



Serbia: Old Fortresses and Hidden Monasteries

Danube River,
Belgrade, Serbia

Are you ready for another adventure? Fasten your seatbelts and keep them fastened tight! This plane will be coming back down before you know it. We'll be landing in less than an hour!

Serbia is currently a landlocked country, but that has not always been the case. Do you remember what landlocked means? If a country is landlocked, it is surrounded on all sides by land. Serbia has only been landlocked since 2006. That was the year it became a separate nation, apart from Montenegro, which had once given it access to the sea. Losing its seaside was a blow for Serbia, but the separation has given each of these two countries a stronger national identity, which has been good for both of them. However, Serbia still has a very important waterway that flows through its territory, which we will learn about in a minute.

Serbia is a fascinating place for us to explore. Our small jet takes off from the Podgorica [pod-gor-IT-za] airport and heads northeast to the city of Belgrade. We can see a good slice of the landscape from our airplane window. The first thing you will notice is that there are several mountain ranges, including the Balkan Mountains and the Carpathian Mountains in eastern Serbia and the Dinaric Alps in western Serbia. There is also a very large area of flat land called the Pannonian Plain.

From our jet window, we can also see that there are several rivers that flow through Serbia, including the Sava, the Tisza [TEE-sa], and the Drina Rivers. But the most important waterway is very well known, and you may have heard of it before. Can you name a major river that flows through ten countries, including Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova, and Ukraine? If you guessed the Danube [DAN-yoob] River, you are correct!



inspiration: stimulation for the human mind to create thought or to the making of art

The Danube River, Europe's second longest, is a very famous and majestic river. Not only does it pass through all of those countries,

but it also passes through some prominent cities, such as Vienna, the capital of Austria; Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia; Budapest, the capital of Hungary; and Belgrade, the capital of Serbia. The Danube River has played a very significant role in the history of Europe and has also been the **inspiration** for writers, artists, and musicians.

There is one thing about the Danube River that has become very important to Serbia: shipping. Because Serbia is a landlocked country, the Danube River provides the means by which products can be shipped from Serbia to other countries in Europe. And because the Danube River eventually empties into the Black Sea, which connects to the Mediterranean Sea via the Bosphorus [BOS-per-us] Strait, the people of Serbia can use the Danube River to ship merchandise around the globe.

This is the river we see as our jet approaches the Belgrade Nikola Tesla Airport, the main airport of Belgrade, the country's capital and largest city. Nikola Tesla? Who is that, you ask?

Nikola Tesla was a famous Serbian-American scientist and inventor, well known for his work with electricity. Have you ever heard of Thomas Edison? Most people think that Thomas Edison invented electricity as we know it today, but it was really Nikola Tesla. Edison



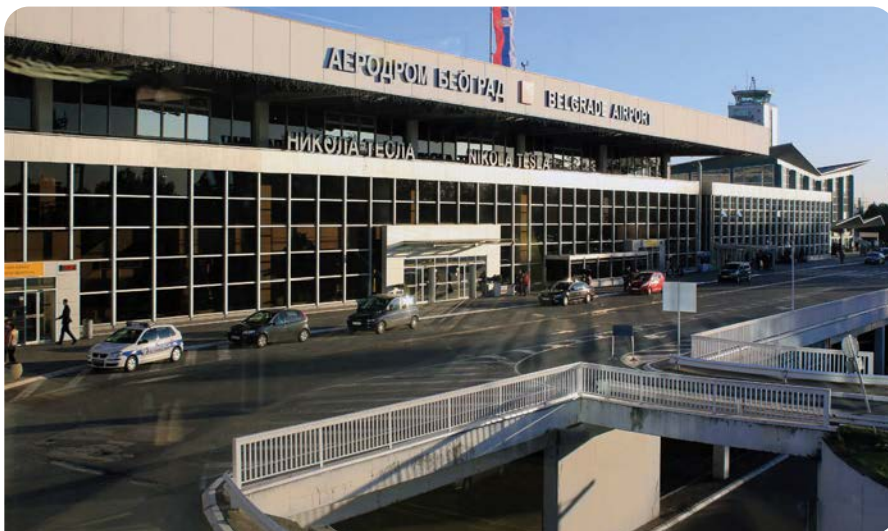
Nikola Tesla's image appears on the 100 Serbian dinar banknote (issued 2006).



Iron Gate I Hydroelectric Power Station, the largest dam on the Danube river and one of the largest hydro power stations in Europe



Tesla Roadster



Nikola Tesla Airport

direct current: electrical current that flows in only one direction and has a fairly constant average value

alternating current: an electric current that regularly reverses direction

developed one kind of electricity called “**direct current**,” or DC. This is the type of electricity or power generated from batteries that we use in flashlights or in the engine of a car. But Tesla discovered “**alternating current**,” or AC. This is the type of electricity that we use in our homes and schools and offices all around the world. The next time you watch television, use your computer, or turn on a light, you can thank Nikola Tesla!

Have you heard of Tesla Motors? This Silicon Valley car company is named after Nikola Tesla. In fact, the Tesla Roadster, the company’s first vehicle, uses an AC motor descended directly from Tesla’s original 1882 design.

It is fitting that the Serbian people named the airport in Belgrade after him. His scientific achievements have made a tremendous impact on our world.

Year of our Lord: The purpose of the B.C./A.D. dating system was to make the birth of Jesus Christ the dividing point of world history. B.C. was “before Christ,” and since His birth, we have been living “in the year of our Lord.” This is translated as Anno Domini in Latin, or A.D.

barbarian: especially in ancient times, a member of a people whose culture and behavior was considered uncivilized, aggressive, or violent

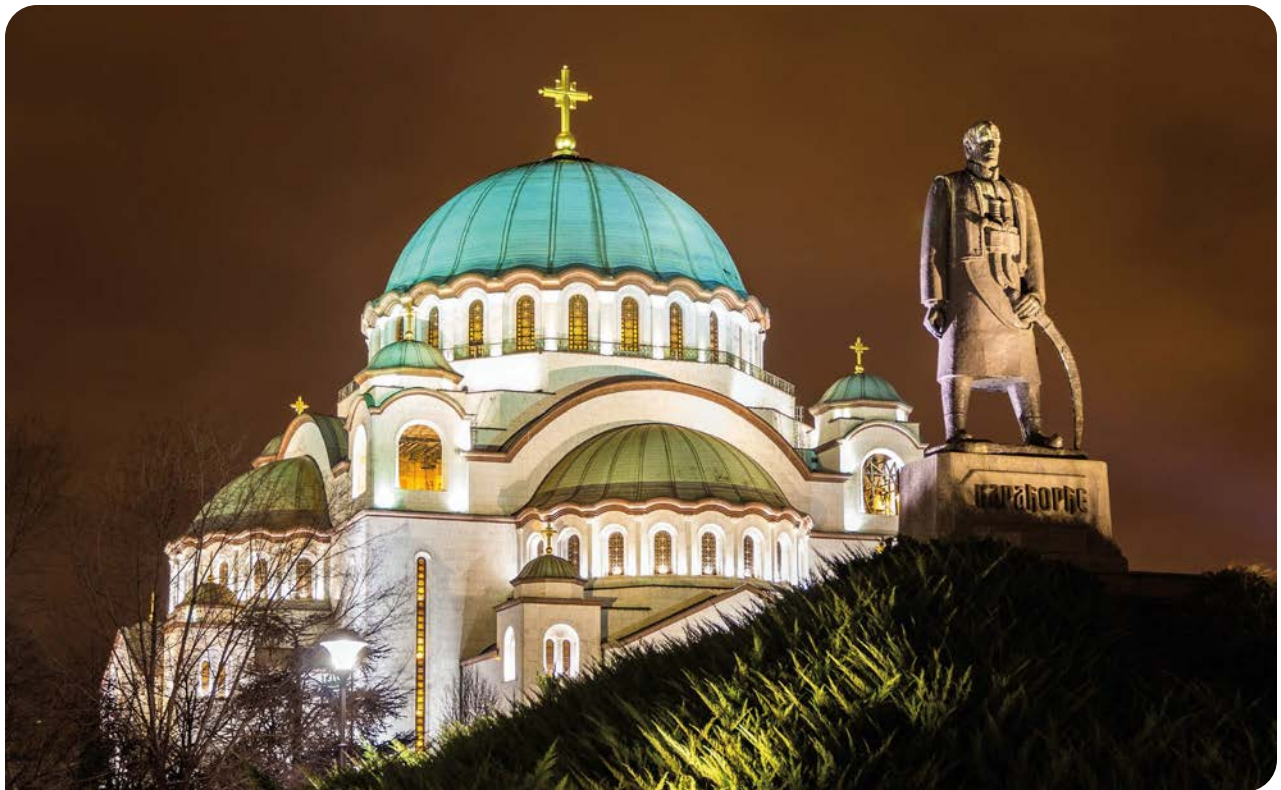
Celts: The ancient Indo-European people who lived in central and western Europe. They were driven to the western fringes of the continent by the Romans and some Germanic peoples, especially the Angles and Saxons.

After a safe landing, we step out of our small jet onto the tarmac to find that the air temperature is a pleasant 70°F. In Serbia, the average winter temperature is 32°F, the freezing point, but often dips down even colder. The average summer temperature is 72°F, but the highest temperature ever recorded was in 2007 when it reached a very hot 112°F. Wow! I’m glad it’s not that hot today as we wait for our bus to take us into the city.

Belgrade is less than 10 miles from the airport, so it is a quick ride into the center of the city. What can we learn about the city during the bus ride? It is a large city with a population of over 1 million people. It has a very long history, dating back to the **Year of our Lord**, around 2,000 years ago! A **barbarian** tribe known as the **Celts** first settled this area. How did they get here, you ask?

Originally, the Celts were a tribe of people who all spoke the same language and all shared the same culture in Central Europe. It was during this time in history that the use of iron tools became prevalent. Later, during the expansion of the Roman Empire, the Celtic people





Karadjordje Monument and the Church of Saint Sava in Belgrade, one of the largest orthodox churches in the world

were pushed farther and farther north and out of Central Europe. That is why we associate the Celtic people with the regions of Brittany, an area in northwestern France, and the more northern countries of Scotland, Ireland, and Wales.

The Celts built several forts in this area where the city of Belgrade now stands. Later, this **settlement** was absorbed into the Roman Empire and the city was named Singidunum [SING-a-dum]. We will see Roman ruins when we visit Kalemegdan [kal-e-MAG-dun] Fortress. During the Middle Ages, the Serbian people settled here. It was part of the Ottoman Empire until 1878, when Serbia became independent. At that time, Belgrade became the capital of Serbia.



settlement: a collection of dwellings forming a community, especially on a frontier

planetarium: a building with a domed ceiling onto which movable images of the stars, planets, and other objects seen in the night sky are projected for an audience

The Jevremovac Botanical Garden



Penguins in a zoo in Belgrade



Belgrade boat restaurant

Although it's a big city, the old part of the city is small enough that we can walk around and explore on foot. Let's start at the Kalemegdan Fortress. It was originally a Roman military fortress, but now it is a city park that sits right where the Sava River joins the Danube River (see photo on previous page). There is much to see and do here. See the old Roman well? It looks quite out of place alongside the modern-day additions to the park: tennis and basketball courts, quaint cafés, several museums and church buildings, the Belgrade Zoo, and a **planetarium**.

Speaking of cafés, are you hungry yet? Do you see those barges down on the river? Those are actually restaurants. Have you ever eaten on a barge docked along the bank of a river before? I sure haven't! Let's go and find out what is on the menu.

There are some familiar items on the menu from other cultures around the Mediterranean Sea, especially Greek and Turkish dishes, and I can see that there are Austrian and Hungarian desserts too. The national dishes of Serbia are ground beef patty and grilled minced meat.



The land of Serbia is uniquely beautiful!

Mountains and rivers:

- ✓ Mountain ranges include Balkan Mountains, Carpathian Mountains, and the Dinaric Alps.
- ✓ The Sava River, the Tisza River, the Drina River, and the Danube River flow through Serbia.
- ✓ The Danube River allows for this landlocked country to ship products without a sea port.

Nikola Tesla:

- ✓ Famous Serbian-American scientist and inventor.
- ✓ Discovered "alternating current" used daily in homes, offices, and schools.
- ✓ Tesla's work influenced the AC motor on the modern Tesla Roadster.
- ✓ Serbian airport named for him.

Belgrade/ history:

- ✓ Population of over one million people.
- ✓ The Celts were the original settlers of the city.
- ✓ Known as Singidunum when it was part of the Roman Empire.

Adventure Challenge 18

name _____

Just the Facts!

Fill in the answers to each question.

1. If a country is landlocked, it is surrounded on all sides by _____.
2. Serbia and _____ were once one nation.
3. Because Serbia is a landlocked country, the Danube (Dunav) River is very important, providing _____.
4. Nikola Tesla was a famous Serbian-American scientist and inventor, well known for his work with _____.
5. A barbarian tribe known as the _____ first settled in central and western Europe.

Bonus! Serbia has several mountain ranges, can you list all 3?

Who Was This Guy?

Imagine that you are a reporter and have just learned about a man named Nikola Tesla, who became an Serbian inventor. Write short article about him, his life, and some of his achievements.

Rains and Drains!

Have you ever wondered what happens to the rain after it falls? Some will be absorbed by the ground, but some will find its way into what is called a drainage basin or watershed. It collects all the rainfall not absorbed by the ground within a certain area. Serbia has a lot of rivers, so let's see what we can learn from this map of drainage basins:

1. What color is the area representing the Danube (Dunav) River? _____
2. What part of the country is the drainage basin for the Drina River? _____
3. What river basins are represented on the map between those for the Drina River and the Danube? _____ and _____
4. The light purple on the map represents what river? _____
5. On this map, the city of Belgrade is shown by an alternate name, Beograd. What two drainage basins are located in it? _____ and _____



Iron It Out!

Did you know that 25 books of the Bible mention iron? Some of those are in the Old Testament, including one in the Book of Genesis, which talks about the very beginning of the world and mankind's earliest history.

Look up in your Bible	
Genesis 4:22	1. Who forged tools of bronze and iron?
Deuteronomy 3:11	2. Whose bed was made of iron?
Joshua 17:16	3. What weapons of the Canaanites were made of iron in this verse?
1 Chronicles 29:7	4. How many talents of iron were given in service to the house of God?
Judges 4:13	5. How many chariots of iron are mentioned in the verse?



trompe-l'oeil

➔ Now that we have full tummies, let's continue our explorations through Belgrade. At Republic Square, the main square in Belgrade, there is a crowd of people. Apparently, this is normal, as many people meet here to talk or share lunch. We'll head over to Skadarska Street. This is a **pedestrian**

pedestrian: a person who goes or travels on foot; walker



New Royal Palace



Old Royal Palace

street, which means that no cars are allowed, only people on foot. The streets have uneven cobblestones where we are walking, so take care not to trip and fall! There are musicians performing live music in the street. There's also something else here that is interesting. Look up on that wall. Do you see the painting of a shop on the side of that building? It looks like we can walk right in, but it is a solid concrete wall. That's called *trompe-l'oeil* [tromp-luoy], which means "trick the eye" in French. Skadarska Street has become a popular place for artists to create these impressive "trick" paintings.

There's the Old Royal Palace, which was built in 1881. The Serbian kings once lived there, but today it is used as the Town Hall of Belgrade. The other palace, right next to the Old Royal Palace, is called the New Palace. The New Palace was built in 1922 and was the residence of King Peter I. Now it is the home of the President of the Republic of Serbia.



Have you noticed how many church buildings there are in Belgrade? Eighty-five percent of Serbians belong to the Serbian Orthodox Church, an offshoot of the Eastern Orthodox Church. The remaining 15% are Catholic, Protestant, or Muslim.

Serbia is a big country, and Belgrade is just a small part of it. Let's get out of the city. Would you like to take a train ride? There is an old historic steam train up in the mountains that chugs through several tunnels and over many bridges. Before we go, we need to make sure that today is not a holiday so we can be certain that the train will be running. Let's check the holiday schedule in Serbia. There's New Year's Day on January 1, Eastern Orthodox Christmas on January 7, Orthodox New Year on January 14, Saint Sava's Feast Day on January 27, Serbian National Day on February 15, Labor Day on May 1, Victory Day on May 9, and St. Vitus Day on June 28. Some

Roman Catholics and Protestants observe Christmas on December 25 instead of on January 7.

Since the train is running today, we'll drive to Mokra Gora in the western part of Serbia. This is the **picturesque** village where our little train will start. During the ten-mile train ride, we will go through 20 tunnels and over 10 bridges. The view from the window is outstanding, so make sure you have your camera ready. The train stops a couple of times for brief periods, making it easy to take some good photos. At one little village, we will stop for about 20 minutes. There we can grab something to drink or a snack at the tiny café in the railway station. What a great way to see Serbia!

picturesque: visually very appealing or impressive, seeming fit for a painting or photograph





The train affords us a unique prospect of this lovely country. From high up in the mountains, we can look out over the valley far below. What do you think of those farms laid out like a patchwork quilt below us?

That train ride was one I will never forget. I wish it could have lasted a little bit longer, but it's a great day to be outside and in the country. Let's head up to northern Serbia next to visit the Fruška Gora [fr-oosh-ka go-ra] National Park. While we're riding, let me tell you more about Serbia's history.

Archaeologists have discovered evidence of very ancient civilizations along the Danube River. Archaeologists are scientists who dig in the earth and find things that people made and used a long time ago, such as tools or pottery. From these ancient **artifacts**, they can learn more about the people who lived there at that time.

artifact: an object made by a human being, especially one that has archaeological or cultural interest

After the Celtic tribes left this area, Serbia became part of the Roman Empire, and amazingly, seventeen Roman emperors came from Serbia! Only Italy produced more Roman emperors than Serbia did. The most famous Roman emperor born in Serbia was Constantine the Great. Constantine is well known for being the first Roman emperor to convert to Christianity.

The story goes that Constantine had a vision of a cross shining like the sun and emblazoned with the words, "By this sign, you shall conquer." The following night, on the eve of an important battle, he had a similar dream. In his dream, he was instructed to raise the standard of the cross before his approaching army to receive God's protection. He did this the following day, and they won the battle. Not only was Constantine the first emperor to become a Christian, but he also became one of Christianity's biggest advocates. By the Edict of Milan in the year A.D. 313, Constantine proclaimed freedom of religion for all.

After the end of the Roman Empire, various Serbian leaders ruled the area. The Kingdom of Serbia officially began in the year 1217 when Stefan II was crowned king. Parts of Serbia were conquered by the Ottoman Empire, but later, in 1835, Serbia fought and gained independence from the Turks. Battles continued to rage between the Serbs and the Turks until finally, in 1878, Serbia was fully independent from the Ottoman Empire.

After World War I, King Peter I of Serbia was named king of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. Do you remember King Peter's palace in Republic Square in Belgrade? Later, his son, King Alexander, changed the name of the country to the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. The name changed yet again after World War II. The Kingdom of Yugoslavia, which included Serbia, became the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Then Yugoslavia became a communist country and was ruled by Josip Tito for many years.

In 1989, something happened that drastically changed the way people lived in communist countries across Eastern Europe. That was the year the Berlin Wall came down, smashing the barrier between the communist and free portions of Germany. This caused a chain reaction of events throughout Europe. Over the next two years, all of the former communist countries in Eastern Europe declared their independence. Freedom was reborn in Yugoslavia as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, and Slovenia broke away and formed their own governments. Only Serbia and Montenegro remained united for several more years until they too eventually split apart and became separate countries.



Serbia has some unexpected wonders, doesn't it!

Trompe-l'oeil: ✓ Means "trick the eye."
✓ A prominent feature of Skadarska Street in Belgrade.

Roman emperors: ✓ Seventeen emperors were from Serbia; only Italy produced more.
✓ Constantine the Great is the most famous; he converted to Christianity.
✓ He advocated for the faith and proclaimed religious freedom.

Ski mountain winter resort in Serbia



Adventure Challenge 19

name _____

A Fast Train!

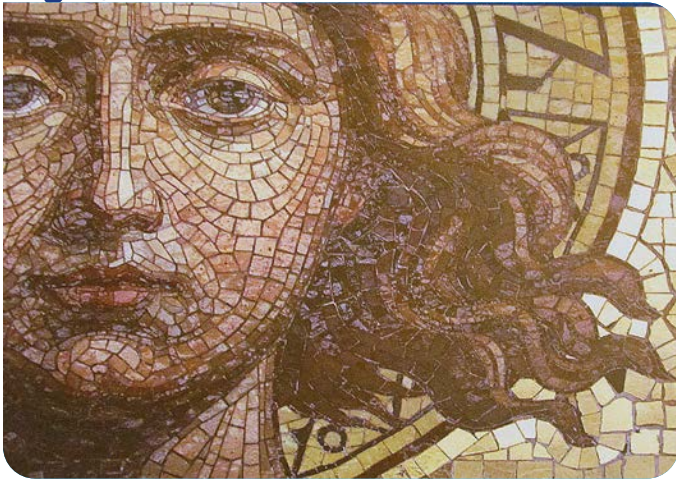
It was fun riding the historic train powered by steam, but Serbia is working hard to upgrade their railway system with faster electric locomotives. Now let's see if you can figure out how to use the railway system by answering the following questions.

Train Number	Railway Route	Distance	Electric
1	Belgrade - Ruma - Border with Croatia near Šid	75.56 miles/120 km	yes
2	Belgrade - Niš - Border with North Macedonia near Preševo	247.31 miles/398 km	yes
3	Belgrade - Mala Krsna - Velika Plana	63.38 miles/102 km	yes
4	Belgrade - Novi Sad - Border with Hungary near Subotica	113.71 miles/183 km	yes
5	Niš - Border with Bulgaria near Dimitrovgrad	64.62 miles/104 km	no
6	Belgrade - Pančevo - Border with Romania near Vršac	63.38 miles/102 km	partially
7	Belgrade - Valjevo - Užice - Border with Montenegro near Prijepolje	185.79 miles/299 km	yes
8	Lapovo - Kragujevac - Kraljevo - Boundary line with Kosovo near Rudnica	95.01 miles/153 km	no
9	Subotica - Sombor - Border with Croatia near Bogojevo	54.06 miles/87 km	no

1. What are the stops on the train that will take you to the border of Romania? _____ and _____
2. If you take the longest rail line, what city would you start at and where would you end up? _____ and _____
3. Which two rail lines go to the border of Croatia? _____ and _____
4. Would you get to your destination faster on train line 5 or train line 2? _____
What information in the train schedule chart did you use to decide your answer?

5. What three cities are starting points for a railway line that are not Belgrade? _____, _____ and _____

Mighty Mosaics!



Materials needed:

- 4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup table salt
- 1½ cups warm water
- Mixing bowl
- Rolling pin
- Assorted craft items for decoration (beads, colored pebbles, marbles, etc.)

Mosaics are beautiful works of art created by using small cut pieces of stone, glass, or other things. Many appear in the beautiful churches of Serbia.

Let's make our mosaic out of salt dough and craft supplies. Be as creative as you want to be!

Directions:

1. You can use colored playdough, modeling clay, or make a batch of salt dough using the following recipe:

4 cups all-purpose flour

1 cup table salt

1½ cups warm water

Mix the flour and salt in a mixing bowl. Slowly add the warm water to start forming a soft dough. Knead the dough until it is smooth and roll it out to about ¼-inch thickness.

2. On a piece of paper, lay out your decorations (small pebbles, marbles, beads, etc.) into the pattern or picture you want to create. Like this:
3. Now, gently press your decorations into the dough, following the pattern you developed. Make sure you don't push all the way through the dough layer.
4. Carefully place your mosaic in an area where it can air-dry for a day or two. Then display your one-of-a-kind mosaic!





Fruška Gora in winter



A path from Bukovac toward Venac TV tower



The Divša Monastery (above)
Mala Remeta Monastery (left)

➔ Well, here we are at Fruška Gora National Park. A popular pastime here is riding bicycles, so that's what we're

dispute: to question or doubt the truth or validity of something

going to do. The park has rolling hills, grassy fields, and old-growth forests. We might see some animals, so we should be on the lookout for woodpeckers and eagles overhead, as well as deer, wild boars, wild cats, badgers, and weasels along the trail.

This park is a history lover's paradise. Along the bike path, we'll see several old fortresses and monasteries. In a beautiful little wood, there is a cluster of fifteen Serbian orthodox monasteries. Originally there were 35 monasteries all built between the 15th and 18th centuries, but more than half of them no longer exist. We won't have time to see all of them, but we can enjoy a few.

Why were there so many monasteries, you ask? They were built during the time when Serbia was ruled by the Ottoman Empire and fighting for its independence. It was the monks hidden away in these monasteries who preserved the traditions and ethnic identity of the Serbian people.

After our bicycle ride, let's visit the southern part of Serbia, an area called Kosovo [KOH-soh-vo]. Have you heard of Kosovo before? Is it a country, or is it a part of Serbia? It depends on who is answering the question. Kosovo is a **disputed** area. This means that some countries recognize the



Republic of Kosovo as a separate country from Serbia, but Serbia and many other countries still consider it a part of Serbia. What happened to cause this problem?

If you look on your map, you will see that the western part of Kosovo shares its border with Albania. There are many Albanians living in Kosovo. As a matter of fact, 92% of the population is Albanian. Serbia wants to keep Kosovo in Serbia. They have fought over this land for many centuries. But the people of Kosovo want to break away from Serbia, a Christian nation, because they are not Serbian, nor are they Christian. Most of the people of

Kosovo are ethnic Albanians, who are Muslim by faith. Kosovo declared its independence in 2008, but the Serbian officials in government do not acknowledge this.

When entering Kosovo, some people would say it's another country, and other people will disagree. But if we go to a little city called Prizren [pronounced "prison"] in Kosovo, we will feel like we're in another country because it is really different from anything we've seen so far in Serbia.

Are you hungry again? I thought you might be. Let's go to the piazza, the main square in Prizren, called Shadervan. This gathering place for the local people has many cafés and restaurants. We can sit outside and enjoy something to eat and drink while we watch people walking around the beautiful fountain in the middle of the piazza. If you want to try something that is a traditional Kosovo dish, then you should order Tava of Prizren. It is a casserole that originates from the time of the Ottoman Empire. The flavors are strong yet pleasing. It has lamb, eggplant, green peppers, onions, and tomatoes in it. It sounds delicious, doesn't it?

What makes Prizren so different from the other parts of Serbia we've visited so far? What do you see here that you hadn't noticed before? Yes, the buildings have more of a Turkish or Middle Eastern appearance because of the Muslim influence in this region.



Tava of Prizren



Historic Prizren main square

Mosque of Sultan Mehmed



minaret: a tall, slender tower attached to a mosque from which the muezzin calls the faithful to prayer

architecture: a style or fashion of building, especially one that is typical of a period of history or a particular place

saint: Some people pray to the saints and ask them to intercede, or speak on their behalf, to God. The Bible tells us that we are to speak to God directly, as in 1 John 5:14 (NIV): “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.”

Do you see the mosques? That mosque there is the Bajraki Mosque, also known as the Mosque of Sultan Mehmed [meh-met] the Conqueror. It is nearly 500 years old and is very beautiful inside and out with an abundance of woodcarvings and blue and white paintings. The other mosque we see is the Sofi Sinan Pasha Mosque. This mosque was built about 400 years ago, and its walls are about six feet thick! There are over 50 windows, and the **minaret** is very tall and impressive, don't you agree?

The other interesting building that dates back to the Ottoman Empire is the Gazi Mehmet Pasha Hamam. Do you know what a **hamam** is? It is a public bath where the people could bathe after walking around on the dusty streets. This hamam, like the two mosques, is very old. It was built about 500 years ago. Its **architecture** is grand with two large domes and nine smaller domes on its roof.

On the ride back to Belgrade, leaving Muslim Kosovo behind and re-entering Christian Serbia, we can talk more about Serbian culture. One unusual tradition of Serbians is called Slava. Serbian families celebrate the birthday of their patron **saint**. This celebration usually takes place once a year, but sometimes a patron saint has two special days. If this is the case, then the second day, which is less important than the main day of celebration, is called the Preslava, or “Little Slava.”





Slava cake to honor St. John the Baptist



Serbian Christmas — Badnjak-Yule — log, grain, and straw

Serbs celebrate their saints' special days with food, of course! A special cake is made, called the Slava cake, but it is more like bread than cake. The top of the Slava cake is decorated with either a cross or a dove of peace. Another traditional dish made for Slava Day is Koljivo [KOL-ye-vo]. It is made with boiled wheat and flavored with honey, walnuts, and spices. The wheat symbolizes Christ's resurrection.

The family members go to church on their saint's day and take communion. After the service, the family invites the priest to come to their house to celebrate Slava with them. At the house, the priest performs a short service and blesses the Slava cake and the Koljivo and lights a Slava candle. The Slava feasts are celebrated for St. Demetrius, St. George, St. John the Baptist, St. Michael, St. Nicholas, and St. Sava. Sometimes whole villages and cities join together and celebrate the patron saint of their community.

Christmas in Serbia is also unique. As mentioned before, it is celebrated on January 7 because Serbian Orthodox Christians follow the Eastern Orthodox calendar, not the Roman Catholic one. In Serbia, early on the morning of Christmas Eve, families trek into the woods and cut down a



small oak tree — not an evergreen tree like we are used to. They take the tree to their local church for the priest to bless it. The floor of the church is covered with hay to remind people of the stable in Bethlehem.

When they get home from church, the family burns the oak tree along with wheat and other grains in a fire. This fire is a burnt offering, a sacrifice to God. The family then eats a meal, often of roasted pig and a special bread with a coin baked inside. A popular superstition is whoever gets the slice of bread with the coin is supposed to have a good year. Most families don't exchange presents on Christmas, but some do on New Year's Day.



We've arrived back in Belgrade now and are nearly at the airport. We've seen some amazing things in Serbia that we will never forget: cities and villages, trains and tunnels, bridges and barges, mosques and monasteries. Let's jot down some notes in our travel log while these memories are still fresh.



I liked the sights and sounds of Serbia!

Fruska Gora National Park:

- ✓ Includes old growth forests, wild cats, weasels, and more.
- ✓ Paths wind past fortresses and monasteries.
- ✓ The traditions and ethnic identity of Serbians were preserved by monks.
- ✓ Declared independence in 2008.

Kosovo/Prizen:

- ✓ A disputed area seeking independence from Serbia.
- ✓ 92% of population is Albanian and are Muslims.
- ✓ Includes two old mosques and public bath.

Christmas:

- ✓ Celebrated on January 7 per the Eastern Orthodox calendar.
- ✓ Gifts are usually not exchanged.
- ✓ Trees are oak, not evergreen; are burned as part of the tradition.

We enjoyed our trip through Serbia! Now it's time to review what we've learned.
Let's review the map on the following page.

Dedicated to hundreds of children murdered by German Nazi soldiers on October 21, 1941, the *Interrupted Flight* is a part of Šumarice Memorial Park dedicated to victims of the October 1941 Kragujevac massacre.





See if you can locate the following places on the map:

- 🌐 Danube River
- 🌐 Belgrade
- 🌐 Sava River
- 🌐 Kosovo
- 🌐 Lim River
- 🌐 Pristina
- 🌐 Niš

TIME LINE

3rd century B.C.	▶ Tribe of Celts move into Belgrade area and build forts.
Early 1st century A.D.	▶ Belgrade area named Singidunum when absorbed into Roman Empire.
A.D. 272	▶ Constantine the Great born in Serbia; first Roman emperor.
A.D. 313	▶ Edict of Milan — Constantine proclaims freedom of religion for all.
5th–15th centuries (Middle Ages)	▶ Serbian people settle Serbia.
1217	▶ Stefan II becomes king of the Kingdom of Serbia.
1389	▶ Battle of Kosovo Polje.
1463–1470	▶ Bajraki Mosque, or Sultan Mehmed the Conqueror’s Mosque, built in Prizren.
1575	▶ Gazi Mehmet Pasha Hamam built for public bathing.
1615	▶ Sofi Sinan Pasha Mosque built.
1835	▶ Serbia fights and gains independence from the Turks.
1878	▶ Belgrade becomes the capital of the newly independent Serbia.
1881	▶ Old Royal Palace built.
1882	▶ Nikola Tesla designs first AC motor.
1918	▶ King Peter I named king of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes.
1922	▶ New Royal Palace built.
1989	▶ Berlin Wall taken down, leading to eventual independence of all former communist countries.
2006	▶ Serbia becomes landlocked by separating from Montenegro.
2008	▶ Kosovo declares independence from Serbia but isn’t acknowledged by them, leading to friction.

Timeline Activity [optional]

There are a lot of important dates about Serbia. Be sure to include the ones you feel are important in your *Wonders of Old* book or a crafted timeline you are making yourself.

Flash Cards

Make flash cards of the bolded glossary words from this chapter. You can add drawings of the terms if you want. Be creative!



Adventure Challenge 20

name _____

Making Your List: Checking It Twice!

List 5 things you read that are associated with Christmas in Serbia.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Playdough Emperor! [optional]

Constantine the Great was really important to helping spread Christianity. That is why you see a lot of mosaics, frescoes, and even sculptures of him. Take some playdough and see if you can create a sculpture image of Constantine sculpture.



Statue



Mosaic





A Tasty Tour

[optional]

Slava Cake of Serbia

Ingredients:

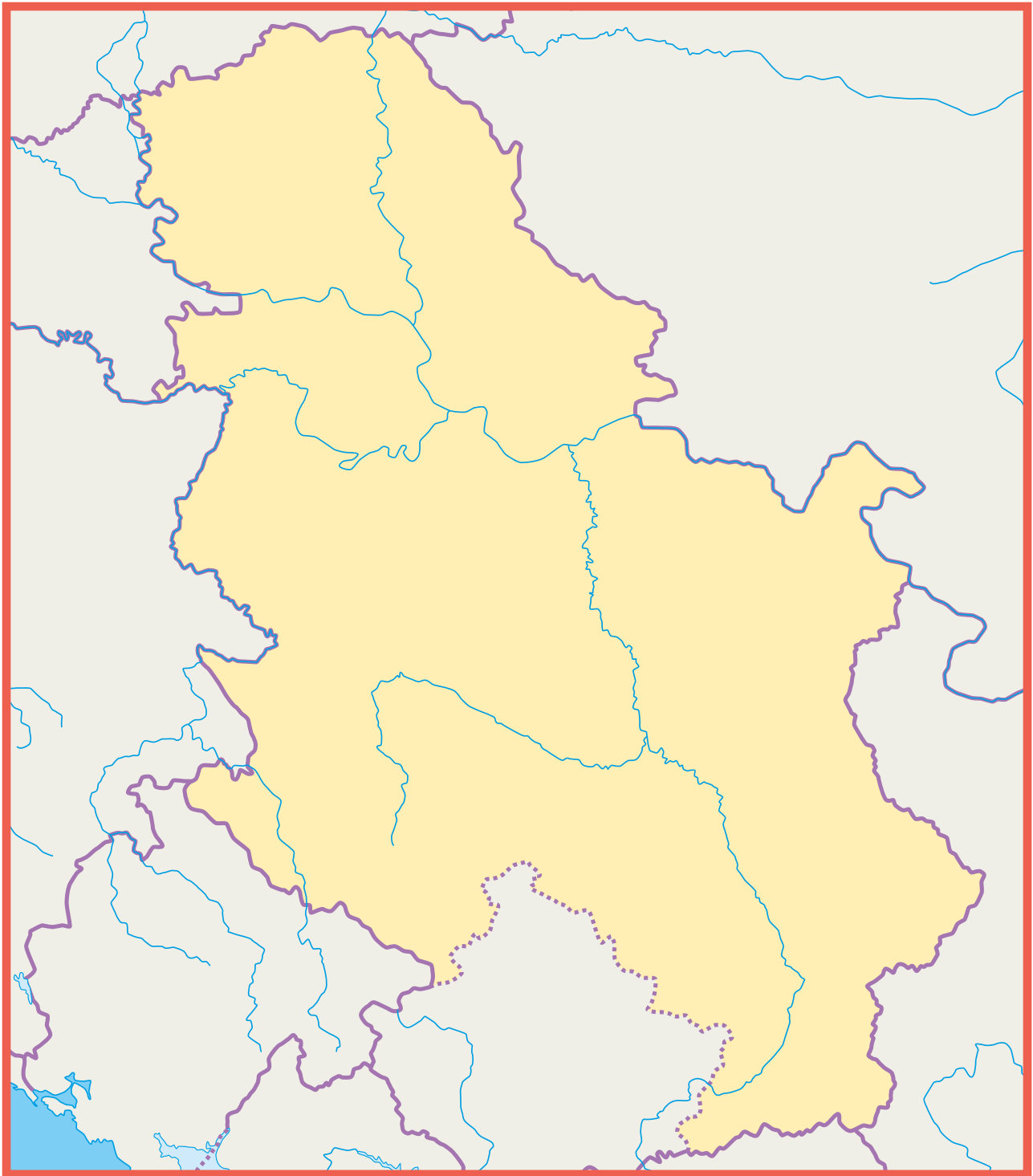
- 2 packages active dry yeast
- 1 tsp sugar
- 3 tbsp flour
- 2 cups warm water
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 cup butter, softened
- 3 eggs, slightly beaten
- Grated rind and juice of 1 lemon
- 4 tbsp sugar
- 6 to 7 cups bread flour or all-purpose flour
- 1 egg, beaten with 1 tbsp water



NOTE: This recipe requires adult supervision and participation.

Directions:

1. Dissolve yeast, sugar, and 3 tablespoons flour in $\frac{1}{2}$ cup warm water. Set aside.
2. In large bowl, combine $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups warm water, salt, butter, eggs, lemon rind and juice, and sugar. Add proofed yeast and about 4 cups flour and beat well.
3. Add remaining flour gradually, beating well, until dough is stiff. Knead as for bread, about 5 minutes by machine or 10 minutes by hand, and put in a greased bowl to rise.
4. When double in size, knead again briefly. Reserving a handful of dough to decorate top, make a round loaf. Put in a well-greased, 9-inch-round, 3-inch-deep pan.
5. Decorate the edge of the loaf with a braid and a cross in the center with 4 backward Cs in each quadrant. Let rise until doubled, about 1 hour, or follow Quick Tip on yeast package to cut the rise time.
6. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Brush bread lightly with egg wash (1 egg beaten with 1 teaspoon water). Bake for 1 hour or until nicely brown.
7. When cool enough to handle, remove from pan and cool on wire rack.



Mapping It Out!

Add these places to your map:

Danube River

Sava River

Kosovo

Lim River

Niš

Draw a star and label these places on your map:

Pristina

Belgrade



name _____

destination: **Serbia**

We traveled by [circle]:



My favorite things about this trip were

Christmas traditions at your house:

- cut down a real tree
- go Christmas caroling
- Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes
- Read the Christmas Story out of the Bible
- Sing Happy Birthday to Jesus

A food I would like to try is

Why does Kosovo want to be an independent country?
