Vocabulary: use the terms below to complete the sentences, sometimes it is necessary to find a proper form of the words to suit the sentences.

- capital city
- polluted area
- lowland
- affluent
- spring
- basin
- upland
- peat land
- Moldau
- river basin
- border
- protected landscape area
- Elbe
- flood plain
- poison

The river _______________ in the mountains and then it flows through fertile ______________.
The highway from the _______________ to the Czech-German _______________ goes through a _______________.
The brown coal _______________ in Northern Bohemia is situated inside a very _______________.
The river _______________ has many _______________ and its _______________ is very large.
Peat from _______________ is a very good fertilizer.
The _______________ ecosystems on riverbanks of many Czech rivers are very vulnerable to human impact.
In the southeast of the Czech Republic, there is a large _______________.
During the 1980s, acid rain _______________ large forest areas in Northern Bohemia.

Discussion: study the map, describe the Czech Republic.

Describe in details the following features of the Czech Republic. Find facts about CR at www.czech.cz or www.czechtourism.com/home/ (or similar websites).

- geographical features
- location
- physical features
- population
- industry and agriculture
- transport
- political situation
- history
- environmental issues

Reading: THE TERRITORY AND THE CLIMATE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Starter: Try to characterize the geographical position and the climate of the Czech Republic.

The Czech Republic is a landlocked country situated in the middle of a temperate zone of the northern hemisphere in the central part of Europe. Among European states it occupies 21st place in terms of area (78,866 km²), 12th place in terms of the number of inhabitants (10,512,419, 31.12.2013) and 13th place in terms of population density (130 people per 1 km²). It shares its border with Poland (761.8 km), Germany (810.3 km), Austria (466.3 km) and Slovakia (251.8 km).

The Czech Republic is the source of the main European watersheds, because it divides up the watersheds of the North, Baltic and Black seas. The watershed junction of these three seas is Kralicky Sneznik (1,423 m above sea-level). The main river axes in Bohemia are the river Elbe (Labe) (370 km) and the river Vitava; in Moravia, mainly the river Morava (246 km) and the river Dyje (306 km); and in northern Moravia and Silesia, the river Odra (135 km) and the river Opava (131 km).
The Czech Republic lies on the junction of two mountain chains, which are different in age and geological and geomorphological evolution. Western and central Bohemia are filled up with the Czech Highlands, which were formed at the end of the Palaeozoic. They have an upland and low mountain nature (Sumava, Cesky les, Krusne hory, Krkonose, Orlicke hory, Jeseniky). The Western Carpathians push into the eastern part of the state, which gained their present form in the Tertiary (Beskydy). The boundary between both mountain systems is filled up with a ravine zone.

The climate of the Czech Republic is mild but variable locally and throughout the year. It differs markedly among the various regions of the Czech Republic, depending on the height above sea level. Generally speaking, the higher you are, average temperatures may drop more and rainfall is more likely. Many other factors also play a role in this - the border mountain ranges, for example, significantly influence ground-level air flow and rainfall.

Various height levels of the sun during the year cause the changing of the seasons, differentiated from each other mainly by the development of temperatures and precipitation. Similarly to the whole moderate northern band, the beginning of the year in the Czech Republic is also characterized by a cold winter. Spring is followed by a warm summer and chilly autumn. The alternation of the seasons has a marked effect, above all on vegetation. The damp (wet) continental climate over most of the Czech Republic causes warm summers with a lot of rain; cold, snowy winters; and generally changeable conditions. July is the hottest month everywhere, January the coldest. From December through February, temperatures are below freezing (0°Celsius) even in the lowlands, and are much lower in the mountains. There is no real 'dry season', and the long, sunny hot summer is often broken by sudden, heavy thunderstorms. Winter brings 40 to 100 days of snow on the ground (about 130 in the mountains), plus fog in the lowlands.

The weather at any given time may differ significantly from the long-term average. This variability of the weather is caused mainly by the changeable location and magnitude of two main pressure centers: the Icelandic Low and the Azores High. Mainly during the warm middle of the year, it can generally be said that expansion of the high pressure projection into our territory causes warmer and drier temperatures, whereas the Icelandic Low manifests itself with a greater number of atmospheric fronts, which bring more clouds and precipitation.

The climate of the Czech Republic can then be labeled as moderate, of course with great local diversity seen throughout the year. Further changeability then is up to the weather itself.

(a according to www.czech.cz)

Vocabulary: Divide the highlighted words into the four categories below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nouns</th>
<th>Verbs</th>
<th>Adjectives</th>
<th>Adverbs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Comprehension: study the text and choose the most relevant data.

Use the words listed above to describe the territory and the climate of the Czech Republic.

Grammar - “Noun Modifiers”: study the examples of noun modifiers in the text (highlighted in yellow).

Study the following examples and think about the highlighted expressions.

Millions of tons of carbon dioxide are released into the air. The temperature is increasing as in a greenhouse.

People, living in urban areas, are suffering from air pollution. Human activities produce a lot of greenhouse gases.

Noun modifiers (nouns as adjectives) = nouns connected to a basic noun to form multiple-word names, terms, expressions etc.

Think of nouns which could be added to (in front of /after) the following words.

habitat, earth, soil, nature, animal, plant, waste, energy, acid, water, wind, fuel...