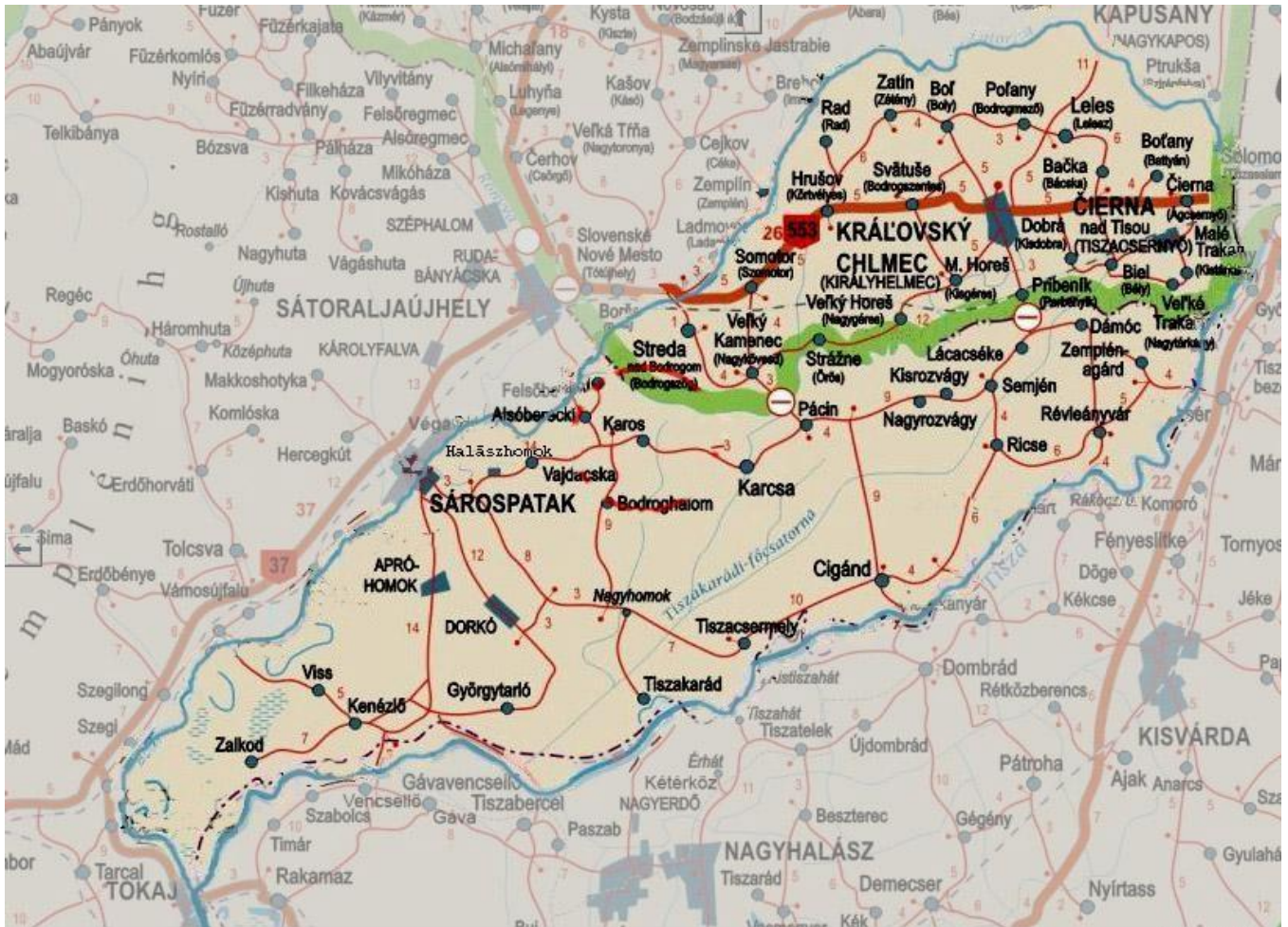




Természeti környezet, történelem és kultúra a Bodrog-közben

BODROG 1.

The Bodrog region



Settlements of the Upper-Bodrog region:

Ágcsernyő, Bacska, Battyán, Bély, Bodrogszerdahely, Bodrogszög, Boly, Borsi, Imreg, Kisdobra, Kiskécs, Kiskövesd, Kistárkány, Királyhelmece, Ladmóc, Lelesz, Nagykécs, Nagykövesd, Nagytárkány, Örs, Pólyán, Perbenyik, Rad, Szentmária, Szentes, Szinyér, Szolnocska, Szomotor, Szőlöske, Tiszacsernyő, Véke, Zemplén, Zétény



I. Natural environment

The Bodrog region is divided into two parts: Upper-Bodrog region (today: Slovakian territory) and Lower-Bodrog region (Hungarian territory). It ends at Tokaj at the confluence of the Tisza and Bodrog rivers

The region is bordered by 3 rivers: Bodrog, Tisza, Latorca

After the confluence of the Latorca and Ondava rivers, the common river bed is called Bodrog

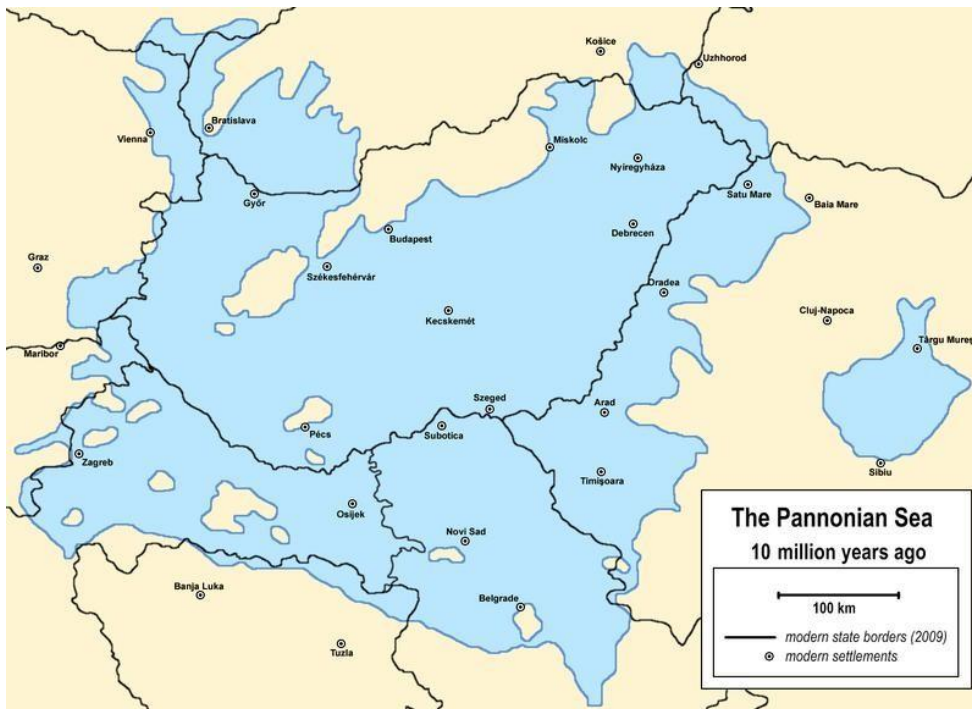
The region is a flat area with some hills- Great Hill (Mount), Small Hill (Mount) in Királyhelmece area
Tarbucka, near Kiskövesd and Nagykövesd

The hills are of **volcanic origin**, what is favourable for wine-growing. We can find a number of sand dunes in the region as well. The area is poor in mineral resources, the most frequent ones are: sandstone, limestone (mészke), flint (obszidián) and some oil

Other landscape-forming factors:

1. **The Pannonian sea** – It was an inland sea, cca 18mill-1,5mill years ago

Evidence: limestone created by mollusks (puhatestűek), fossils of sea creatures



2. Wandering of the Tisza river

The Tisza has changed its course and bed several times, now there are two other rivers in its abandoned beds: the Tice and the Karcsa



Vegetation

Dominant trees: oak (tölgy), willow (fűz), beech (bükk), poplar (jegenye), birch (nyírfa), lime (hárs), acacia (akác)
Acacia was brought here by bee-keepers in the 18th C.

Swamps (mocsarak) are very typical in the lowest areas of the region, so we can find a number of marshland plants:
reed(nád), water lily, iris (nőszirm), forget-me-not (nefelejcs)



iris



forget-me-not

Kisgéres is famous for its spectacular meadow, the Pulsatilla meadow.



Pulsatilla Hungarica



Animals

Typical mammals: deer, fox, weasel (menyét), badger (borz)

Birds, mainly water birds: stork, black stork, heron (gém), crane (daru), bittern, wild goose, wild duck, kingfisher (jégmadár),

Reptiles: lizards, salamander, grass snake

Swamp tortoise- very rare and highly protected



Bittern (bölömbika)



Grass snake (sikló)



Kingfisher
(jégmadár)



Bee-eater
(gyurgyalag)



Swamp tortoise (mocsári teknős)



Task1

What plants and animals can you recognise in these pictures? Answer the questions online.



a



b



c



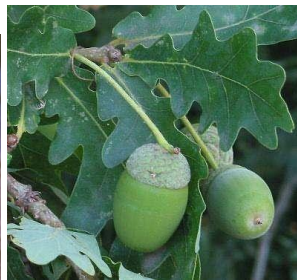
d



e



f



g



h



i



j



BODROG 2.

Landmarks and sights in the Bodrog region

Királyhelmec:

Starting from the Neolithic age the town has continuously been inhabited. The emerging high grounds were homes for various people - Celts, Vandals, Slavic – for thousand years. At the end of the 9th century the territory was occupied by Hungarians. After the establishment of the Hungarian Kingdom the settlement and the whole Bodrogeköz became the part of Zemplén county. We meet with the name of the community “Helmelyz or Helmech” in the Lelesz Foundation Charter dated in 1214. At the beginning of the 14th century the papal tax-collectors found a developed settlement and a stone church here; the Gothic ancestor of the present Roman Catholic church. From the middle of the 15th century Királyhelmec got a market-town status, which is verified by its coat of arm . In the middle of the Helmech coat of arm we can see a cluster of grapes referring to old wine culture in the region..

At the beginning of the 16th century [Péter Perényi](#) built a fortified castle above the town on the high ground. Today the ruins of this castle are known as the Csonkavár. In the 17th century our town temporarily belonged under the principality of Transylvania. During that time [Zsuzsanna Lorántffy](#), who was the widow of György Rákóczi I, ordered a mansion to be built here.

In the second half of the 19th century the town became the seat of the district court. During these years and at the first half of the 20th century the present Main Street and some eclectic buildings were built: the hospital, the head office and the official residence of the water conservancy. These buildings are all connected with the name of count Mailáth.

Between 1930-1944 [László Mécs](#) the Premonstrant cleric poet was living and writing in Királyhelmec.

In 1920 the settlement together with the Upper-Bodrog region was attached to Czechoslovakia.

Csonkavár- ruined castle. This castle was built after 1526, the Mohács disaster, by the Perényi family. It used to be a two-storey building with towers and an underground system of cellars. Today only a ruined tower, some walls and a part of the cellars remained. An open-air cinema and a restaurant can be found on the site. The builder of the castle, Peter Perényi was the most influential and powerful nobleman in the region. He became Lord Lieutenant (főispán) of the Temes and Abaúj county and he was the the crown guard (koronaőr) of Hungary. He fought at the battle of Mohács and had the Holy Crown brought to the Füzér castle in 1526 to protect it from the Turks. Besides building the castle in Királyhelmec he also extended the Castle of Sárospatak, erecting a large five-floored tower as residential quarters of the castle.



Those times Hungary witnessed one of the most chaotic periods of its history with two rulers at a time (János Szapolyai and Ferdinand Habsburg) and the catastrophe of the Turkish invasion. It's no wonder that Peter Perényi wasn't loyal to either of the kings and changed sides several times, thus becoming suspicious in the eyes of the Habsburgs. Ferdinand had him captured and sent him to prison in Vienna. He died short after being released from prison. Later Csonkavár was blown up by the Habsburgs as a possible pocket of anti-Habsburg resistance.

Perényi Péter



The Lórántffy mansion (today: music school)



Lórántffy Zsuzsanna ((born 1602, died 1660), was the wife of George Rákóczi I, prince of Transylvania



The mansion was one of her favourite residences. She had it renovated and spent a considerable time between these walls where she later died. Above the entrance to the house we can see a **coat of arms** (címér), which contains the united heraldic motifs of the Lórántffy and Rákóczi families.

In the centre of her activities was **education**. She was a passionate Calvinist and supporting education in the region became one of her priorities. She founded or sponsored several educational establishments, notably the **Reformed College at Sárospatak**. Under her influence [Comenius](#), the greatest teacher of the century took up residence in Sárospatak. She invited him to the town to teach her own children and the youth of Sárospatak.



Kisgéres

Besides the beautiful Pulsatilla meadow, the village is also famous for its wine-cellars carved into volcanic tuff and good wine. A crazy story about a cow hoisted on the church roof to graze grass circulates in the nearby villages to annoy the people of Kisgéres who are not very happy to hear the story.

Perbenyik

The Majláth mansion

The construction of the building was started by József Majláth at the end of the 18th century. Originally it was a one-storey building. A hundred years later the second floor was built and the mansion was extended by a Catholic Chapel. Round the building is a park with valuable old trees. The villagers can thank to the Majláth family for building the railway line through the village and not through the much bigger settlement –Helmec. The Majláths took advantage of the bitter quarrel of the vineyard owners in Helmec, who were worried about the smoke of the locomotive poisoning their grape. Anyway, this little quarrel had long consequences, forcing Helmec citizens travelling first to Perbenyik to catch their train.... .

Task 1

Answer the questions:

1. Why is Peter Perényi an important figure in the history of our region?
2. His fate was typical for this region, trying to balance and survive between two empires and two enemies. What do you know about the historic background of the era?
3. What was in the centre of activities of Zsuzsanna Lórántffy? Who was Comenius and where did he teach in the region?



Task 2 **What do these pictures represent?**



a



b



c



d



e

Compare these two pictures. Do you know where this gold drinking vessel in picture *g* is from?
What age is it from?



f



g



BODROG 3.

Landmarks and sights in the Bodrog region

Lelesz – used to be the most important religious and administrative centre in the past. The Premonstratensian monastery of Leles was founded by the Bishop of Vác, with the help of King Béla III, at the end of the 12th century. This is attested to by the **Leles Foundation Charter**, dating from **1214**, which was issued by **King András (Endre) II.** The church inside the monastery was built in the Gothic style in the 14th century, to be later modified in the baroque style. The monastery surrounds a rectangular courtyard, on the northern side of the church. The monastery's Gothic style **St. Mihály Chapel** is decorated with 15th century frescoes. The role of this monastery was to cherish **the provincial archives and legal documents** of the region.



According to a local legend, András II's wife, Gertrud, was murdered round here and her heart is buried somewhere in the monastery.

The wall frescoes inside the chapel of the Lelesz monastery were only discovered in the 1990s. In 1990, a local teacher and historian named János Bogoly was exploring the repossessed chapel which had been used as a storage room for chemicals by the occupants. Bogoly noticed that the chemicals had reacted with the emulsion on the walls and several areas of whitewash had peeled off, revealing multicoloured decorations beneath. He continued to peel and revealed some extensive fragments of what turned out to be a series of ornamental frescoes. They refer to the rule of King Charles Robert and Louis the Great, dating them specifically to the beginning of the 14th century. The frescoes depict biblical scenes, among others the scene of **The Last Judgement**.

Bridge of St Gotthard near village Leles is an interesting Gothic bridge made of stone.



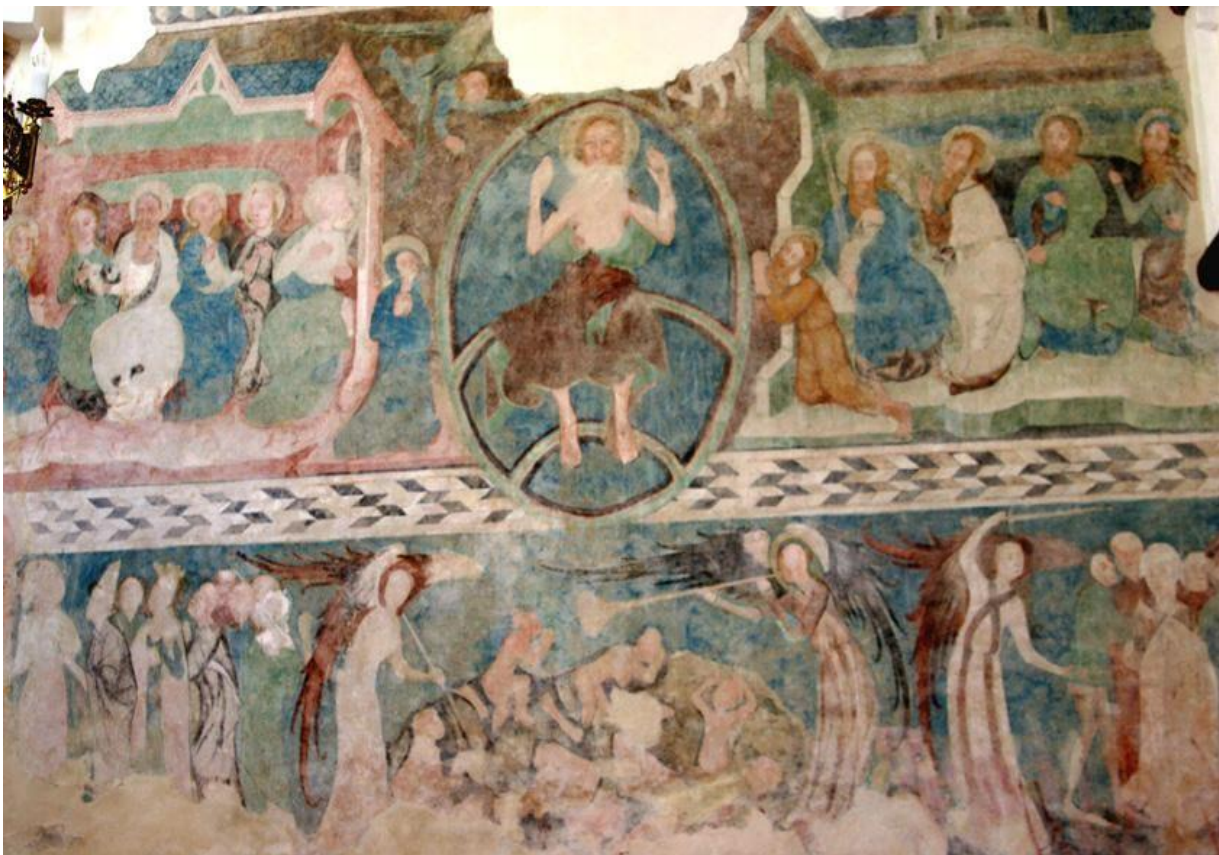
The bridge is probably from the **14th century**. It spans over the former riverbed of the Tisa. The water's course shifted over the past 700 years, leaving this extraordinary structure stranded in a field. Some water filled the riverbed until the 1980s but today it is completely dry. The bridge was given its name at the beginning of the 18th century when the local monastery fell into hands of a religious order from Czechia (Bohemia), which introduced the cult of **St Jan Nepomuk and St Gotthard**. The statue of the latter stood next to the bridge until 1848.



Szentes

Romanesque church – This is the oldest church and one of the most picturesque buildings in the region. The oldest parts of the building, the port and the tower, come from the 13th C, other parts of the church were built in the 15th C in gothic style . The interesting wooden decoration in the interior was added in the 19th C.

Task 1 Where are these pictures from? Answer the questions online.





4

Task 2 **What scene does picture 3 represent?**
Try to describe it.

Task 3

The Foundation Charter of Leles from 1214 contains the names of a number of settlements and some geographical names still existing today. Try to identify the old names with their current names:

- Helmelyz, Helmech
- Lelez
- Beyle
- Gyeres
- Zemplyn
- Tyza
- Karacha

Who issued the document and why was the king's wife murdered? What was the significance of the Leles monastery for the region? How old is the St Gotthard bridge?



BODROG 4.

Nagytárkány

Salt house

This baroque building is situated near the original riverbed of the Tisza, which was later diverted. In the times when salt was transported from the Eastern Carpathian Mountains there used to be a port for boats and rafts and the building itself served as an office for administration.



Bacska

The village is situated near the dead branch of the river Tisza. Its Catholic church from the 15th C was built in gothic style.

Bély

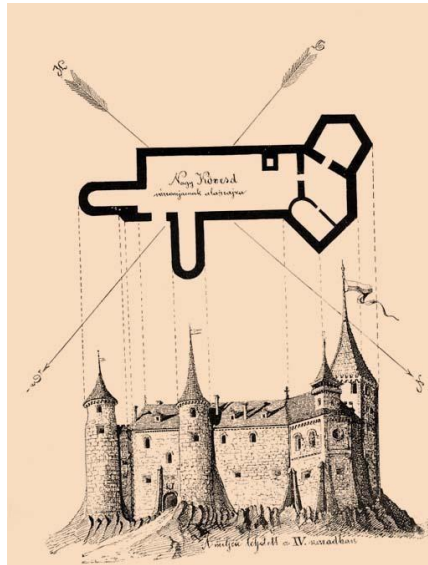
Sennyey mansion, the photo was taken in 1910



The Sennyey mansion was built in 1781 by László Sennyey in rococo-classicist style. It gained its final form in the 19th century. After WWII the building served as a primary school and because of poor maintenance its state deteriorated very rapidly. This historical monument has recently been renovated giving back this building its original splendour.



Nagykövesd



reconstruction

The first written report of the village dates back to the year 1283 when **the castle** already existed. It was built after the invasion of the Tartars. The castle was captured by Jan Jiskra, the Hussite leader, in the year 1451, and he raided to neighboring regions from here. The troops of Matthias, the great Hungarian king, took over the castle in the year 1458. The castle was demolished by the imperial (Habsburg) army in the 17th century when the then owner, **Soos Gyorgy, took active part in Wesselenyi's conspiracy**. The army blew up the castle in 1672. It was devastated at the beginning of the 19th century when the stones were used for building a Roman-Catholic church and a manor house under the castle.

Bodrogszerdahely

The village has the lowest altitude (94 m above sea level) in Slovakia.

Bodrogszerdahely is an important archeological site (findings from the Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, grave-mounds from the late 1st century BC, Slavic finds from the 7th and 8th century, early Hungarian graves).



Finds from the Bronze Age



Bodrogvécs

Finds from the age of the Hungarian Conquest

The first written record of the village dates back to 1320. An **old castle** near the village was **destroyed by imperial (Habsburg) troops** in 1670 and a **mansion** was built at the beginning of the 18th century on the site of the medieval fort. The mansion that was originally built in baroque style in the first half of the 18th century was renovated in the 19th century and later reconstructed several times.



Vécsey Mansion

Borsi

The main attraction in the village is the Renaissance style **Rákóczi Mansion**; this is where Ferenc Rákóczi II, later Prince of Transylvania, was born. The fortified mansion, which was built in the 1570's, came into the possession of the Rákóczi family in 1616. During the 1630's the building was enlarged by the addition of the north- and south-wings, and the corner-bastions. The remains of the **moat (vizesárok)** around the U-shaped, two-storey fortified mansion can still be seen today. The Renaissance style door- and window-frames have also survived.



Mányoki Ádám : Francis II Rákóczi



the Rákóczi mansion



The birthplace of Rákóczi

Task1

Watch the first 17 minutes of this video about the Bodrog region and answer the questions online :

http://videotar.mtv.hu/Videok/2010/12/13/17/Szulofoldjeim_Felso_Bodrogkoz_bemutatja_Dobos.aspx