

square kilometers. The ... (3) of the country is about nine million people. The ... (4) of the republic is Minsk, which is also its largest city. The ... (5) of Minsk is about two million people.

It can be cold in Belarus, winter ... (5) can be  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$ . But Belarus ... .. (6) its beautiful nature. Our people ... .. (7) their country and its beauty.

**6. a) Get a card from the teacher. Be ready to speak about the country on your card. Use the information in the chart.**

**b) Work in pairs. Use the questions on the card to ask your partner about his / her country.**

**c) Choose another partner. Tell your new partner about your country. Answer your partner's questions.**

## Lesson 3. NEWS FROM BELARUS

### ACTIVE GRAMMAR

the Present Perfect and the Past Simple tenses in contrast

### ACTIVE VOCABULARY

*a castle*

**1. a) Fill in the gaps with the words from the box.**

a castle



**b) Listen to the chant. Check your ideas.**

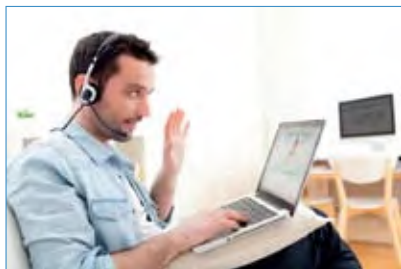
Have you heard the latest news?  
I have been to ... .  
I saw castles there and ...,  
But it was cold — what a pity!



Britain  
Belarus  
cities  
capitals

**c) Listen and repeat after the speaker.**

**2. a)** Mr Rambler has been to Belarus. What do you think he liked best? Why do you think so?



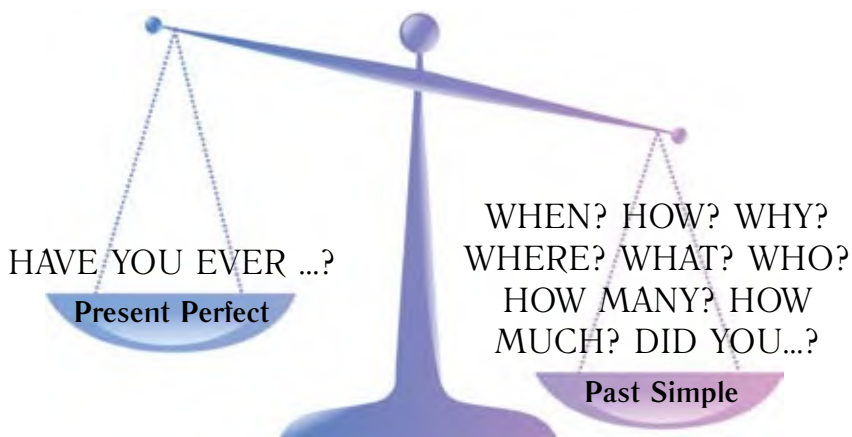
**b)** Listen to the conversation between Mr Rambler and Nick. Check your guesses.

**c)** Listen again. Make notes. Say what Mr Rambler has seen and where he has been in Belarus.

**3. a)** Read the conversations below. Find sentences in the Present Perfect Tense and in the Past Simple Tense. Explain the chart.

1. — Have you been to any castles?  
— Yes, I have. I've been to the castle of Mir.  
— When did you go there?  
— I went there last week. I loved it!

2. — And what about other cities? Have you visited any?  
— Yes, I have. I've visited Nyasvizh. I went there last Friday. I saw the famous castle of Nyasvizh.  
— What was it like?  
— It was fantastic!



**b) Answer the grammar questions on page 261. Check your ideas.**

**4. a) Open the brackets. Use the Present Perfect or the Past Simple Tense. Explain your choice of the tense.**

My father is a well-travelled person. He (**be**) ... (1) abroad many times. He (**travel**) ... (2) to many countries in Europe. Last year he (**visit**) ... (3) Italy, Spain and Greece. He (**go**) ... (4) to Greece in August. It (**be**) ... (5) very hot there — + 50! When he (**be**) ... (6) in Italy, he (**see**) ... (7) beautiful castles. The trip (**be**) ... (8) very interesting. In Spain he (**like**) ... (9) the national costumes very much. The food (**be**) ... (10) great too! Now he would like to go to France. It always (**be**) ... (11) his dream to see Paris.

**b) Discuss your answers with your partner.**

**5. a) Answer the questions about yourself.**

1. Have you ever travelled far?
2. Where did you go?
3. How did you get there?
4. When did you go there?
5. Did your family go with you?
6. Where did you stay?
7. What was the weather like?
8. What sights did you see?
9. Was the trip interesting? Why?

**b)** Work in pairs. Ask your partner about his or her trip. Answer your partner's questions. Say how you felt about the trip.

It was fantastic!

It was great!

I loved it!

**6. a)** Look through Mr Rambler's postcard from Belarus. Who is Gillian? Why does Mr Rambler send her a postcard? What do the crosses at the end of the card mean?

Dear Gillian,	opening words
I've already been to the castle in Mir and I've taken some photos for you.	news
We went there last Sunday — Nick's friend Yan, his family and I. It was wonderful! The castle was so quiet and beautiful! I was so sorry you weren't with us.	details
Say hello to Mum and Dad. And I hope you like the postcard and can put it in your collection.	
See you soon.	closing words
Love,	
Andrew XXX	



**b)** Write a holiday postcard to your friend.

## Lesson 4. MY MINI COUNTRY

### ACTIVE GRAMMAR

the Present Perfect and the Past Simple tenses in contrast

**1. a)** Look at the pictures. What are these places? Do you know a person who has been to one of them?