

9. Slovakia – Colonization and Settlements

Evolution of colonisation

The area of Slovakia was colonised during the Stone Age (Romans, Germans, Celtic). The first Slavs came to this area in the 5th century. They colonized fertile and basins only.

Evolution of colonisation consists of 2 main phases:

1. **The German colonisation** (13th – 14th century) – the Spiš region and Central Slovakia, mining development (examples:), handicrafts and trade.
2. **The Walachian colonisation** (16th – 18th century) – mainly mountainous areas + dispersed settlements

Population in time:

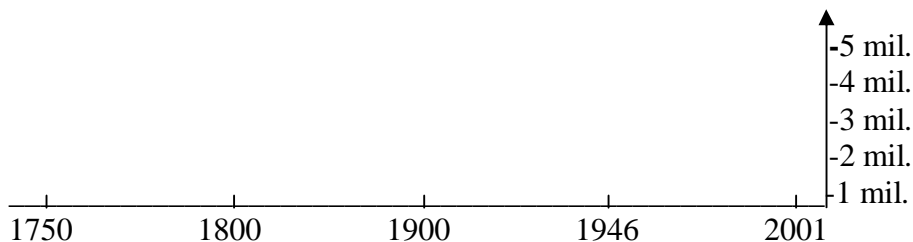
1750 – 1 mil.

1800 – 2 mil.

1900 – 2.5 mil.

1946 – 3.5 mil.

2001 – 5.4 mil.



Create a simple line graph by hand according to the data.

Types of settlements

Settlement structure depends on historical, economical and natural conditions of the country.

There is 2753 villages and 138 towns in Slovakia. 58% inhabitants live in urban areas.

Towns and cities

The biggest cities and towns:- 430 000 inh.
.....- 230 000 inh.
.....- 92 000 inh.
.....- 87 000 inh.
.....- 85 000 inh.
.....- 83 000 inh.
.....- 70 000 inh.
.....- 58 000 inh.

Other big cities with more than 50 000 inh.:,,

Settlements are divided according to their function(s) into:

polyfunctional – more main functions like industrial, educational, cultural, medical, transport ...

monofunctional – usually the only one main function like medical (Piešťany), transportational (Čierna n. Tisou), recreational (High Tatras).

Can you think of other typical “only” settlement functions somewhere in our country?

Ground plan of a town

- a lot of towns have historical (Middle Age) centres and they are preserved like “historical town reserve” (e.g. BS, BJ, LE, KK, PO, BA, TT, ZA)
- urban quarters are built around the centre (older brick estates and newer blocks of flats).

Give an example of a monument protected by law within historical core of a town.

Rural areas and communities

1. *Dispersed settlements*, Examples: Myjavská Uplands (kopanice), Biele Karpaty, Javorníky (lazy), Oravské Beskydy (rale), Slovenské Rudohorie (lazy), Nová Baňa region (štále)
2. *Nucleated settlements*, Examples:

The main function of rural settlements is agricultural and residential. The most of them are located in lowlands and basins. Nowadays villages lost agriculture function. *Why is it so?*
Recreation and relaxation refer to the present new function of rural communities (villages). *Why?*
What is an ecological tourism? Who might be a typical participant of such form of tourism?

Administrative classification of Slovakia

Historical perspectives

- firstly, classification lasted from the 10th century until the 1400s when area of present-day Slovakia was divided into units called “komitáty.”
 - later, in the 13th century administrative units known as “stolice”
 - in the 19th century, administrative units were called “župy”
 - 1928 = districts were included into regions
 - new administrative classification formed in 1996 = **8 self-governing regions**
- Name all the self governing regions (by the motor vehicle registration):*
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Actual classification by the EU standards

The so-called *NUTS* represent the base of European administrative classification (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics). It is basic administrative and territorial unit within the EU in relation with the eligibility to be supported financially if a region stays poor and underdeveloped. In other words, it's easier to realize analysis or provide financial help for the individual regions in the entire EU if they are divided into particular groups/types.

NUTS 1 – the Slovak Republic

NUTS 2 – 4 units: Bratislava, Western Slovakia, Central Slovakia, Eastern Slovakia

NUTS 3 – 8 self governing regions

NUTS 4 – 79 districts

NUTS 5 – 2891 towns and villages - municipality

There are several factors influencing the administrative division of our homeland: *historical, political, economic and ethnic. Find the relation!*

Keywords

evolution, colonisation, The Slavs, Walachian Colonisation, mining, dispersed/nucleated settlements, handicrafts, NUTS, village, town, city, inhabitant, periphery citizen/urban/rural, core, classification, self-governing region, district, unit, land registry, citizenship, community, eligibility, support