<u>Ukraine</u>

Culturally responsive teaching encompasses the belief that we as teachers consciously need to work to ensure that all students feel included and valued. Such positive relationships will allow for higher level learning to take place. - Snyder and Fenner 2021



Ukrainian is the official state language; it is a language of the East Slavic subgroup of the Slavic languages. The language shares some vocabulary with the languages of the neighboring Slavic nations, most notably Belarusian, Polish, Russian and Slovak.

Ukrainians are of Slavic origin. About 75% of the population is ethnic Ukrainian. The largest minority group is the Russians at about 20%. Belarusians, Bulgarians, Poles, Hungarians, and Romanians make up the other major minority groups.

Ukrainians are extremely generous and hospitable. All social occasions include food. Visitors are always offered something to eat as well as a beverage. It is considered the height of rudeness to eat in front of another person and not offer them something. The typical greeting is a warm, firm handshake, maintaining direct eye contact, and repeating your name.

Ukrainian names are comprised of:

- First name, which is the person's given name.

- Middle name, which is a patronymic or a version of the father's first name formed by adding "-vich" or "-ovich" for a male and "-avna", "-ovna", or "ivna" for a female.

- The son of Alexi would have a patronymic of Alexivich while the daughter's patronymic would be Alexivina.

- Last name, which is the family or surname. The ending of a person's last name depends on their sex - males keep the traditional ending " Miroslav Tschaikowsky" and females have an "a" ending, "Laryssa Tschaikowska", just like first name endings.

Gifts are generally not opened when received.





Ukrainian Christmas is Celebrated on January 7th. Christmas is known to be many Ukrainians' favorite holiday. Most Ukrainians belong to the Eastern Orthodox rite of Christianity, and therefore follow the Julian calendar. This means all holidays in Ukraine typically lag 13 days behind the Gregorian calendar, giving you an amazing opportunity to celebrate Christmas twice! Christmas in Ukraine centers on the celebrations around the figure of Jesus Christ. You can expect to find many decorations of mangers, carolers singing about religious stories, and every part of the Christmas supper is tied back to the birth of Jesus and his apostles. Even the daily greetings change, instead of saying "goodbyes" and "hellos," Ukrainians greet with "Christ is born," and respond with "Glorify him."

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