HISTORY OF SLOVAKIA

Small state with rich history
Samova ríga - Samočs empire

Ancestors of Slovaks were Slavs. Their homeland was between the rivers Visla and Dneper, north of the mountains Karpaty. In 5th and 6th century they moved to another place. Some of them stayed on our territory. They nurtured the peasantry, beekeeping, handicrafts.

In 6th century Avars (nomadic tribes from Asia) came and they settled on the territory of today's Hungary. From there, they were attacking the neighbouring Slavonic nations. Slavs united in the 7th century to defend themselves against aggressive Avars.
- in the fight Frankish merchant Samo helped them and with his help they won
- Slavonic tribes created a tribal union - Samo’s empire
- it existed in years 623-658
Veľká Morava—Great Moravia

**Nitra Principality**
- Slavs slowly started to build strong forts (Bojná, Pobedim)
- the most important fort was in Nitra, it was the seat of the prince
- first known prince was Pribina
- in the west, there was Moravian principality, with the seat in Mikulčice, prince Mojmir ruled from 833-860
- year 833: Mojmir I. expelled Pribina and occupied Nitra principality
- by the combination of the two principalities Great Moravia originated

**Great Moravia**
- GM resulted in conflicts with the Frankish Empire, Franks wanted to control GM
- Mojmir I. didn’t want to subordinate to Franks, so they deprived him of power and he was replaced by Rastislav. He invited Thessalonian brothers—Konštantín and Metod
- Svätopluk betrayed Rastislav and issued him to Franks
- when Svätopluk died, the power in the empire was divided between his two sons
- contradictions between brothers
- arrival of old hungarian tribes, Slavs were fighting with them
- Slavs lost and GM disappeared
The end of 9th century - arrival of Hungarian under the leadership of Arpád
- battle of river Lech, Hungarians lost
- they had to change way of life and settled in today's Hungary
- Štefan founded the Hungarian state, he became the first king of Hungary, our territory and ancestors became the part of Hungary kingdom

Other monarchs
- Koloman
- Ondrej II.
- Belo IV.
- Karol Róbert
- Őudovít I. Veď
- Žigmund Luxemburský
- Albrecht Habsburský
- Ladislav Pohrobok
- Matej Korvín Huňady
Later Austria kingdom and Hungary kingdom united and Austria-Hungary monarchy was created. It was strong constitutional dualistic monarchy.

Well known monarchs:
- **Mária Terézia**: many reforms in the territory of both states
  - resurrection of the state
  - she created the council of state
  - Codex Theresianus outlawed witch burning and torture
  - the reform of school system: Ratio educationis all children aged 6-12 had to attend school
  - the way of reign: enlightened absolutism
- **Jozef II.**: abolition of serfdom

Bratislava was the capital city of Hungary, there were lots of coronations here
First Czechoslovak republic from 1918 to 1938

- The state was composed of Bohemia, Moravia, Czech Silesia, Slovakia and Subcarpathian Ruthenia

- The independence of Czechoslovakia was proclaimed on October 28

- Czechoslovak democracy was held together by the first president Tomáš Masaryk

- State was conceived as a parliamentary democracy guided by the National Assembly
Czechoslovakia 1945 - 1992

- After forced division of the republic in 1939, both countries joined again after the end of World War II in 1945 without Subcarpathian Ruthenia.

- In 1948 the communist party became the leading force in the country, the character of the state had been changed, strong influence of Soviet Union.

- Country had communist presidents.
Czechoslovakia - Slovakia

Â The **Velvet Revolution** or **Gentle Revolution** was a non-violent revolution in Czechoslovakia that took place from November 17 to December 29 1989 against the one-party government of the Communist party.

Â In June 1991 we had the first free democratic elections since 1946.

Â Václav Havel became the president.

Â Governments of both nations decided to separate and form two independent countries.
Slovakia today

Our new state was founded on 1st January 1993.
From April 1st 2004 Slovakia is a member of the European Union, from December 21st 2007 is a member of the Shengen area. From 1st January 2009 we became the member of the European monetary Union - Euro zone and we started to use the official currency of euro that exchanged Slovak koruna.
First president was Michal Kováč
- second was Rudolf Schuster
- third was Ivan Gašparovič (he is still Slovakia president)

Here, in this small state you can find lot of castles and temples. You can ski in High or Low Tatras, or another ski center. Beautiful nature and large national parks are good to see, too. You can see beautiful caves, old centers of towns or relax in quality spa (like here, in Piešťany)...

Slovakia is small, beautiful country, which is good to visit.