Mustafa Kemal Atatürk

Seviye A2–B1 · Okuma · Yazma

Warm-up

- What important dates in Turkish history do you know?
- Which national holidays do you celebrate at school?

Reading

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk was born in 1881 in Thessaloniki (Selanik), which was then a city in the Ottoman Empire. He went to military schools and became an army officer.

During the First World War, he became famous for his leadership at Gallipoli (Çanakkale) in 1915. On 19 May 1919, he arrived in Samsun, and this date is remembered as the start of the Turkish War of Independence. On 23 April 1920, the Grand National Assembly opened in Ankara.

After the war, the Republic of Türkiye was founded on 29 October 1923, and Mustafa Kemal became its first President. He made many reforms. For example, the new Turkish alphabet was introduced in 1928, and in 1934 women won the right to vote and be elected in national elections. In the same year, the parliament gave him the surname “Atatürk”, which means “Father of the Turks”.

Atatürk died on 10 November 1938 in Istanbul. His mausoleum, Anıtkabir, is in Ankara, and millions of people visit it every year.

Vocabulary

English	Türkçe	Example
army officer	subay	*His grandfather was an army officer.*
independence	bağımsızlık	*The country fought for its independence.*
found	kurmak	*The school was founded in 1950.*

reform	reform, köklü değişiklik	*The government made reforms in education.*
right to vote	oy kullanma hakkı	*Everyone over 18 has the right to vote.*
mausoleum	anıt mezar, türbe	*Anıtkabir is Atatürk's mausoleum.*

Language focus

Kalıp	Örnek
Tarih kalıpları	in 1881 / in May / on 29 October 1923 / during the First World War
Düzensiz fiiller	become → became, go → went, make → made, give → gave
Edilgen (Past Passive)	The Republic was founded in 1923. / The new alphabet was introduced in 1928.

Discussion

1. Which of Atatürk's reforms do you think was the most important? Why?
2. Have you ever visited Anıtkabir? How did you feel?
3. How do people in Türkiye remember Atatürk on 10 November?

Tasks

Choose the correct answer. *(Doğru seçeneği işaretleyin.)*

1. When was the Republic of Türkiye founded?

a) 23 April 1920
b) 19 May 1919
c) 29 October 1923
d) 10 November 1938

Fill in the blanks. *(Boşlukları doldurun.)*

2. He _____ (become) the first President in 1923.

Write True (T) or False (F). *(Doğru mu yanlış mı?)*

3. Atatürk was the first President of the Republic of Türkiye. ( )

4. Atatürk was born in Ankara. ( )

Match the items. *(Eşleştirin.)*

5. Match the years and events.

1. 1881 ( )
2. 1920 ( )
3. 1928 ( )
4. 1938 ( )

a) He was born.
b) The Grand National Assembly opened.
c) He died in Istanbul.
d) The new alphabet was introduced.

Put the parts in the correct order. *(Doğru sıraya koyun.)*

6. Put the events in the correct order.

He arrived in Samsun. / He became famous at Gallipoli. / The new Turkish alphabet was introduced. / He was born in Thessaloniki. / The Republic of Türkiye was founded.

Write your answers. *(Cevaplarınızı yazın.)*

7. Write 4–5 sentences about Atatürk. Use the Simple Past and at least two dates.