

● **Where are some places we can find the word “culture”?**

We often use “culture” when talking about the arts. We can find the word in newspapers / in magazines / online. It is also used to talk about a nation’s or organization’s character.

● **What does the phrase “cultural activities” mean?**

A cultural activity is a way to express your feelings, opinions, desires, etc. There is usually not one correct answer / opinion. Cultural activities can be performed by people, who are usually called performers / artists. They can be enjoyed by people who watch or listen to them. These people are usually called fans or an audience.

● **What are some old or traditional cultural activities? What are some new or contemporary ones?**

There are many traditional / well-established cultural activities: dance, ballet, painting, sculpture, singing, opera, classical music, theatre, film, poetry, literature, etc. New ones include pop music, digital art, hip hop and street dance, electronic music, digital photography, comic book conventions, audio-visual shows, light shows, etc.

● **Do you do any cultural activities yourself? Tell me about them.**

I like to listen to pop / rock / jazz / rap music and go to music festivals / dance performances / plays / concerts. I like / don’t really like to read fiction / mysteries / classic literature and I’ve / I have never tried to write some poems / music. I love to draw / paint / create graphics / take photos. When I was younger, I learned how to play a musical instrument / flute / guitar / drums. I tried the violin / clarinet / piano but I didn’t like it / didn’t have time to practise. I enjoy / don’t really like theatre and sometimes I have a role in our school play / musical.

● **Can you name some Czech people who have contributed to global culture? Why are they famous?**

Karel Čapek is a writer known for his books, plays and for introducing the word “robot”. Director Miloš Forman emigrated to the US and shot the Oscar-winning film *Amadeus*. Painter Alfons Mucha is famous for his art nouveau paintings, posters and advertisements. Václav Havel was a playwright, dissident and later a president. Milan Kundera is another famous Czech author whose books have been translated into many languages. Bedřich Smetana and Antonín Dvořák were composers and their music is still performed

today. Architect Jan Kaplický designed the Selfridges building in Birmingham in the UK.

● **The word “folk” is often used to talk about culture. What does it mean? Can you give some examples?**

Folk culture relates to certain groups of people, such as those from the same region / religion / nationality. These traditional activities have often been passed on from generation to generation and sometimes their authors are unknown. Some examples are folk art / music, country dancing, specially decorated clothing, and special types of food. There are many traditional folk songs in Czech. Many Czech towns / regions have folk festivals celebrating religious events / the grape harvest / other important events, such as the Ride of Kings in Moravia.

● **Have you heard the terms popular culture and high culture? Do you know the difference between them? Which do you prefer?**

Popular culture (or pop culture) means the arts and entertainment that almost everybody knows about or follows. Pop culture changes quickly. Some examples are Hollywood movies / television shows / computer games / songs in the music charts. High culture includes more traditional arts – for example, literature / classical music / art. Examples of high culture are sometimes called “classics” because they do not change quickly and have been studied and admired for many years. I prefer / don’t like popular culture because it’s fun / modern / easy to understand / boring / too commercial. Classical arts are great / interesting / boring because they are complicated / old fashioned / the best artists are famous for a long time / I don’t understand them / I have to study them.

● **What does “UNESCO World Heritage Site” mean? Which UNESCO World Heritage Sites are there in the Czech Republic? Which ones have you visited?**

These are places that the United Nations tries to protect because they are valuable to all humanity. The sites will help us teach our children something about our culture / history / country / who we were. There are 12 UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the Czech Republic. They include several town centres (Prague, Český Krumlov, Telč, Kutná Hora) castles (Litomyšl and Kroměříž), the village of Holašovice, the Lednice-Valtice cultural landscape, Tugendhat Villa in Brno, the Holy Trinity Column in Olomouc, the Jewish Quarter and St Procopius’ Basilica in Třebíč, and the Church of St John of Nepomuk at Zelená Hora. I have been to... / I have never been to a UNESCO World Heritage Site in the Czech Republic.

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