



2024 History Essay Contest

School 6th Grade Winner

Ukraine

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Ukraine is a beautiful country in Eastern Europe. It shares borders with seven countries, the Black Sea, and the Sea of Azov. It is a country filled with history and traditions. Two historical places of interest include the St. Sophia Cathedral in Kyiv, and the city of Ternopil, both of which are full of traditional Ukrainian culture.

St. Sophia Cathedral was built in the 11th Century and is the oldest cathedral in Ukraine. It is located in Ukraine's capital, Kyiv. Frescos, mosaics, and icons decorate the cathedral from floor to ceiling. Fresco art involves painting on a plaster surface. Powdered paints are brushed onto the plaster while it is still wet. This means that the mural becomes part of the wall instead of being painted on the wall. Also, fresco art can be used to decorate the insides and outsides of buildings. Mosaics are made by piecing together small squares of tile, glass, or stone to create beautiful artwork. These mosaics influenced other church decor in Ukraine. Icons are images of holy people. Sometimes the icons are decorated with thin sheets of gold called gold leaf. All three types of this art can still be seen in Ukrainian churches today.

Ternopil is a fascinating city in Western Ukraine. The oldest building in the city is a castle with an underground system of tunnels. Years ago local rulers lived in the castle. Ternopil is also known for a large artificial pond that is located in the middle of the city. The pond is

known as Ternopil Lake, and was created in 1548. In the winter, it becomes the largest skating rink in Ukraine. Lastly, there is a great deal of history and Ukrainian culture to be seen at the Museum of Regional Ethnography in Ternopil. This museum shows the traditional way of life in historical Ternopil. There are displays of traditional Ukrainian clothing, rare photos and documents, and household utensils. Ukrainians have great artistic talent with their traditional embroidered shirts and blouses. There are also exhibits about local crafts and folklore. The museum has three floors: naturalistic materials, ancient history, and modern and contemporary history. There are so many things to see in Ternopil to give an idea of what traditional Ukrainian life was like many years ago. It is interesting to see how many old traditions were carried on throughout history and continued into modern times today.

The St. Sophia Cathedral and the city of Ternopil are full of Ukrainian culture and traditions. The type of artwork that is seen in the St. Sophia Cathedral is also seen in churches and other cathedrals all throughout Ukraine. In Ternopil you can see old castles, man made ponds, and a museum that shows what historical life was like in Ukraine. Both of these fascinating places in Ukraine are ways to explore and study this beautiful country.

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