WHERE IS POLAND?

- Can you find Poland on the map?
- Do you know what city is the capital of Poland?
- What other Polish cities do you know?
Warsaw is the capital and the largest city of Poland. It lies by the Vistula River in the east-central part of Poland.
The Mermaid of Warsaw is a city emblem. It features on the city's coat of arms and has various monuments in the city centre and beyond.

Koziołek Matołek – fictional character of the 1st Polish comics written by Makuszyński. His homeland is Pacanów. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=drr4y23I7kQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=drr4y23I7kQ)

Warszawa – its symbols are Syrenka Warszawska (Mermaid of Warsaw) and the Palace of Culture and Science.

Zakopane is a town in the Tatra Mountains. It’s a popular departure point for many winter sports and summertime mountain climbing and hiking.

Toruń – city of Mikołaj Kopernik and pierniki
NATIONAL COSTUMES OF POLAND

Strój podhalański

Strój krakowski

Strój górnośląski
Polish wycinanki (papercut) has become a popular folk craft since the mid-1800s. They vary by region.

From Kurpie region

From Łowicz region
A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE POLISH LANGUAGE

- Polish is spoken by nearly 40 million people within Poland and about 10 million elsewhere in the world.
- Polish is the third, after Russian and Ukrainian, most common Slavonic language.
- Today, Polish is the second most commonly spoken language in the UK. Urdu is third and Punjabi is forth.
THE POLISH ALPHABET IS BASED ON LATIN LETTERS
Julian Tuwim

(1894 –1953) - was a Polish poet of Jewish descent. He is a major figure in Polish literature, admired also for his contribution to children's literature. His poem ‘Locomotive’ is a famous children rhyme.
Lech Wałęsa (born in 1943) is a Polish politician, trade-union organizer, philanthropist and human-rights activist. He co-founded Solidarity (Solidarność), the Soviet bloc's first independent trade union, won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1983, and served as President of Poland from 1990 to 1995.
Wisława Szymborska
(1923 – 2012) was a Polish poet, essayist, translator and recipient of the 1996 Nobel Prize in Literature. Born in Prowent, which has since become part of Kórnik, she later resided in Kraków until the end of her life.
Maria Skłodowska-Curie
(1867 – 1934)
was a Polish physicist and chemist who conducted pioneering research on radioactivity. She was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, the first person and only woman to win twice, the only person to win twice in multiple sciences, and was part of the Curie family legacy of five Nobel Prizes. She was also the first woman to become a professor at the University of Paris, and in 1995 became the first woman to be entombed on her own merits in the Panthéon in Paris.
**Fryderyk Chopin**

(1810–1849) was a Polish composer and a virtuoso pianist of the Romantic era, who wrote primarily for the solo piano.

Chopin composed more than 200 works during his lifetime and dedicated most of them to his friends and students. Works with opus numbers from 1 to 65 (except opus 4) were published during Chopin's lifetime.
DO YOU KNOW ANY POLISH MOVIES?

- Agnieszka Holland, Tajemniczy ogród (The Secret Garden)

The Secret Garden is a 1993 British drama fantasy film directed by Agnieszka Holland and starring Kate Maberly, Heydon Prowse, Andrew Knott, John Lynch and Maggie Smith. Adaptation of Frances Hodgson Burnett's classic fairy tale, "The Secret Garden." Mary Lennox (Kate Maberly) is an orphan sent to live with her uncle at his mansion that is full of secrets. She discovers a crippled cousin she never knew she had and a neglected garden she is determined to bring back to life.
Roman Polański, Nieustraszeni pogromcy wampirów (The Fearless Vampire Killers)

Vampire hunter Professor Abronsius (Jack MacGowran) and his faithful assistant, Alfred (Roman Polanski), are traveling across Transylvania when they stop to rest at a suspicious-looking inn. That night, they witness the innkeeper's daughter, Sarah (Sharon Tate), being whisked away by Count von Krolock (Ferdy Mayne), an obvious vampire, and pursue him to his nearby castle. They break in, only to be invited to stay by the unfazed count, and plot to rescue Sarah and destroy their murderous host.

Check also R. Polański’s Pirates!
A 2001 fantasy film and a 2002 TV series based on Wiedźmin by Polish writer Andrzej Sapkowski - a fantasy series of short stories and novels about the witcher Geralt of Rivia. In Sapkowski's books, "Witchers" are monster hunters who (with training and body modification) develop supernatural abilities at a young age to battle deadly monsters. The short stories and novels have been translated into several languages, including English. In the movie Michał Żebrowski played Geralt. An American film adaptation of the novel series is planned for 2017.
WHAT CAN YOU EAT AND DRINK WHEN YOU VISIT POLAND?

- **Pierogi**
  are filled dumplings of East European origin. They are made by wrapping pockets of unleavened dough around a savory or sweet filling and cooking in boiling water.

- **Pierniki toruńskie (Toruń gingerbread cookies)**
  is a traditional Polish gingerbread that has been produced since the Middle Ages in the city of Toruń. Pierniki Toruńskie, as they are known in Poland, are an icon of Poland's national cuisine.
Bigos

known as a hunter's stew, is a traditional meat and cabbage stew typical of Polish, Lithuanian, Belarusian and Ukrainian cuisine, and is a Polish national dish. Typical ingredients include white cabbage, sauerkraut (kapusta kiszona in Polish), various cuts of meat and sausages, often whole or puréed tomatoes, honey and mushrooms.

Gołąbki

is a cabbage roll common in Polish cuisine made from lightly soft-boiled cabbage leaves wrapped around minced pork or beef, chopped onions, and rice or barley, which are baked in a casserole dish and are usually served with a creamy tomato sauce.

You’ll find some recipes here:  
http://www.tastingpoland.com/food/list_of_polish_food.html
WHEN YOU SPEND CHRISTMAS OR EASTER IN POLAND DON’T FORGET TO TRY:

- **Barszcz z uszkami**
  Traditional betroot soup served during the Christmas Eve supper, a meal that is both fasting and festive. Uszka (small filled dumplings), are then served with the borscht.

- ** Żurek**
  The sour rye soup is made of soured rye flour (akin to sourdough) and meat (usually boiled pork sausage or pieces of smoked sausage, bacon or ham). Easter meal.
  A variant made with wheat flour instead of rye is known in Poland as barszcz biały ("white borscht").

Smacznego! (Bon appetit)
Katy Carr is a British singer, composer, musician, and aviator. Carr was born in Nottingham to a Polish mother and a Scottish English father. She sings about Polish history.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-1uEn7dvne8
WOJTEK THE SOLDIER BEAR

https://vimeo.com/133230287

Wojtek’s new statue in Edinburgh

Wojtek on an Edinburgh bus
SING THE SONG!

Listen to the song and sing the undelined verses:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yBi7Ku-LSfc

Przyszedł bociek niespodzianie
re re kum kum, re re kum kum, 
i zjadł żabke na śniadanie
re re kum kum bęc.

A na brzegu stare żaby
re re kum kum, re re kum kum, 
rajcowały jak te baby
re re kum kum bęc.

Jedna drugiej żabie płacze
re re kum kum, re re kum kum, 
"Już jej nigdy nie zobaczę" 
re re kum kum bęc.

Z tego taki morał mamy
re re kum kum, re re kum kum 
trzeba zawsze słuchać mamy
re re kum kum bęc.

Była sobie żabka mała
re re kum kum, re re kum kum, 
która mamy nie słuchała
re re kum kum bęc.

Na spacery wychodziła
re re kum kum, re re kum kum, 
innym żabkom się dziwiła
re re kum kum bęc.

Ostrzegała ją mamusia
re re kum kum, re re kum kum, 
by zważała na bociusia
re re kum kum bęc.