

## My hometown Baranovichi (the 5<sup>th</sup> form)

Baranovichi is not a big city. The population of Baranovichi is about 170 000 people. It is in the western part of Belarus. Baranovichi is the second largest city in Brest region and the eighth largest city in the republic. It is 140 kilometres from the capital of Belarus Minsk.

Baranovichi is a young city with interesting history. It was founded in 1871. The city developed as an important railway junction. Today you can get practically everywhere by train from Baranovichi.

There are many industrial enterprises in Baranovichi which produce machinery, food, footwear, clothes and many other things.

Though Baranovichi is a young city, there are quite a lot of places of interest for tourists and visitors. One of the major sights is an open-air railway museum which demonstrates the development of the railway in the region. Another notable sight is Pokrovski Cathedral where you can see unique mosaics. Also there are a few beautiful Catholic and Orthodox churches. Baranovichi visitors often take pictures of the giant metallic Sparrow sitting on a 1.5 metre platform. The monument has become a modern symbol of Baranovichi. But the real symbol of Baranovichi is a steam train.

There is a university, 15 secondary schools, 5 gymnasiums and one lyceum in Baranovichi as well as other educational establishments where children can study and spend their free time.

The city is surrounded by fine places, there are small rivers and lakes in and around Baranovichi. One of them is Lake Swityaz, the pearl of Belarus. It is ancient and unique because of its water.

A lot of famous people come from or lived in the city. They are Sergey Gritsevets, Vladimir Korvat (pilots), Valeria Novodvorskaya (a politician) and others.

### I Match the columns to make word combinations.

1. railway	a. enterprises
2. major	b. junction
3. open-air	c. mosaics
4. unique	d. museum
5. industrial	e. sights

### II Choose the right variant according to the text.

1. Baranovichi is in the **east / west** of Belarus.
2. Baranovichi is a(n) **old / young** city.
3. There are a lot of **churches / cinemas** in Baranovichi.
4. The real symbol of Baranovichi is **a sparrow / a steam train**.

### III Mark the sentences as true or false.

1. Baranovichi is not a small city.
2. It is one of the biggest cities in Belarus.

3. Baranovichi is an ancient city.
4. There are no sights in Baranovichi.
5. Baranovichi was founded in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**IV Answer the questions.**

1. Where is Baranovichi situated?
2. When was it founded?
3. What is produced in Baranovichi?
4. What interesting places can tourists visit in Baranovichi?

**V Would you like to visit Baranovichi as a tourist? Why?**

**What would you tell a person who has never been in Baranovichi about the city?**