

Independence Day of Ukraine (August 24, 2026)

TEACHING GUIDE

What? It's Ukraine's national holiday, called Independence Day.

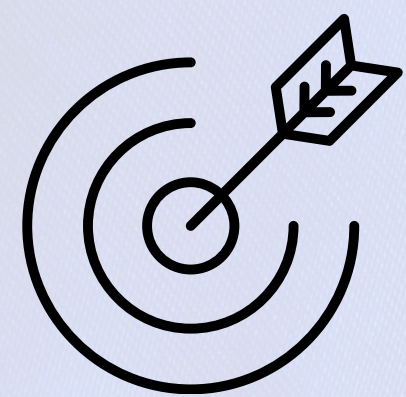
Who? The Ukrainian people, in Ukraine and around the world.

Where? All over Ukraine, in major cities like Kyiv, Lviv, and Odesa, and in Ukrainian communities abroad.

When? Every year on August 24th, since 1991.

Why is it important? Because on August 24, 1991, Ukraine declared its independence from the Soviet Union, now Russia. Since then, this day has celebrated the country's freedom and culture.

For this activity, your goal will be to learn more about Ukraine.



OBJECTIVES

- Locate Ukraine in Europe and name five of its seven neighboring countries.
- Understand the declaration of independence of August 24, 1991, and the referendum that confirmed it.
- Recognize the trizub as a national symbol of Ukraine.
- Discover the meaning of the Ukrainian word ВОЛЯ (volya) and the replacement of Soviet symbols on the Mother Ukraine statue.



SUBJECTS

- **Geography**
 - Locate Ukraine in Europe
 - Countries bordering a territory
 - Main cities and the Dnieper River
- **Social Studies / History**
 - The Soviet Union and its dissolution
 - Independence and referendums
 - A national holiday and its symbols
- **English**
 - Comprehension of a factual text
 - Comprehension of a subtitled interview
 - Word game and word puzzle



COMPETENCIES

- Search for and interpret information (maps, texts, videos)
- Use a digital mapping tool
- Identify information in a documentary text
- Solve a puzzle using clues
- Produce short and precise answers



DURATION

- Approximately 45 minutes



GETTING STARTED

- Ask the students what they know about Ukraine, and where they got this information.
- Locate Ukraine on a world map, then on a map of Europe.
- Show the blue and yellow flag and ask what the two colors might represent.
- Ask the question: What is an "independent" country?

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STEP 1 — Locating Ukraine. Location of five of the seven bordering countries on Google Earth and a map, then reconstruction of the name of a Ukrainian city from a letter drawn from each country.

Q1 — Poland.

Q2 — Moldova.

Q3 — Belarus.

Q4 — Russia.

Q5 — Romania.

Q6 — Odesa. (Poland, 2nd letter; Moldova, 4th letter; Belarus, 2nd letter; Russia, 3rd letter; Romania, last letter.)

STEP 2 — Gaining Independence. Reading of an informative text on Ukraine's path from the USSR to independence, followed by four multiple-choice questions.

Q7 — The Soviet Union (USSR).

Q8 — In Moscow.

Q9 — The Ukrainian Parliament declared the country's independence.

Q10 — More than 90%.

STEP 3 — One Country, One Symbol. Viewing of a short interview about the replacement of Soviet symbols with the trizub on the Mother Ukraine statue, followed by two open-ended questions.

Q11 — The hammer and sickle.

Q12 — Freedom.

WRAPPING UP



- Conduct a group discussion to reflect on what the students have learned.
- Discuss what surprised them (the country's youthfulness, the age of the trizoub, the number of neighbors).
- Ask: Why can a thousand-year-old symbol become important again today?



FURTHER EXPLORATION

 Daniel Visan. *What's Happening Between Russia and Ukraine Explained for Kids.*

