

Grades 5, 6 & 7 **CLASSROOM**  
**READY**  
**News**  
weekly edition

## Popular Protest gets Results in Ukraine

**T**housands of Ukrainians took to the streets to protest the results of the country's presidential election. Tens of thousands in the capital of Kiev demonstrated their support for presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko, who lost the election. He is appealing the results with the Supreme Court. Yushchenko's supporters say the election was **tainted** by massive voter fraud. Several videotapes surfaced, some of which show **ballots** being destroyed and voters being beaten by election goons.

Many Ukrainians were outraged when Viktor Yanukovych was declared the winner of the election. Yanukovych is supported by retiring President Leonid Kuchma, who initially refused to admit the elections were

flawed. But after a week of angry demands for a new vote, Yanukovych and Kuchma grudgingly gave in. "If we really want to preserve peace and accord, if we really want to build a democratic state let's hold new elections," Kuchma said.

As the two Viktor's continued their tug-of-war over the presidency, an international controversy arose over what should be done. When Ukraine gained its independence after the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, Russia managed to maintain some influence in Ukraine. President Kuchma was elected in 1994 and promised to strengthen connections with Russia. Countries in Europe and North America have been strongly critical of the Ukrainian election, but Russia continued to support Yanukovych and said the results should not be challenged.

There were even suggestions that the country might be split in two. Some believe that the Ukraine could be split into an eastern section that would be pro-Russian, with the rest of the country connected to western allies. That seems unlikely to happen, but the one thing many people were agreeing on is that a new election needed to be held as quickly as possible.

Canadian politician Peter Goldring, an election observer in the Ukraine, says major vote fraud took place: "I saw with my own eyes, bringing out unsealed ballot boxes, throwing envelopes and ballots under coats, throwing coats over ballots," he said. ★

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**Tainted** A touch of discredit or dishonour.

**Ballot** A secret way of voting such as on a machine or on a slip of paper.

**Flawed** A fault or a weakness.

## Questions

### Popular Protest gets Results in Ukraine

1. What is Viktor Yushchenko doing?

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2. What did the videotapes show?

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3. Define tainted.

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4. What did Leonid Kuchma state?

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5. What were some suggestions for this situation?

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## Deeper Thinking

1. What motivates people to do things that might be against the law or morally wrong?  
Have you ever done anything morally wrong - such as lying?



## Map of Ukraine

1. Locate and label the following countries:

HUNGARY	BELARUS	MOLDOVA
ROMANIA	UKRAINE	BOSNIA
BULGARIA	SLOVAKIA	RUSSIA
POLAND	YUGOSLAVIA	

2. Locate the following capital cities with a star and label each one:

Minsk	Chisinau	Kiev
Sarajevo	Warsaw	Belgrade
Sofia	Bucharest	
Budapest	Bratislava	

3. Locate and label the following bodies of salt water:

Black Sea

4. Create a colour legend for your map

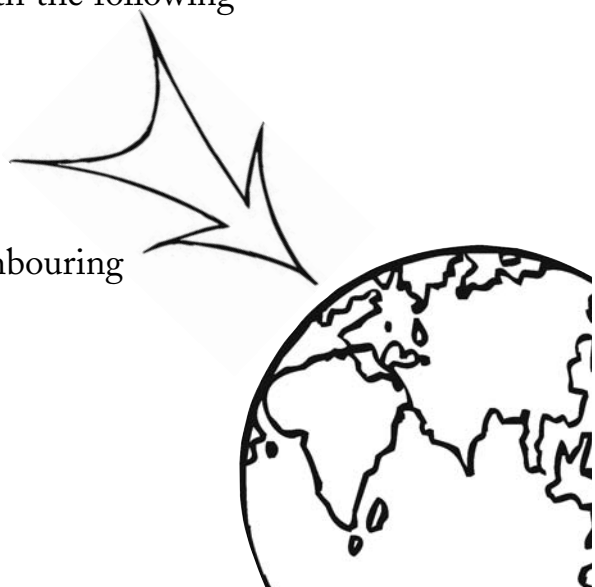
Insert a legend table on the other page with the following

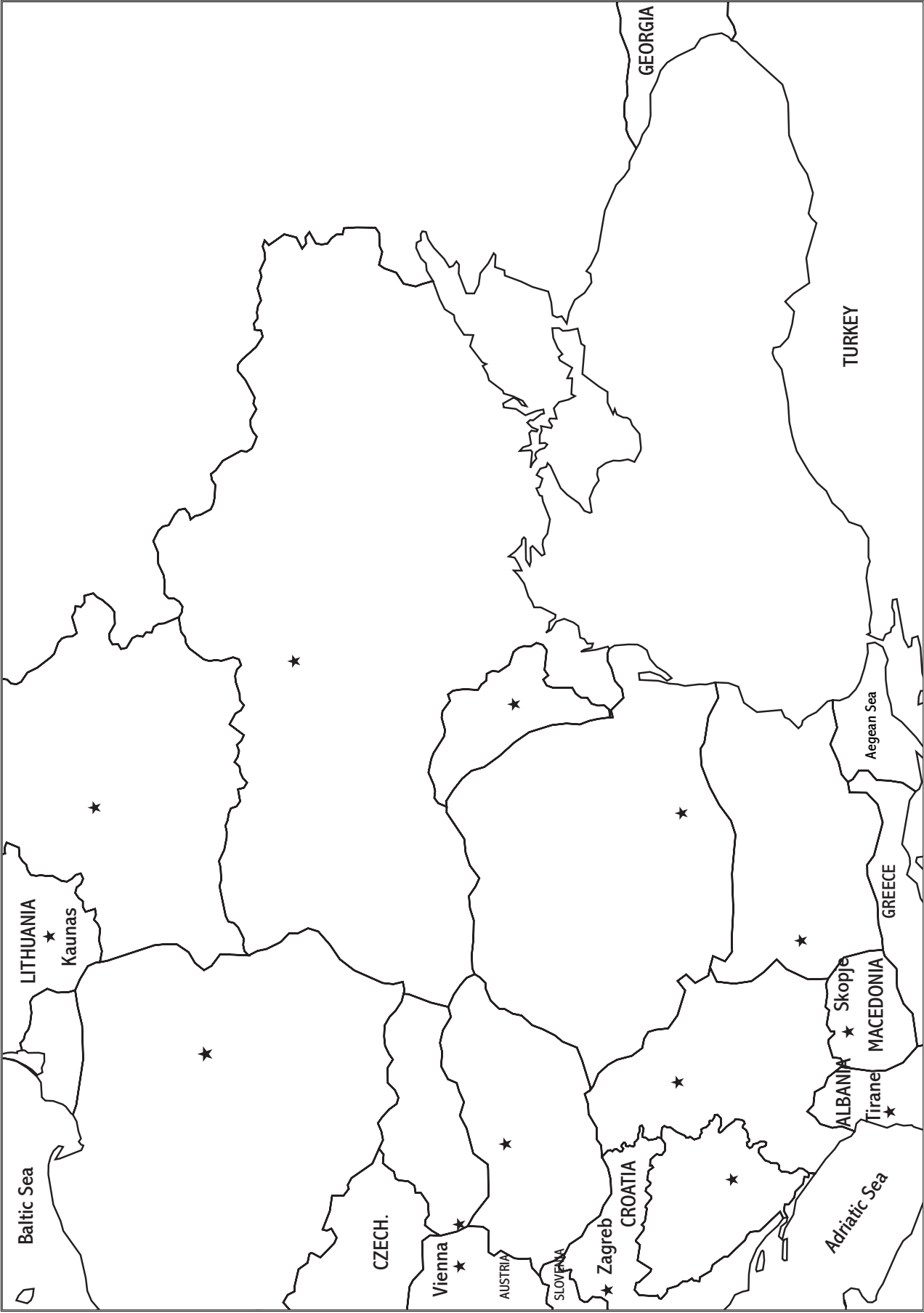
Ukraine

Other Countries

Salt Water

5. Label your map "The Ukraine and Neighbouring Countries"





## Quiz

### **Popular Protest gets Results in Ukraine**

1. Which city did the protests take place in?

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2. What did several videotapes show?

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3. Define ballot.

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4. When did Ukraine gained its independence?

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5. What were some suggestions regarding a solution?

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## Ukraine Trivia

1. The country north of Ukraine is

A. Turkey B. Syria C. Iran D. Belarus

2. The country East of Ukraine is

A. Turkey B. Poland C. Iran D. Romania

3. Ukraine is part of

A. Eastern Europe B. Canada C. Oceania D. Middle East

4. Ukraine is in the

A. Northern Hemisphere B. Southern Hemisphere

5. Which body of water is not in the Eastern Europe?

A. Black Sea B. Mediterranean Sea C. Pacific Ocean D. Baltic Sea

# Answer Key

## Questions

1. What is Viktor Yushchenko doing? **He is appealing the results with the Supreme Court. Yushchenko's supporters say the election was tainted by massive voter fraud.**
2. What did the videotapes show? **Several videotapes surfaced, some of which show ballots being destroyed and voters being beaten by election goons.**
3. Define tainted. **A touch of discredit or dishonour.**
4. What did Leonid Kuchma state? **"If we really want to preserve peace and accord, if we really want to build a democratic state let's hold new elections," Kuchma said.**
5. What were some suggestions for this situation? **A re-election or splitting the country in two.**

## Quiz

1. Which city did the protests take place in? **Kiev.**
2. What did several videotapes show? **Several videotapes surfaced, some of which show ballots being destroyed and voters being beaten by election goons.**
3. Define ballot. **A secret way of voting such as on a machine or on a slip of paper.**
4. When did Ukraine gained its independence? **1991.**
5. What were some suggestions regarding a solution? **There were even suggestions that the country might be split in two.**

## Trivia

1. D. Belarus
2. B. Poland
3. A. Eastern Europe
4. A. Northern Hemisphere
5. C. Pacific Ocean

