

A SHORT HISTORY OF UKRAINE FOR KIDS

Ancient Times (more than 2,000 years ago)

Thousands of years before the first big cities formed on the land we now call Ukraine, ancient tribes **Trypillians**, **Scythians**, **Sarmatians**, **Cimmerians**, and **Goths** settled there.



Kyivan Rus (more than 1,000 years ago)

Many, many years later, before the **9th century**, Slavic tribes joined together to form a powerful state called **Kyivan Rus**. The capital was **Kyiv**. Princes ruled this land, and it became very rich from trade between **Europe** and **Asia**.

In **988**, **Prince Volodymyr the Great** made Christianity the main religion, which brought schools, books, and churches.

Hard Times & New Rulers

After a few hundred years, Kyivan Rus became weaker. Different groups of people, like the **Mongols**, came and attacked.

Later, parts of Ukrainian lands were ruled by **Poland**, **Lithuania**, and the **Austro-Hungarian Empire**.



The Cossacks

In the 16th and 17th centuries, brave warriors called **Cossacks** lived in Ukraine. They were famous horsemen who loved freedom. The most famous Cossack leader, **Bohdan Khmelnytsky**, fought for Ukrainians.



New Struggles

For a long time, much of Ukraine was controlled by the Russian Empire. The Ukrainian language, songs, religion, and traditions **were not always allowed**, and a different language and traditions were imposed. But the Ukrainians kept their culture alive through stories, poems, and songs.

In **1917**, Ukrainians tried to gain independence for their country, but due to World War I, they were unable to realize their dream at that time. Later, Ukraine became part of the Soviet Union. During that time, Ukrainians suffered a lot — especially during the **Holodomor** (the Great Famine in 1932–1933), when millions of people died.



Independence in 1991

Finally, on **August 24, 1991**, the Soviet Union collapsed and **Ukraine became an independent country**.

Ukraine Today

Today, Ukraine celebrates its many years of independence. Ukraine is a country that loves **freedom**, its beautiful language, and traditions. Ukrainians are **proud** of their history, from Kyivan Rus to independence. Even though Ukraine is still fighting for peace and safety, **its people are strong, brave, and full of hope**.

