

Текст для учащихся 7 класса (повышенный уровень) по теме «Жизнь в городе и деревне»

Exercise 1. What town ranks the second place among the biggest cities in Brest region? Why do you think so? Read the text to know more about it.

Exercise 2. There are some words in the text that are unknown to you. Look at the blackboard.

Side-track, enterprise, consumer goods, residential areas, memorial sign, Eternal Flame, inspire, twinned (twin) city

Do you know their meanings? If not, read the text and try to guess what they mean.

Baranovichi

I'd like to tell you about my native place. I think I can make a long speech about it as I'm fond of my home town and always eager to describe it. You see, I was born here and I have lived here all my life. Baranovichi is situated in Brest Region, 150 km away from Minsk (to the west of it). It ranks the second among the biggest cities in Brest Region. It is rather young for a city. Our town is a bit over 135 years old.

The history of Baranovichi is closely connected with the development of railway communication in Russia last century. At first Baranovichi was a small **side - track**, then a station, a village and later a small provincial town. In the 20s it was part of Poland and in 1939 our town was re-united with Soviet Belarussia.

Being situated in between Brest and Minsk Baranovichi is known as one of the biggest and important railway centers.

Nowadays Baranovichi is an industrial town. Dozens of industrial **enterprises** are located in the city. Of course, they are differ in size. Besides there is a number of smaller plants and factories producing foodstuff, footwear clothes and other different **consumer goods**.

The population of Baranovichi is about 200,000. There are several **residential areas** in Baranovichi such as «Severny», «Yuzhny», «Tretyaky», «Borovki» etc. Every district has schools, kindergartens, shops, everyday services. Baranovichi has got a vast network of educational establishments as there are 24 schools, several colleges and even a university. Some of the educational institutions are rather young, others are veterans.

To be frank, one can't call our city a cultural centre. Baranovichi has no theatres of its own and there are only few clubs and cinema-halls for such a densely-populated place. Baranovichi has also a small gallery where you can get acquainted with the creative works of local artists and craftsmen.

If you are interested in the history of our town you may visit a local museum where you can find a lot of information of how Baranovichi started and

developed throughout the century. During World War II the city suffered almost complete destruction. So as for the sights in Baranovichi there are only those connected with the Great Patriotic War: some monuments and **memorial signs** to those who fell in the war. In the very centre of Baranovichi, in Lenin Street there is a memorial sign to those who liberated our town from fascists in 1944 on the 8th of July. In front of the memorial sign there is an **Eternal Flame** burning day and night in honour of those who died defending our republic from the enemy.

There are many places around Baranovichi connected with Polish and Belarusian literature. Not far from Baranovichi in Kroshino Pauluk Bagrym, a poet lived and worked. He felt deeply the gentle beauty of Belarusian nature and reflected his feelings in his poetry (poems). His poem «Play, play, little fellow» is a work of great humanity. The area around lake Svityaz some 40km away from Baranovichi with its picturesque scenery **inspired** the creative activity of Adam Mitskevitch.

Our town is especially beautiful in spring and early summer when its parks and streets become emerald-green and there are a lot of flowers everywhere. Nowadays the city is growing rapidly and becomes more modern.

I can say that my town may be noted by the hospitality of its people. They are kind, warm, friendly.

Baranovichi has got several **twinned cities and towns**: Heinol in Finland, Stockerrau in Austria, Gdynya and Bialo-Podliaska in Poland, Karlava in Bulgaria, Chibi in China, Algava in Latvia, Shauliaj in Lithuania, Mytishchi in Russia and some others.

Exercise 3. Answer the questions:

1. Where is Baranovichi situated?
2. How old is it?
3. What is the population of the town?
4. Is it an industrial town? What factories and plants are there in the town?
5. Is it a cultural centre?
6. What interesting places are worth visiting in Baranovichi?
7. What are the twinned cities and towns of Baranovichi?

Exercise 4. Fill in the gaps:

1. Baranovichi ranks the ... among the biggest cities in Brest Region.
2. Being situated in between Brest and Minsk Baranovichi is known as one of the biggest and important ... centers.
3. To be frank, one can't call our city a ... centre.
4. Not far from Baranovichi in Kroshino ..., a poet lived and worked.
5. Baranovichi has got several ... cities and towns.

Exercise 5. Would you like to go to Baranovichi? Why (not)?