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LIVING IN A DREAM
The beauty of Czech chateaux

In the March issue you read about Czech castles, so now it is time to look at chateaux. While castles date back to the Middle Ages and were built for protection, chateaux are newer and were built as comfortable places to live. Some Czech ones might make you feel as if you were in England or France.

Hluboká nad Vltavou

"Wow!" is about all you can say when you see the Hluboká chateau **up close**[4]. Originally a Gothic castle, it got its current look in the mid-19th century when it was redesigned to become the official home of the Schwarzenberg dynasty. Its new appearance was inspired by the **2) ......** , especially by the Windsor Castle. It also includes a large park.

Červená Lhota

Červená Lhota is a 16th-century **1) ......** chateau, set on an island in the middle of a small **pond**[1] surrounded by trees. Surprisingly, it did not always have its typical red colour. Originally it was white; the red paint was first used in the 17th century. According to a local legend, a beautiful lady **was kidnapped**[2] from the chateau by the devil, leaving red **smears**[3] of blood on the walls. They were impossible to wash away, so they were covered by red paint. Despite the bloody legend, the chateau has an almost fairy-tale look.

→ TASK

Try to fill in the missing names of the architectural styles. The photos and the information when the chateaux were built or rebuilt may help you. You will use options A and D twice.

A) Renaissance   B) Baroque   C) Rococo
D) Tudor Gothic style (Neo-Gothic style inspired by the architectural style of the Tudor period, 1485–1603, in England)

Velké Losiny

Originally a small Gothic **stronghold**[5], it was rebuilt as a **3) ......** chateau in the 16th century by the Žerotíns, one of the richest Moravian aristocratic families. Inside, you can see valuable old furnishings, including a 16th-century **tiled stove**[6], one of the oldest preserved in the Czech Republic. In the late 17th century, Velké Losiny was the centre of a **witch-hunt**[7]. The tribunal (special court) met in the chateau and **sentenced**[8] 56 people to death by burning.

Kroměříž

Kroměříž palace was built as a residence for Olomouc **bishops**[11]. The original late Gothic structure was destroyed in the Thirty Years' War, and a grand **5) ......** palace replaced it. Its gardens, with interesting buildings including the colonnade, Chinese Pavilion and the rotunda, are one of the most **significant**[12] examples of garden architecture in Europe. Interiors of the palace appeared in Miloš Forman's Oscar-winning film *Amadeus*. However, they represented the Hofburg Palace in Vienna, not Kroměříž.

Nové Hrady

Close to the town of Litomyšl you can find this **4) ......** chateau built in the late 18th century. The builders used the style of French chateaux as a source of inspiration, and that is why the complex of buildings and ornamental gardens is nicknamed the Czech Versailles. Inside, you can find historical furniture and something you may not expect in a chateau – a bicycle museum. Nové Hrady also includes a farm where **red deer**[9] and **fallow deer**[10] are bred.

Lednice & Valtice

These two Moravian chateaux are connected by a unique landscape complex, which was built by the Lichtenstein family in the 19th century. There are a lot of **hunting lodges**[13] within the Lednice-Valtice Area, and also small structures built mainly for decoration (such as the Apollo Temple or the Minaret). Lednice chateau (pictured) was built in a romantic 19th-century **6) ......** , and is surrounded by gardens and a beautiful park. Valtice chateau was originally built in the late 12th century, but owes much of its style to Baroque reconstruction. It is so close to the Austrian border that it wasn't until 1919 that it actually became a part of the Czech lands.

Read about some other Czech castles and chateaux on the Bridge website.

VOCABULARY

[1] **pond** [pɒnd] – rybník
[2] **to kidnap** [ˈkɪdnæp] – unést
[3] **smear** [smɪə] – šmouha
[4] **up close** – zblízka
[5] **stronghold** – tvrz
[6] **tiled stove** [taɪld stəʊv] – kachlová kamna
[7] **witch-hunt** [wɪtʃ hʌnt] – čarodějnické procesy
[8] **to sentence** [ˈsentəns] – odsoudit
[9] **red deer** – jelen
[10] **fallow deer** [ˈfæləʊ] – daněk
[11] **bishop** [ˈbɪʃəp] – biskup
[12] **significant** [sɪɡˈnɪfɪk(ə)nt] – významný
[13] **hunting lodge** [lɒdʒ] – lovecký zámeček