



## TEACHER'S GUIDE

# DOVBUSH ROCKS: WHAT STONE GIANTS ARE SILENT ABOUT

## PREPARE TO READ

### 1. Get Students' Attention

This can be done in native language or English.

- Show students the pictures on page 6. Ask students what all the pictures have in common.
  - All the pictures represent Ukraine. (Students may guess that the pictures represent a place or country).
    - A pink Panama hat, like the one worn by Kalush Orchestra soloist Oleh Psyuk (winner of the Eurovision Song Contest, 2022). The pink Panama hat has become a symbol of Ukraine's victory at Eurovision, so people hope that the brightly colored hat will help us win another important victory for our country.
    - The Carpathian Mountains are mountains in the western part of Ukraine, one of the most beautiful regions not only in Ukraine but also on the entire European continent, famous for its nature, landscapes and mystery.
    - A mix of Ukrainian symbols such as the flag (yellow and blue), a stork, wreath, bread, and sunflower.
    - Borsch. Borsch is a symbol of Ukrainian cuisine, the first and only one to be included by UNESCO in the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Ukraine. CNN included borsch among the 20 most delicious soups in the world.

### 2. New Words

- Write or display these words on the board.
  - *cave, surrounded, monument, figure, experience, border, stone, leader, folk, power*

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- First, help students learn the pronunciation of the words. You may use the recording of the story or an online dictionary.
  - Have students record themselves saying the word.
  - They can compare their pronunciation in the recording with the dictionary recording.
- Next, review the meanings of the words.
- Give each student a copy of or display for the whole class the Matching activity sheet on page 7.
- Have students use the words by answering the questions in the next Connect activity.

### 3. Connect to Students' Experience

- Divide students into pairs.
- Have them discuss the questions.
  - *Do you like exploring caves?*
  - *How do you feel when you are surrounded by nature?*
  - *Have you ever visited a monument? What is it called? What does it represent?*
  - *Robin Hood is a mythical figure. Who is he? What did he do?*
  - *What kind of experiences do you enjoy while traveling to new places?*
  - *Who is a leader in your country that you look up to?*
  - *Do you believe in the power of nature?*
  - *Have you heard any folk stories related to mountains?*
- Have some students share their answers with the whole class.

### 4. Guess: What will happen?

- Tell students they will guess (or predict) what will happen in the story.
- Give each student a copy of the Making Predictions activity sheet on page 8.
  - Read the text in the first box. Tell students to guess how they think Dovbush will be connected to the rocks.
    - They should write their ideas in the cloud.
    - Have some students share their ideas with the class.
  - Read the text in the second box. Tell students to guess what they think will be in the caves and if it will be difficult to get them.
    - They should write their ideas in the cloud.
    - Have some students share their ideas with the class.
- After you read the story, you will return to this activity.

### 5. More Vocabulary

- Introduce students to these words before they read or listen to the story.

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- **echo** - a sound that repeats because it bounces off a surface.
- **inner strength** - the power inside you that helps you keep going when things are hard.
- **spirit** - the part of a person that is not physical, like their feelings and thoughts.
- **follower** - a person who supports and believes in someone else's ideas.
- **resilience** - the ability to bounce back from difficult situations.
- **to spread** - to make something cover a larger area.
- **refuge** - a safe place where you can go for protection.
- **sin** - doing something wrong or bad according to religious beliefs.
- **rethink** - to think about something again and consider making changes.
- **resistance** - the act of fighting against something or someone.
- **freedom** - the ability to do what you want without being controlled by others.

## READ & LISTEN

### 1. Identify and Stand

- Tell students they will listen to the story.
- Any time they hear the words *Oleska* or *Dovbush*, they should stand up.

### 2. Identify and Mark

- Students will read the story.
  - You may give each student a copy of the story on page 9, display it to the whole class, or print the from the website.
- As students read the story, they should identify and underline the answers to the questions:
  - How is Oleska Dovbush connected to the rocks?
  - What is in the caves? Why are they hard to get to?

## RESPOND

### 1. Revisit—Guess, Identify and Mark

- Ask students if they were able to identify and mark the answers to the questions while they were reading.
- Have students return to their Making Predictions activity sheet.
  - What did the story say about how Dovbush was connected to the rocks?
    - They are named after him; his body is scattered there; his treasure is buried there.

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- Have students write it on the sheet.
- Did students predict correctly? They can write yes or no in the box.
- Did anyone guess correctly? Was anyone close?
- Repeat for the second question.
  - Treasure is in the cave; it is hard to get to because no one knows the password to the rotating stone.

### 2. Story Map Graphic Organizer

- Tell students we can better understand ideas in a story by using graphic organizers.
- Give each student a copy of Story Map graphic organizer on page 10.
- Students should complete the graphic organizer individually or with a partner.
- The complete Story Map will look like this.



### 3. Talk more about the story

- Divide students into groups of 3.
- Display the questions on the board.
  - *Did you like the story? What was special about it?*
  - *What part of the text would you like to read again?*
  - *What did it make you think?*
  - *Do you think the rocks can really inspire people?*
- Have students discuss the question in their group.
- When everyone has finished discussing the questions, have groups share their answers with the whole class.

### 4. Check Understanding

- Give each student a copy of the Comprehension Questions activity sheet on page 11.
- Students can answer the questions on their own and then discuss with a partner or the whole class.

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- Answers:
  - Fill in the answers

### EXPAND

#### 1. Relate to your country

- Have students research natural places and/or monuments in their country that relate to historical figures. They can
  - prepare a short report about the monument
  - complete a Story Map from p. 10 about the monument
  - illustrate the monument and describe it to the class

#### 2. Use your imagination

- Have students write a short, creative work where they imagine they are speaking with Dovbush.
- Students can work alone or in pairs.
- Have students read aloud and role-play their writing.

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Get Students' Attention







# New Words



Connect the word with its definition.

- |    |            |   |  |
|----|------------|---|--|
| 1  | cave       | a | a hard, solid mineral material often used in construction or as a decorative element |
| 2  | surrounded | b | an event or activity that leaves a lasting impression on someone                     |
| 3  | monument   | c | a structure or statue built to honor a person or event                               |
| 4  | figure     | d | people in general, especially those sharing common traditions and culture            |
| 5  | experience | e | a hollow area in the ground, typically formed by natural processes                   |
| 6  | border     | f | the ability to control or influence others   |
| 7  | stone      | g | the line that separates one country or region from another                           |
| 8  | leader     | h | a numerical symbol or a person's shape or form                                       |
| 9  | folk       | i | a person who guides or directs a group of people                                     |
| 10 | power      | j | to be encircled by something on all sides  |



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Making Predictions

*How will Oleksa Dovbush be connected to the rocks?*

Write your guess here:

What did the story say?

Were you correct?

*What will be in the caves? Why are they hard to get to?*

Write your guess here:

What did the story say?

Were you correct?



# DOVBUSH ROCKS.

*What Stone Giants are silent about*



Located on the border of Ivano-Frankivsk and Lviv areas, Dovbush Rocks covers about 100 hectares. Named a national monument in 1981, they are seen as a "place of power" and are popular with visitors seeking a mystical experience.



The rocks are named after Oleksa Dovbush, a Robin Hood-like figure, who used them as a hideout in the 18th century. As a leader of a group of rebels, he fought against the oppressive forces that ruled the area. The rocky terrain, with its numerous caves and narrow passages, provided the perfect refuge for Dovbush and his followers. Ancient storytellers said that Oleksa was killed by the husband of his former lover Dzvinka, who turned into a rock for her betrayal. And Oleksa's body was dismembered and spread throughout the mountains.



Above the cave is an unusual rock in the image of a lion. Visitors can climb on top of the lion to see the beautiful view of Prykarpattia and look for their hopes and dreams on a "wishing stone."

According to folk legend, the lion is there to guard Dovbush's buried treasure which no one has been able to find yet. It is said that after Dovbush's death, his fellow rebels hid gold taken from tavern keepers and merchants in the Odynets cave. The entry to the cave is covered by a rotating stone. One needs to say a magic word to turn the stone and open a passage to the cave. The person who knew that magic word died long ago. So the gold has been lying under the rock for more than a hundred years.



Another mysterious place is Devil's Gorge. Only 20 centimeters wide, the gorge is difficult to get through. People put a lot of effort into getting through this narrow gap because, as legend has it, they could be free of sin.



For Ukrainians, Dovbush Rocks represents both the power of nature and the resilience of the human spirit. The rock formation inspires us to rethink our place in nature, and our culture and history. It is a beautiful place where everyone should experience all its magic for themselves.



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**Story Map**

What the rocks inspire

Main Character



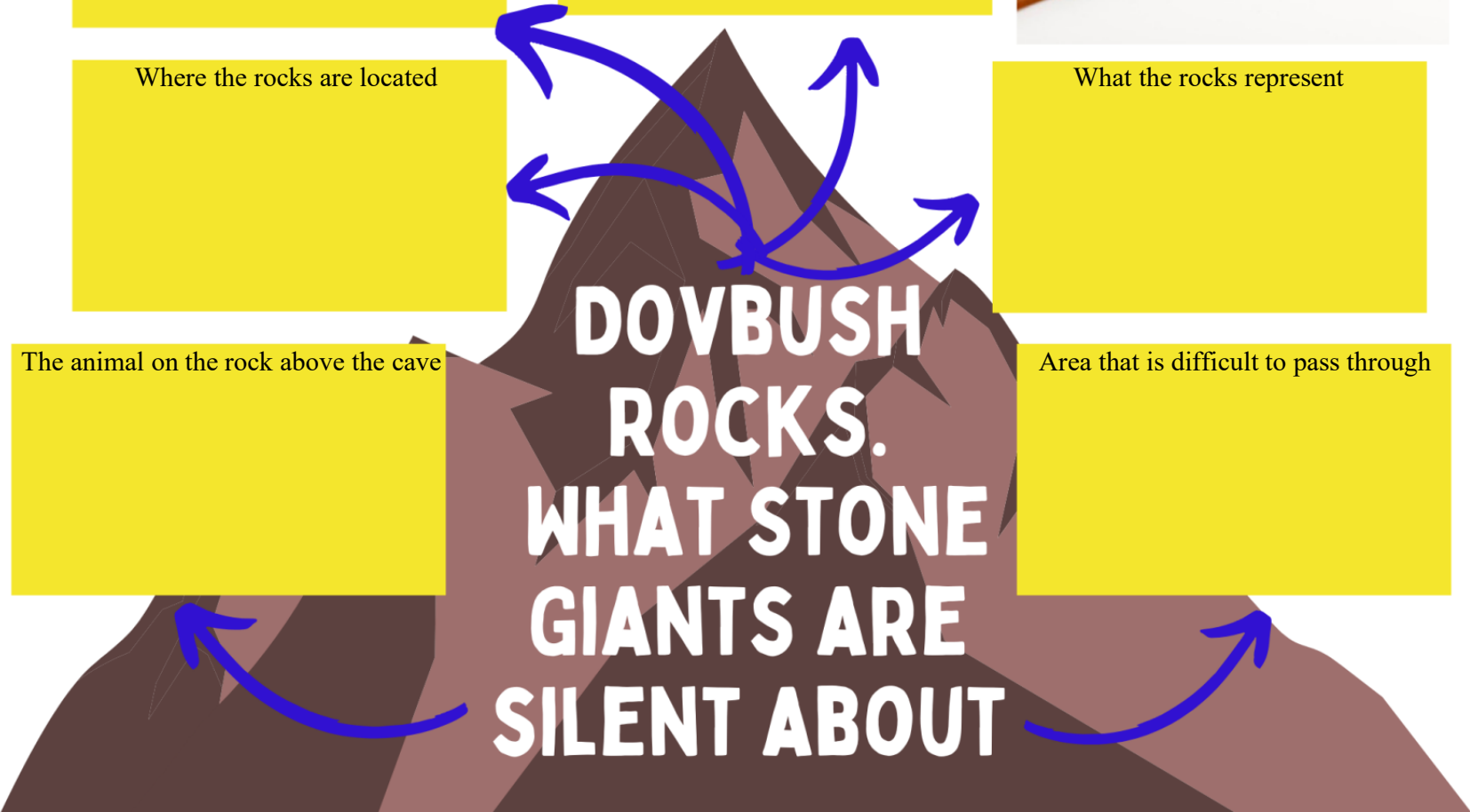
Where the rocks are located

What the rocks represent

The animal on the rock above the cave

Area that is difficult to pass through

**DOVBUSH  
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### **Comprehension Questions**

1. When were these rocks used as a hideout?
2. Who killed Oleksa?
3. What happened to his former lover Dzvinka according to the legend?
4. Where did the rebels hide Dovbush's golden treasures?
5. How many centimeters is the Devil's Gorge?
6. Why is this place special to Ukrainians?
7. What is the author's feeling about this place?