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Read the texts. What do the birds symbolise in Ukraine? Where can you see them?

UKRAINIAN SYMBOLIC BIRDS

Ukraine is a country rich in nature, traditions, and symbols. Some birds are meaningful in Ukrainian culture because of what they represent. Among these are the stork, the nightingale, and the cock.

1

Storks are impressive birds, and every spring, they return to villages across Ukraine. They symbolise the arrival of spring and the Ukrainian people's love for their country. Ukrainians believe that if a stork builds its nest nearby, the family and home will enjoy happiness and success.



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2

Ukrainians love singing, and the Ukrainian language is very pleasant to listen to, just like the beautiful voice of the **nightingale**, a small bird that can be seen all over the country. Nightingales appear frequently in Ukrainian literature and poetry. These birds represent romance, strong feelings and, at times, sadness.

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3



The cock is a bright and lively bird that has an important place in Ukrainian culture. It is known for waking people up in the morning with its loud crowing. In Ukraine, the cock symbolises the sun, a new day, and family life. Long ago, people believed that the cock could protect their homes and bring good luck. Even today, you can see cocks in Ukrainian folk art, for example, on embroidered clothes, pottery, and Easter eggs.

In 2022, the cock became even more famous. In the town of Borodianka, near Kyiv, a block of flats was destroyed during the war. On the top of a kitchen cupboard, people saw a ceramic cock that had survived the bombing. The photo of this 'Borodianka cock' travelled around the world. Since then, it has become a modern symbol of hope, courage, and the strong spirit of Ukrainians.

Answer the questions about the texts.

1 Which bird is a symbol of spring and happiness for Ukrainian families?
2 Why do nightingales often appear in Ukrainian literature and poetry?
3 What does the cock symbolise in Ukrainian culture?
4 What happened to the 'Borodianka cock' in 2022, and why is it important?