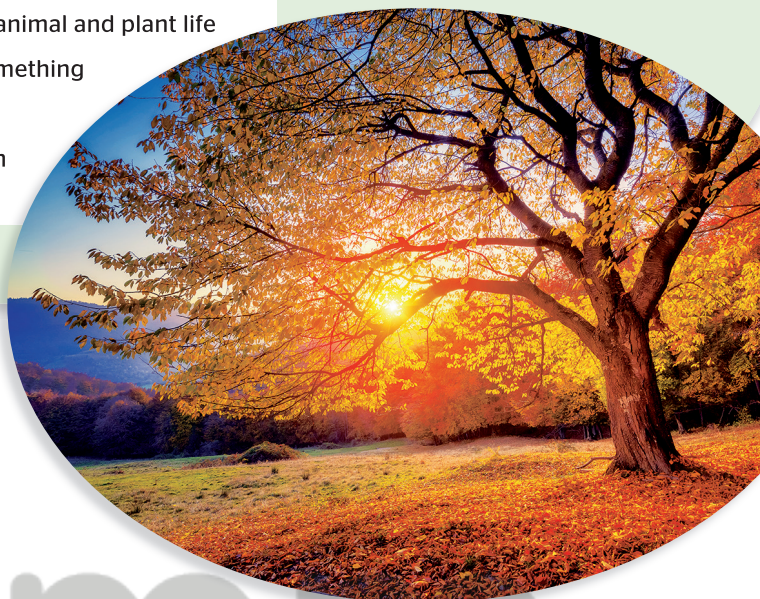


## CULTURE TIME 2

B. Match the words 1-8 highlighted in the text to their definitions.

1. deficiency
2. notion
3. flora and fauna
4. resource
5. harvesting
6. initiative
7. scheme
8. biodiversity

- a. the plant and animal life of a particular region
- b. the gathering of crops
- c. an available source or supply
- d. a shortage or lack of something
- e. a variety among, and within, animal and plant life
- f. an opinion or belief about something
- g. a plan or a project
- h. carrying out a new plan, often the first in a series of actions



C. Write an essay of about 160 words on the following topic:

*It is mainly the government's responsibility to protect the environment as ordinary people cannot really do much about it.*

## CULTURE TIME 3

Warm-up

Discuss the following:

- ▶ What festivals have you visited? Which one did you particularly enjoy? Why?
- ▶ What do you think a medieval festival might be like? What could be special about it?



# The Medieval Khotyn Festival

A. Read the text and answer the questions. Choose a, b, c or d.

The majestic Khotyn Fortress stands high on the bank of the Dniester River. It represents the medieval period but a whole lot more; it acts as a symbol of the historic power of Ukraine. The fortress was located on important transportation routes, one particularly famous trade route being that 'from the Vikings to the Greeks', which meant that it connected Scandinavia and the Byzantine Empire. The fortress is rich in history, having often played a central role in holding off an enemy. Many battles have taken place there over the centuries. The Battle of Khotyn in 1621 is probably the most important since it had a profound effect on the future of Europe. Many legends also surround the fortress. The fortress has a large dark spot on one of its

walls. This is said to be due to the blood of a courageous girl who brought water to the warriors trapped inside the castle during a hard battle. As she was nearing the wall, an enemy arrow hit her heart. She died as she was handing the water over to the warriors and the wet spot appeared at the place of her death. As a result, the Bykovyna town of Khotyn and the territory of the local fortress became one of the Seven Wonders of Ukraine.

The fortress is, therefore, a most fitting place for a medieval festival. In keeping with the spirit of the past, this festival brings the atmosphere of medieval times to life. It is organised by the Historical Medieval Battle International Association. The first 'Battle of the Nations' was held here



in 2010. This is a battle that takes place between several European countries. In the years to follow, other countries also began to take part. According to the rules, a team must consist of at least eight fighters, but have no more than fifty. The members of these teams have gone through strict qualifying tournaments in their home country so that the country's best fighters could be found. This shows how seriously combat is taken in these competitions.

These professional warriors put on a great show for the visitors. They must wear identical equipment and use their weapons for **combat** according to the techniques used by their medieval counterparts. In this way, they accurately represent the fighters of the period between the 12th and the 15th centuries. Many forms of combat take place from one-on-one duels to battles with twenty-one participants on each side. The Battle of Capitals is the largest **equestrian** tournament. All victories and defeats are real, not **re-enacted**, and nothing has been scripted beforehand. Battles involve full-contact fighting and, most importantly, nothing is staged!

However, there is plenty more for visitors to do at the festival. The programme caters for everybody and not only professional warriors. Visitors, who may be unfamiliar with war scenes, have the opportunity to experience what a camp was like for Slavic warriors. Visitors can also learn a wide array of skills such as how to make medieval **armour** and weapons, medieval dancing or how to shoot a crossbow. They can take part in contests such as **archery** competitions and in many different medieval games.

There are also games that have been specifically designed for children. One of these is particularly exciting: what fun for the children who are able to lay siege to a small fortress with the use of **catapults**! The historic fairs and the medieval taverns add to the whole atmosphere, which is truly captivating. This festival is certainly like no other.



1. Why was the location of the fortress so important, especially in the past?
  - a. It symbolised the power of Ukraine.
  - b. It was situated on important transportation routes.
  - c. It was a place where the Vikings gathered.
  - d. Many important battles took place there.
2. Why is there a reference to the Battle of Khotyn in 1621?
  - a. To show how people fought in medieval times.
  - b. Because this battle is re-enacted in the festival.
  - c. To illustrate the level of violence in medieval times.
  - d. To show the importance of this battle to European history.
3. What is true about the 'Battle of the Nations'?
  - a. It takes place between a few countries.
  - b. It's a battle in which fifty participants must take part.
  - c. It takes place between different countries.
  - d. It takes place in a competitor's home country.
4. How do the warriors in the festival accurately represent the fighters of the previous centuries?
  - a. They fight in the same way as the warriors of the past.
  - b. They re-enact scenes from famous battles.
  - c. They make their own medieval armour.
  - d. They learn fighting skills of that time.
5. What is true about the battles at the festival?
  - a. Only the duels are real.
  - b. All of the battles are genuine.
  - c. Some of the larger battles have been designed beforehand.
  - d. All of the battles are acted out by professional actors.
6. How is it possible for children to take part in the festival?
  - a. They can take part in archery competitions.
  - b. They can take part in certain games meant for children.
  - c. They can take part in some of the games designed for adults.
  - d. They can take part in only one exciting game.

