

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_

# NATIONAL SYMBOLS OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

① Sort out the characteristics of 4 national symbols of Slovakia and complete the table.

- a) The lower part of ... contains a linden leaf.
- b) ... is similar to Slovenian, Russian and Serbian.
- c) ... contains the Double Cross representing Christianity.
- d) ... has “Slovenská republika” as a circular inscription running around it.
- e) Blue-white-red stripes (“trikolóra”) representing Pan-Slavic colours are parts of ...
- f) ... was written in 1844 by Janko Matuška.
- g) ... has the coat of arms in the centre.
- h) ... arose as a protest against the exclusion of Ľudovít Štúr from the Lyceum in Bratislava.

**FLAG**

**COAT OF ARMS**

**STATE SEAL**

## ANTHEM

② Read and listen to the Slovak National Anthem. Try to sing it in English. Look for some symbols of Slovakia and explain what they mean. Decide which translation of the Slovak Anthem into English is better and why.

### VERSION 1

1.  
Far above the Tatra  
lightning bolts are pounding.  
These bolts we shall banish,  
brothers, they will vanish,  
Slovaks are rebounding.

2.  
Our Slovakia was,  
until now, quiescent.  
But the lightning flashing  
and the thunder crashing  
made it effervescent.

### VERSION 2

There is lightning over the  
Tatras,  
thunderclaps wildly beat.  
Let us stop them, brothers,  
for all that, they will disappear,  
the Slovaks will revive.

That Slovakia of ours  
has been fast asleep so far,  
but the thunder's lightning  
is rousing it  
to come to.

### SLOVAK VERSION

Nad Tatrou sa  
blýska,  
hromy divo bijú.  
Zastavme ich, bratia,  
veď sa ony stratia,  
Slováci ožijú.

To Slovensko naše  
posiaľ tvrdo spalo,  
ale blesky hromu  
vzbudzujú ho k  
tomu,  
aby sa prebralo.

Sources:

<https://lyricstranslate.com/en/slovak-national-anthem-nad-tatrou-sa-bl%C3%BDska-slovak-national-anthem.html>

<https://www.pitt.edu/~votruba/qsonhist/slovakanthem.html>

### 3. Fill in the gaps.

a) Slovakia has got 4 national symbols:

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....
4. ....

b) The national symbols of Slovakia are honoured in society and

..... .

c) Slovenian, Russian and Serbian flags have the same colours as the Slovak flag, but the ..... is different.

d) Pan-Slavic colours represent .....

e) One of the characteristic features of the Slovak Coat of Arms is the three peaks of the Carpathian Mountains: .....; ..... and

..... .

f) The state seal contains an inscription “Slovenská republika” and a small ..... leaf.

g) The Slovak anthem has got ..... stanzas. It was written by ..... in ..... . The melody comes from a Slovak folk song ..... (in Slovak) - ..... (in English).

### 4. Answer the questions below. If you do not know the answers, find them on the Internet.

1. Who is the current president of the Slovak Republic?
2. Who was Ľudovít Štúr? What is his name connected with?
3. Who were St Cyril and Methodius who brought Christianity during the age of Great Moravia?

## KEY:

### 1

FLAG – b), e)

COAT OF ARMS – c)

STATE SEAL – a), d), g)

ANTHEM – f), h)

### 2

TATRA (The High Tatras) – Slovak mountains

Lightning bolts are pounding – metaphor of a war

Brothers – equality and friendship

Version 1 is a better English translation of the Slovak Anthem, because it has the same rhythm and numbers of syllables in each line as the original one.

### 3

a)

1. The National Flag of Slovak Republic
2. The Coat of Arms of Slovak Republic
3. The State Seal of Slovak Republic
4. The National Anthem of Slovak Republic

b) protected by the law

c) national emblem

d) Slavic nation

e) Tatra, Matra and Fatra

f) linden

g) 2, Janko Matuška, 1844, Kopala Studienku, She was digging a well

## 4.

1. Zuzana Čaputová

2. Ľudovít Štúr is one of the most important figures in the history of Slovakia. He was a Slovak politician and writer and one of the authors of the standard Slovak language (1843-44).

3. St Cyril and Methodius were two brothers, missionaries who brought not only Christianity, but also an alphabet.