

Student A the city is; the ruins of the 13th century castle are; the exhibition centre is; the car park is; the post-office is; the fitness centre is; the ancient buildings are; the chemist's is;

Where is / are the ...?

Student B the newsagent's is; the railway station is; the bridge is; the church is; the monument is; the department store is; the library is; the houses are.

4. Interview your partner.

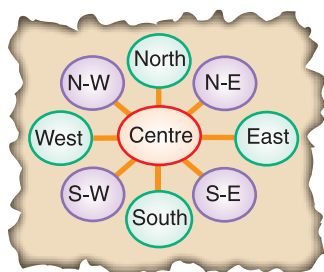
- Which cities are famous for their skyscrapers? Are there any high-rise buildings in the place where you live?
- Is your town hall old or modern?
- Is there a fitness centre in the place where you live? What about an exhibition centre?
- Do you often go for a walk along the river bank? How often do you go to the bank?

LESSON 2. A city on the map

Communicative area: reading for detail, describing Belarusian cities

Active vocabulary: to be mentioned, to be situated, picturesque, a place of interest, to suffer, to survive, worth visiting

1. Imagine the map of Belarus. Where is Minsk on the map? How many regions are there in Belarus? Where



are all the other regional centres situated? Use the diagram to describe their position on the map.

... in the north-west of ...

2. a) Look at the photo of the town hall. Do you know what Belarusian city it is? What do you know about it?

b) Read about Vitebsk. Which facts do you find most surprising? Find 3 mistakes.



Town Hall (1775)

Vitebsk is **worth visiting** because it is one of the most romantic and beautiful cities in Belarus. It is **situated** in the North-East of Belarus in a **picturesque** place on the banks of three rivers: the Neman, the Vitba and the Luchesa River. Vitebsk **was** first **mentioned** in chronicles in 1021, but there is a legend about Princess Olga of Kiev who founded it in 974.

Vitebsk has a long history. It was an important fortress of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania (GDL) in the 16th and 17th centuries. It became part of Russia in 1772.

Vitebsk **suffered** a lot in the World War II. It was left in ruins by the fascists and only 118 people **survived** from about 170 000 of population.

After the war Vitebsk was reconstructed and today it is an important city of the Republic of Belarus

with lots of factories and plants, schools and universities, hospitals, monuments, exhibition and fitness centres, theatres and museums. More than 350,000 people live and work here.

Today there are 10 bridges over the river in Vitebsk. Kosmonavtov Street is the central street in Vitebsk and most of cafes, department stores and high-rise buildings are there.

Mark Chagall, the world famous artist, was born in Vitebsk. He loved his home town dearly and often painted it in his works.

Famous Russian painter Iliya Repin lived and worked near Vitebsk during some years in the end of the 19th century. Some of his works are at the Vitebsk art museum.

There are many **places of interest** in Vitebsk. Among them – the Vitebsk Art Museum, Chagall's Museum and the Green Theatre – the place where Slaviansky Bazar festival is held. Go down the streets of Vitebsk and feel the atmosphere of this city – the jewel in the crown of Belarus.

3. a) In pairs, guess the meaning of the words in bold. Explain the meaning of prefix *re-* in the box.

was built – was **rebuilt**
was constructed – was **reconstructed**

b) Look through the leaflet again. Are the statements below true or false?

1. The population of Vitebsk is smaller than the population of Minsk.

2. Vitebsk is situated in the South-East of Belarus.

3. Vitebsk is older than Minsk.

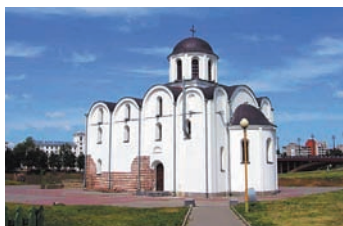
4. Vitebsk is the birthplace of a famous Russian painter.

5. As a part of Russia Vitebsk suffered a lot from wars with the GDL.

6. Vitebsk was left in ruins after World War I and no one survived.

7. There are no places of interest in Vitebsk.

8. Vitebsk is worth visiting because it is one of the most beautiful cities of Belarus.



Vitebsk.
Early 12th-century church
was rebuilt in 1992.

4. a) You are planning spring holidays. Work in pairs. Exchange information on the cities of Belarus.

Student A: Use the card the teacher has given you to speak about your city.

Student B: Listen to your partner and fill in the table. Change roles.

b) Discuss the questions below in groups of four.

- Where are Grodno and Gomel situated? Are they close to or far away from each other?
- Did they suffer a lot in the World War II? Did many of the old buildings survive?
- Are they picturesque places?
- Are they worth visiting? Why?
- What other places of interest are there in Belarus?