



CONTENT BASED TEACHING + PLURILINGUAL/CULTURAL AWARENESS CONBAT

OUR HOME – OUR WORLD

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## UNIT 2: CHANGING THE PLACE WHERE WE LIVE

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### ACTIVITY 2.2: MIGRATION - CZECH PERSPECTIVE

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*You are going to work in 7 groups. Each group (2-3 pupils) will get a different text to read. Together, find answers to the questions above the text. After you finish, you will tell the class about your text in English. The questions and answers will help you prepare your presentation.*



WORKSHEET 2.2.1

Questions:

Will the number of immigrants in the Czech Republic be higher or lower in the future?

.....

Which countries do the immigrants come from?

.....

Why does the country need them?

.....

Text:

THE NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS TO THE CZECH REPUBLIC IS GROWING, THE ECONOMY NEEDS THEM

Released: 14/ 4/ 2008 11:07, author: ČT24, ČTK

Prague – The number of immigrants to the Czech Republic has been steadily growing and its growth will continue. Of all the post-communist countries, ours is the one most sought after. An international study shows that in twelve years' time immigrants and their families could form up to 7.5 percent of Czech population. By the year 2065, this proportion may rise up to one third. According to a study prepared by demographer Dušan Drbohlav's team at Charles University, most people will come from the Ukraine and other post-Soviet republics, Vietnam and China. Immigrants are mostly attracted by easy access to work – the country's growing economy offers tens of thousands of job vacancies. Unlike some other European countries, the country is actively trying to attract foreigners. For example, the government has prepared "green cards", or work and residence permits. If the parliament approves these permits, they will come into force in January 2009. The study concludes that due to the aging of its own population, the Czech Republic will need thousands of foreigners each year to keep the economy going.



WORKSHEET 2.2.2

Questions:

Which countries do illegal immigrants to the Czech Republic come from?

.....

How do these immigrants cross the borders?

.....

How many foreigners were there in the Czech Republic in 2008?

.....

Text:

INCREASING NUMBERS OF ILLEGAL MIGRANTS FROM CHINA AND EGYPT ARE  
POURING INTO THE CZECH REPUBLIC.

Author: Jan Langer

Increasing numbers of illegal migrants from China, Egypt and Iraq keep pouring into the Czech Republic. The number of foreigners entering fictitious marriages is also on the rise. One reason for the increase of “illegals” is their small chance of being granted an asylum here. The trend of rising migration from China to Europe has been monitored since 2004.

IN THE TRUNK OF A CAR

According to the police, foreigners cross the border illegally, for example in freight hold of vans or trucks, but also in trunks of private cars. Some of them also use the services of the so-called foot traffickers to be taken across the “green border”. Many aliens are trying to obtain residence permits by fraudulent marriages. The Czech Republic is a transit country and the people, after falsification of personal documents, are transported to other countries of the European Union.

THE NUMBER OF ALIENS IS GROWING

It is estimated that the number of “illegals” living in the Czech Republic is somewhere between thirty and forty thousand. No considerable growth can be observed in comparison to the year 2006. In contrast, the number of “legal” foreigners living in the Czech Republic is increasing at a record rate. While in 2006 their number grew by 43 thousand, last year it was almost by 71 thousand. In total the statistics register 410 thousand foreigners, the majority of whom are of Ukrainian, Slovak and Polish origin.



WORKSHEET 2.2.3

Questions:

Why did the Czechs immigrate to Canada (from 1880 to 1939)?

.....

Where did the immigrants work (after 1880)?

.....

Where did the Czechs live and work after World War I?

.....

Text:

THE CZECHS IN THE WORLD - CANADA /PART 1/



4/ 3/ 2008

**Migration and settlement**

Massive immigration of Czechs to Canada started in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and can be divided into four phases: In the first two phases (about 1880-1939) the motivation of most Czech emigrants was economic, while in the period of 1945-1989 they often were political refugees who left their homeland to avoid the Communist regime. Czech immigrants after 1880 started to come not only to the USA but also to western Canada because of the relatively fertile and cheap land. The government of Canada offered the new settlers land for cultivation. However, it was not rare that before obtaining their own land people had to work for the railways or in the mines. Farmers generally settled in the prairie provinces. The first Czech settlement, Kolin, was founded in 1884. Smaller groups of Czechs also settled in towns, especially in Edmonton, where one could find several Czech doctors, lawyers and craftsmen around 1900. Changes occurred after WWI. On the basis of an agreement between the Sugar Beet Grower's Association of Canada and The Czech Foreign Institute (Český zahraniční ústav) a number of Czech sugar beet farmers left for Canada to help to develop Canadian sugar beet industry. Recruitment organized by the Canadian Pacific Railway experienced similar success. In 1939, the town of Batawa was founded near Frankford in the province of Ontario under the



auspices of Tomáš Baťa.

### WORKSHEET 2.2.4

Questions:

How many Czechs immigrated to Canada between 1948 and 1952?

.....

Where in Canada did they live after 1968?

.....

Who immigrated in the 1990s?

.....

Text:

### THE CZECHS IN THE WORLD - CANADA /PART 2/



4/ 3/ 2008

#### **Migration and settlement**

After the Second World War some Czechs left their homes from the fear of the growing influence of the Communist party. The emigration wave became massive after February 1948. In 1948-1952 more than 10 thousand Czechoslovaks got asylum in Canada. Most refugees were highly educated individuals such as doctors, lawyers, politicians, scientists, legislators, businessmen and craftsmen who were in the beginning forced to accept work far below their qualification. Businessmen of Czech origin, predominantly in Ontario, trying to help their compatriots, offered work to new immigrants, sometimes with the assistance of the federal government. An important role was played namely by the following Czech companies: Bata Shoe, Hamilton Carhart, Opal Manufacturing, Staruba Industrial Corporation and Hesky Flax Products. The



situation of emigrants who fled to Canada after 1968 was in many respects similar, but also different. The knowledge of English and French enabled these immigrants to find jobs in larger cities. The most frequent destination of the newcomers after 1968 was no longer Montreal but Vancouver and Toronto. Contemporary Czech immigration to Canada is happening in a completely different international political situation. About 1,500 Czech Roma (Gypsy) people applied for political refugee status in Canada in 1997.



WORKSHEET 2.2.5

Questions:

How many Czechs live in the Ukraine today?

.....

When did most of them come there?

.....

What can you say about ČNRU?

.....

Text:

THE CZECHS LIVING IN THE UKRAINE

The number of Czechs living in the Ukraine today is about 10,000. According to the census in 1989 the number of Czechs in the Ukraine was 9,122, most of whom – 5,763 lived in towns. The largest number of the Czechs is settled in the Zhytomyr region – 1,835 people. 35.5% of the Czech population in the Ukraine regard Czech as their mother tongue. The present Czech communities in the Ukraine are the remains of the former quite numerous Czech settlement, which was the consequence of the extensive migration from the Czech lands predominantly in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Czech was taught there until 1930. However, the beginning of the 1930s witnessed political trials with Czech teachers, a number of whom was sentenced to death or sent to Eastern Siberia. Schools offering education in minority languages were closed in 1937. Nowadays, there are only few purely Czech national villages in the Ukraine. There are about 3,000 Czechs living in these villages; they keep the Czech language, customs and church services in everyday life. The first compatriotic societies were revived towards the end of the 1980s. The compatriotic organization – the Czech National Council of the Ukraine (Česká národní rada Ukrajiny – ČNRU) – which associates 20 revival compatriotic societies from various provinces was founded in May 1995. Among its goals is preservation of the Czech language, re-establishment of Czech schools, publishing a Czech newspaper, teacher training and religious revival.



WORKSHEET 2.2.6

Questions:

Name the 5 biggest Czech communities abroad.

.....

What is a country club?

.....

In which Australian cities do the Czech immigrants live?

.....

Text:

THE CZECHS LIVING IN AUSTRALIA /PART 1/

**The number of compatriots**

The community of Czechs and Czechoslovaks living abroad is usually quoted as the fifth most numerous compatriotic community in the world (ranking after communities in the USA, Slovakia, Canada and Croatia). The data regarding the exact number of Czechs living in Australia differ. The Australian Portfolio of Immigration and Citizenship stated in 1991 that there were 18,000 Czechs and Slovaks (taken as one nationality) in Australia; the estimate of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Canberra was 30,000 people of both nationalities. The data of CTK for Australia and Oceania for 1994 speak of 15,000 Czechs and 16,000 Slovaks. A part of the compatriotic community is registered in compatriotic societies – the statistics of the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs register 17 societies of the Czechs and Czechoslovaks living in Australia. Even today, social life and activities of these societies are partaken by a numerous group of Slovaks. The Czechs and Slovaks living in Australia are associated not only in the Sokol and other societies but also in the so-called country clubs, social organizations that specialize in social and sport events. The Czechs living in Australia are prolific in publishing (monthlies of the societies); the Czech radio broadcasting on the waves of the Australian radio SBS is also successful. The most numerous communities of the Czechs living in Australia are in the largest Australian cities of Sydney and Melbourne, smaller communities can be found around Canberra, Adelaide, Darwin and Perth. About 36% of all the Czechs living in Australia are settled in Sydney and its environs, about 27% live in Melbourne.



WORKSHEET 2.2.7

Questions:

Which two historical events made Czech people immigrate to Australia in the 20<sup>th</sup> century?

.....

What work did they usually do in the first two years?

.....

Do Australian universities accept Czech certificates and diplomas?

.....

Text:

THE CZECHS LIVING IN AUSTRALIA /PART 2/

**History**

The arrival of the first waves of Czech immigrants after the Second World War goes back to 1949 when 4,167 people from Czechoslovakia settled in Australia. 5,020 arrived in 1950. Most of them signed an employment contract before leaving Europe, which bound them to accept any work anywhere in Australia. In consequence to this measure, even people with academic education spent two years working manually, predominantly in agriculture. Even after expiration of the contract, especially doctors, lawyers and other professions found it very difficult to get adequate work – local professional chambers refused to recognize their qualification. In consequence, a number of specialists re-emigrated from Australia to the USA or Canada. The first group of immigrants after August 1968 formed by 173 people disembarked in Sydney on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1968. The Central Committee of Compatriotic Societies in Australia and New Zealand decided to offer these refugees all possible help to protect them from undergoing the same hardships as the post-1948 immigrants had to bear. It is due to their activities that Australian universities started to validate Czech university certificates and diplomas.