

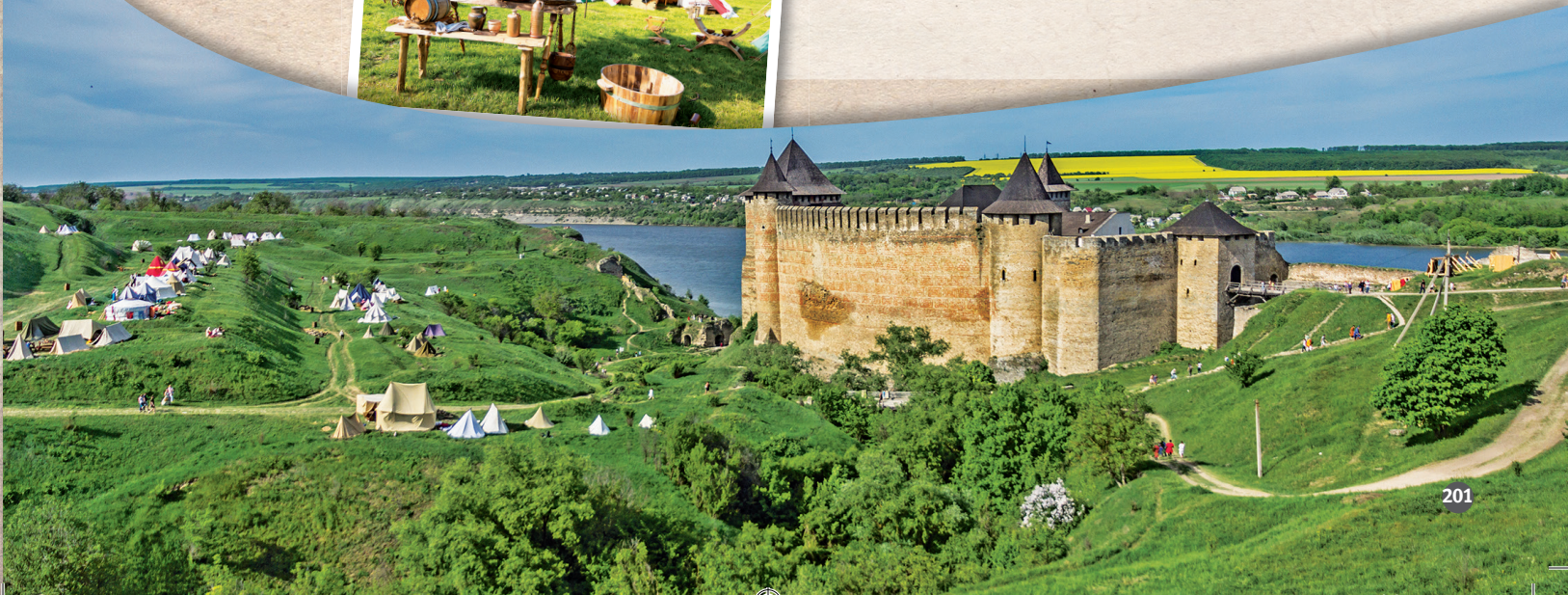
was held here in 2010. This is a battle that takes place between several European countries. In the years to follow, other countries also began to take part. According to the rules, a team must consist of at least eight fighters, but have no more than fifty. The members of these teams have gone through 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.



CULTURE TIME 3

B. Match the words 1-7 highlighted in the text to their definitions.

1. legend
2. combat
3. equestrian
4. re-enact
5. armour
6. archery
7. catapult

- a. a sport in which you shoot with a bow and arrow
- b. a story from the past which is often popularly believed to be true but hasn't been proven to be so
- c. to act something out or perform it in a dramatic way
- d. related to horseback riding
- e. a device used for throwing objects such as large stones at an enemy
- f. a defensive covering worn in battle to protect the body
- g. a battle or fight, especially where weapons are used



armour



archery



catapult



equestrian

C. Using the text about the medieval Khotyn festival as a model, write an article describing another important festival in Ukraine.

CULTURE TIME 4

publications INTERNATIONAL educational programmes

Warm-up

Discuss the following:

- ▶ Would you consider studying abroad? Why? Why not?
- ▶ What are some of the benefits and drawbacks of studying abroad?

