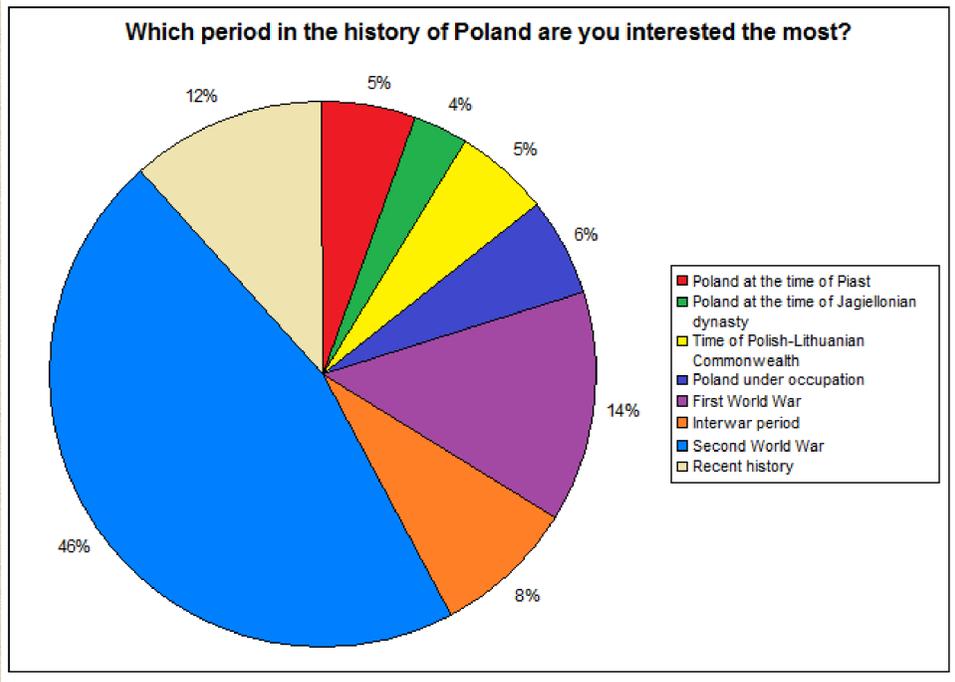
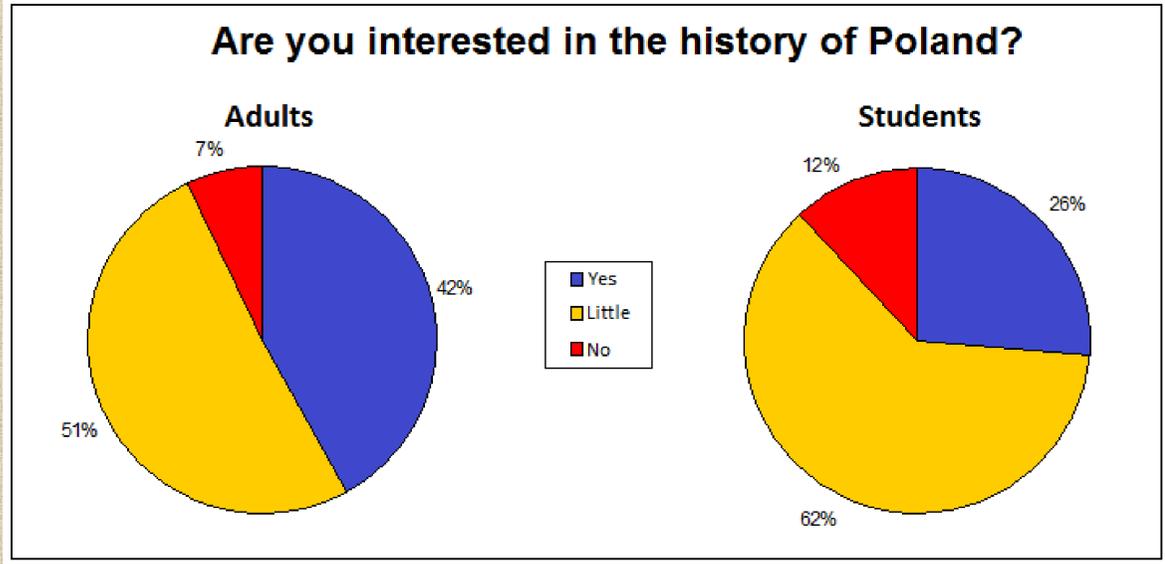


How do we learn our history?

Year 2016 has gone. According to Poles NATO meeting, World Youth Days, 1050 anniversary of the baptism of Poland, the success of Polish football team on EURO, the announcement of changes in the Polish school structure were the most important events of the year. Remembering all these events we recall all the emotions connected with them. But what about the earlier events before we were even born? We decided to examine it. We prepared and conducted the anonymous survey among 118 students and 43 adults (mainly teachers).



88% of students and 93% of adults declare that they are interested in history of our home country. We rate our historical knowledge very well and well (respectively 70% of students and 58% of adults). Our respondents were asked which historical period was the most important for them, which they know the most and which is the most interesting for them. They indicated World War II.

	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
Students	Nicolaus Copernicus	Bolesław I the Brave	Andrzej Duda	Józef Piłsudski	Lech Wałęsa
Adults	John Paul II	Józef Piłsudski	Mieszko I of Poland	Jadwiga of Poland	John III Sobieski

A lot of respondents claimed that they learnt about the history of Poland by watching films and TV programmes. Teenagers and adults indicated Katyn by Andrzej Wajda as the most influential and watched film, followed by some different films (Sienkiewicz ones for example). We also remember our history when we celebrate important anniversaries and public holidays. Our respondents display our national flag and watch reports on TV. Less eager they take part in some marches and rallies. Among the students there is a group which takes part in trips to historical places.

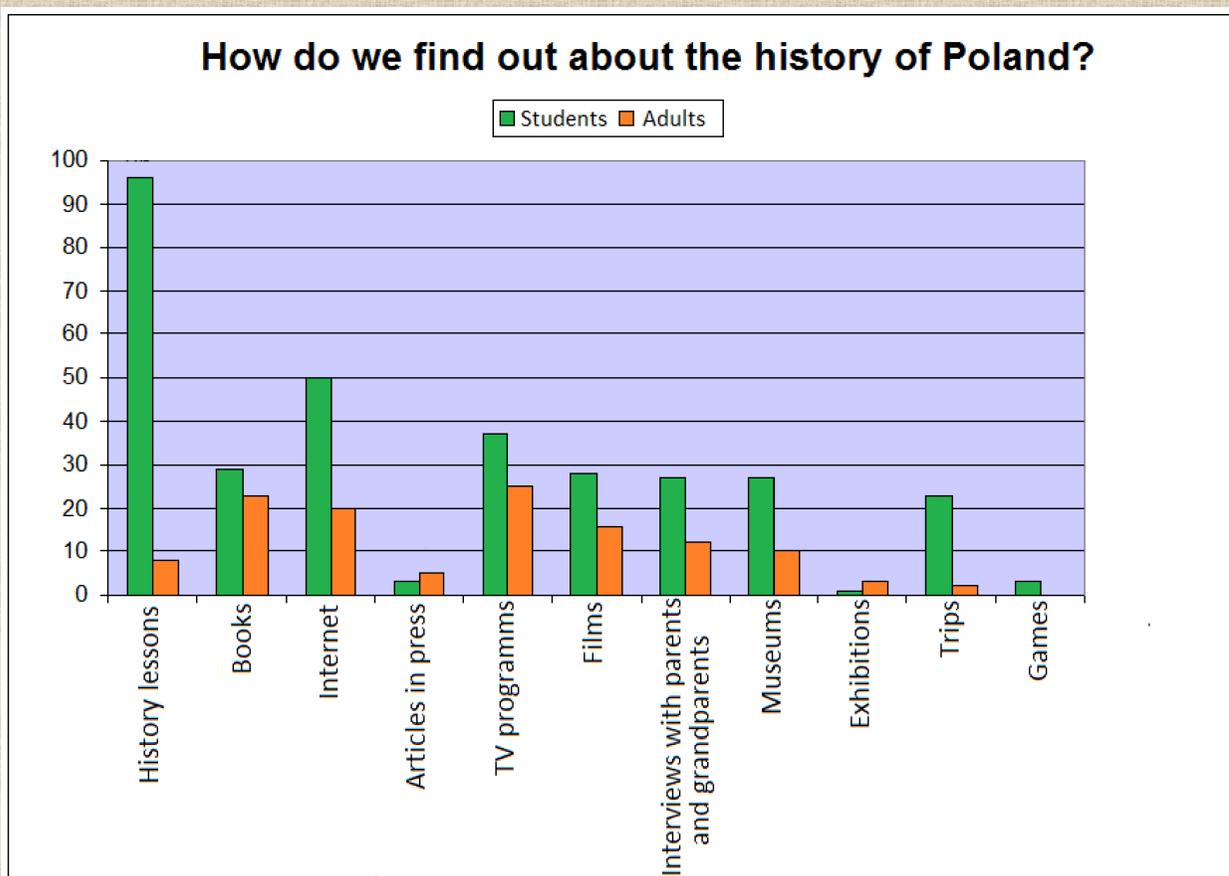
History is made by important figures. Their accomplishments, decisions and personal traits are the inspiration for studying their life and the times they lived. For our respondents the most important person was Nicolas Copernicus, for adults John Paul II.



We were also curious how we find out about the history of Poland.

Conclusions:

- The vast majority of youth and adults declare interests in history of Poland. The World War II time is the best known period by respondents.
- Adults find out about the history of Poland mainly from books and television.
- For students the main source of learning are history lessons, so the classes should be interesting and inspire for self-learning as well.
- Young people learn from different sources, so it would be recommended for them to organize themed tours, trips to museums or meetings with people who examine the history of Poland.



Data source:

- Questionnaire conducted among students and adults
- Survey of CBOS from 27th December 2016
- Photo of Nicolaus Copernicus- www.torun.webd.pl