# **Maturita Card 60: Geography and Nature**

#### • What is the countryside like in the Czech Republic?

The countryside in the Czech Republic is quite varied / diverse. There are many beautiful areas / picturesque regions / pretty places / nature reserves. There are magnificent / striking / stunning mountain ranges and green / grassy lowlands. There are numerous / lots of forests / woods / woodland areas with many types / species of trees. Trees typically found in the Czech Republic include spruce / pine / beech / oak. Tourists are often attracted to / can visit incredible / amazing / unique rock formations / cave systems / four national parks.

## Name some famous natural attractions in the Czech Republic

Some of the most interesting natural attractions / landmarks are the stalactite caves in Moravian Karst / Bohemian Paradise with sandstone rocks / Pravčická brána in "Czech Switzerland", which is the largest natural sandstone arch in Europe / the Krkonoše Mountains with the highest Czech mountain, Sněžka (1603 m) / the Šumava Mountains / the Beskydy Mountains / South Bohemia, which has a lot of lovely ponds and lakes.

# Can you tell me something about the landscape around your home / school / city?

There is a park with oak / lime / birch trees and flower beds / a children's playground. There are hills / fields / farmland around the city / town. There is no / not much vegetation / are not many plants and trees around, only blocks of flats / houses / roads / patches of grass / shrubs. Near / behind / in front of my house there is a wood / forest with evergreen / spruce / pine trees. There are orchards with fruit / apple / cherry trees / vineyards / wheat / maize / sunflower fields around the place I live.

#### • What kind of landscape do you prefer?

I like high / rocky mountains with clean / fresh air and great / beautiful views. I love spending time in quiet forests / woods with tall trees and little streams / hiking through meadows with wild flowers. I prefer urban landscapes / cities with great nightlife / interesting monuments / lots of people / museums / galleries. My favourite place is the coast, with rugged cliffs / crashing waves / peaceful sandy beaches with palm trees and calm seas.

# What wild animals and birds can you find in your country / region?

The Czech Republic / my region is home to all kinds of / many different sorts of / a wide variety of animals and birds / wildlife. Common animals include hares / squirrels / mice / bats and some

common birds are magpies / jays / pigeons / ducks / pheasants. Less frequently / sometimes you can see beavers / weasels / deer / wild boar / foxes / pine martens. Rare / more unusual animals here are otters / wolves / lynx / bears.

#### • What kinds of weather can you experience in the Czech Republic?

The Czech Republic generally has a temperate / relatively mild climate and extreme weather is rare / uncommon. Summers are sunny and warm / hot / humid and winters can be cold / freezing with temperatures around / just above / below zero with a lot of / some rain / snow. Spring tends to be / is often rainy / cool with changeable weather. Autumn is cloudy / wet / cold / damp but with beautiful colours. Extreme weather can happen / occur and occasionally / sometimes there are hailstorms / droughts / strong winds / floods.

### • What is your favourite season and why?

I am a summer / winter person. I generally prefer / I don't like autumn / winter. I love summer because I like sunbathing / swimming in lakes / the sea / doing sport / cycling / enjoying life outdoors. I like warm temperatures / feeling the sun on my skin. I enjoy long evenings with my friends / barbecues / garden parties. I am a fan of winter sports / I like to go skiing / snowboarding / ice skating. I love to see snow and blue skies. I like to keep warm / cosy inside / by the fire / watch the snow from the window with a hot drink. I appreciate / adore beautiful autumn colours / the colourful autumn trees / crisp mornings / walking through fallen leaves. Spring is my favourite season because of the rebirth of nature after the long winter / spring flowers sprouting in gardens / trees blossoming / days getting longer.

## • What are some things you personally can do to protect the planet?

I am quite an environmentally conscious person / I do quite a lot for the environment / I am a bit lazy about it but I would like to do more. There are many ways / things we could do to help. We could use our cars less / use public transport more / walk or cycle more often. I recycle paper / glass / plastics. We could try to produce less waste / choose products with less packaging. Drinking tap water instead of bottled water is one way to reduce / cut down on waste. We can buy energy-efficient products like LED light bulbs. Another good idea is to plant more trees / start a recycling programme at school / at work. Other things we can do include turning off lights when we leave the room / switching off televisions / computers when we are not using them.

















