

# Teacher's Guide for FACES

March 2014: Czech Republic  
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\*All codes listed in parentheses refer to Common Core Standards.

## **Getting Started**

Ask students if they watched the Sochi Olympics in February. The Czech Republic won 8 medals at the 2014 Winter Games. They won 2 gold, 4 silver, and 2 bronze medals. The events were biathlon, speedskating, and snowboarding. Students may recall other European and Scandinavian countries did very well despite the small size of their countries. Why? Consider the geography.

Watch a 5 minute UNESCO video on the Czech Republic at:  
[youtube.com/watch?v=a3ezBXebEtc](http://youtube.com/watch?v=a3ezBXebEtc)

## **High 5**

Before reading the five points, read "About the Cover." Why do you think Prague is called the "hundred-spired" city? What are spires usually associated with? Look at the skyline on pp.2-3. How many spires do you see? Does the architecture look old or new? What about the person wearing the jumping boots? What does he represent?

## **At a Glance**

(RI1)

- Point 5 from High 5 mentions the Czech Republic has been invaded many times. Now that you see its global location, why do you think it has been invaded so much?
- How do landlocked nations transport goods? Note the location of major cities.
- Since spires are traditionally associated with churches, do you think the numbers listed under RELIGIONS seem strange? Why/why not?

## **Leave Me Alone! The Solitary Polecat**

(RL1/RI1)

1. What behaviors make the polecat solitary?
2. How does the geography of the Czech Republic supply the perfect habitat for polecats?
3. Why do humans view polecats negatively?

## **The Change to Freedom**

(RH3) Make a timeline of events listed in the article. Also list the type of government at different time periods.

(RI1) In 1945, the U.S. and Russian troops arrived at the same time. Predict what might have happened had the U.S. entered as the liberator. How might history have been changed?

How has oppression affected Czech citizens?

(L5) What is the meaning in the use of the word "velvet" when describing the Velvet Revolution and Velvet Divorce?

(RH3) Draw a diagram of the balance of powers in a democratic parliamentary government.

(RL8) Find evidence in the article that education is a high priority for Czech citizens.

### **It's An Honor**

(RL4) Vocabulary: expatriates, visas, migrants

(W7) Conduct short research to find further explanation of the difference between an embassy and a consulate.

(W3) Imagine you are chosen as an ambassador or an honorary consul general. What would you do to represent the U.S. in a foreign city or country? Where would you like to go? What would your chief responsibilities be? Write about your experience.

### **The Czech Twist**

(L5) What is the meaning of the Czech Proverb: There is no cake without work?  
The article says, "They have a huge sweet tooth." What does that mean?

(RI1) How does the Czech Republic's global position affect its cuisine?

(RL7) How do the photos help you understand Czech cuisine?

(RL3) Compare/contrast holidays in the Czech Republic to your holiday celebrations.

### **Mushrooms Anyone?**

(W7) Conduct short research to find out why mushrooms might be called "meat of the poor."  
Research the Death Cap. How do you tell the difference between poisonous/non-poisonous mushrooms?

(RL1/RI1) Use the map on pp.4-5 to locate the forest regions. What conditions do mushrooms need to thrive? Do forests in the Czech Republic provide those conditions? How do you know?

(RL3) Leisure Activities: What does your family do as a leisure activity? Do you consider it a bonding experience? Is it an activity that is passed down from generation to generation?

### **Prague: Old Town & New**

(W7) Research one of these famous Prague residents: Franz Kafka, Alfonse Mucha, Antonin Dvorak, Bedrich Smetana.

(RL3) Compare/contrast Old Town and New Town.

(RI1) Why is it important to balance the old with the new? What challenges does Prague face because of this balance?

(RL7) Do the photographs show Old Town or New Town? How do you know?

### **Marionette Masterpieces**

Visit [puppetsinprague.eu](http://puppetsinprague.eu) and click on the video link to watch some behind-the-scenes footage of puppet making workshops.

(RL8) Find evidence in the article proving marionettes have been used for purposes besides mere entertainment.

(W1) What is your opinion? Do you think puppetry is a safe way to voice dissent? Why might it appeal to people? Write a short skit voicing your opinion about a school controversy.

### **The King Rides By**

(RL1/RI1)

- Describe the difference between history and legend.
- What do historians believe about the Ride of Kings event?
- How have the Czech people embraced the legend and turned it into a cultural event?

(RL7) How do the article's photos add to your understanding of this celebration?

### **Cesky Krumlov: A World Treasure**

[youtube.com/watch?v=t8-Vo5Qa6rc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t8-Vo5Qa6rc) shows the inside of the castle and shows some sound effect machines from the theater.

(RL1) What "modern" amenities did Cesky Krumlov and its residents enjoy long before America formed?

(RI1/RL8) Would you consider Cesky Krumlov a modern city? Why/why not? Support your opinion with evidence from the article.

(SL1) Break into small groups to debate the following: Cesky Krumlov seems to be faced with a situation where economic growth & development stands against history & heritage. Must these be on opposing sides? Why are both important? What could be done to make sure that the growth of one does not mean the disappearance of the other?

### **3 Golden Hairs of Grandfather Know-All**

(RL2/RL8) What is the message of the play? Find evidence to support your choice.

### **Wrap Up**

(SL1&4) Choose a section of Czech history or culture mentioned somewhere in this issue. Create a puppet show to present to classmates that tells the story using appropriate facts and details but also uses humor to express an opinion.