

# TURTLES AND ORANGES

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## More weird sculptures in Europe

### PROMENADING TURTLE

Have you ever seen a **turtle**<sup>1</sup> with a dolphin on its head? You need go no farther than Horní náměstí in Olomouc, the square famous for the baroque **Holy Trinity Column**<sup>2</sup>, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Although the turtle seems to just be taking a walk on the pavement, it is in fact part of the nearby Arion Fountain. The fountain, built in 2002, is named after a mythical Greek poet who was saved from drowning by a dolphin. You can see a statue of the poet **hugging**<sup>3</sup> a dolphin in the fountain, but if you take a close look at the walking turtle, you will spot another, tiny dolphin on its head. A truly unusual **coexistence**<sup>4</sup> of animals.



### THANKS TO ORANGE

How about a monument to the orange? Yes, the fruit. You can see it in the Ukrainian city of Odessa. According to legend, oranges saved the city. In 1794, Russian **Empress**<sup>5</sup> Catherine II ordered a large **port**<sup>6</sup> to be built in the city. However, her son, Emperor Paul I, did not want to continue with the construction. When the people of Odessa heard about this, they sent him **heaps**<sup>7</sup> of oranges, his favourite exotic fruit, to **sway him in their favour**<sup>8</sup>. Their effort was successful and Odessa has become one of the most important Black Sea ports. An example of very effective **bribery**<sup>9</sup>...



### RAINY ROOM

When walking along Barcelona's seaside, you may bump into a big metal **cage**<sup>16</sup> standing on the edge of a beach. Inside, there are several melancholic human figures, each of them with a big ball instead of legs. 'A Room Where it Always Rains', created by Spanish sculptor Juan Muñoz, is one of the sculptures that were installed in the city before the 1992 Olympics. As its name suggests, it was supposed to have permanent rain inside. However, it was too difficult to develop a system of circulating the water, so the sculptor's idea **was postponed**<sup>17</sup>, and when he died, it **was abandoned**<sup>18</sup>. So use your imagination – or wait till it rains in Barcelona.



### PEEING ON CZECHIA?

Brussels, the Belgian capital, has its famous little statue of a **peeing**<sup>10</sup> boy. What about the Czech capital? Well, Prague has two peeing adult men instead. The two bronze sculptures, a creation of David Černý, stand in the **yard**<sup>11</sup> of Hegertova cihelna, near the Vltava river. Turning their **hips**<sup>12</sup>, they pee into a **shallow pool**<sup>13</sup> shaped like the Czech Republic. Anyone can speculate about the symbolism. And also try to **decipher**<sup>14</sup> if they are really writing words and **quotations**<sup>15</sup> with their peeing as was advertised when the fountain was installed.

### VOCABULARY

- <sup>1</sup> **turtle** ['tɜ:t(ə)] – želva
- <sup>2</sup> **Holy Trinity Column** ['kɒləm] – sloup Nejsvětější trojice
- <sup>3</sup> **to hug** [hʌg] – objímat
- <sup>4</sup> **coexistence** [kəʊɪg'zɪst(ə)ns] – soužití
- <sup>5</sup> **empress** ['empɾɪs] – císařovna
- <sup>6</sup> **port** [pɔ:t] – přístav
- <sup>7</sup> **heap** [hi:p] – hromada
- <sup>8</sup> **to sway him in their favour** [swer 'feɪvə] – aby si získali jeho přízeň

- <sup>9</sup> **bribery** ['brɪb(ə)rɪ] – uplácení
- <sup>10</sup> **to pee** [pi:] – močit
- <sup>11</sup> **yard** [jɑ:d] – dvůr
- <sup>12</sup> **hips** – boky
- <sup>13</sup> **shallow pool** – mělký bazének
- <sup>14</sup> **to decipher** [dɪ'saɪfə] – rozluštit
- <sup>15</sup> **quotation** [kwə(ə)'teɪʃ(ə)n] – citát
- <sup>16</sup> **cage** [keɪdʒ] – klec
- <sup>17</sup> **to postpone** [pəʊs(t)'pəʊn] – odložit
- <sup>18</sup> **to abandon sth** [ə'bænd(ə)n] – upustit od něčeho, zavrhnout něco