**Ivan Aivazovskyi**

Ivan Aivazovskyi was born in Crimea in the seaside city of Feodosia on July 17,1817. The impressions of childhood determined his predilection for the seascape painting. In 1883 he entered the St. Petersburg Academy of Arts,

In 1836 I. Aivazovskyi was introduced to O. Pushkin as a greatly promising artist. He made 10 depictions of the great poet. The picture known most of all is “Pushkin Bidding Farewell to the Sea” executed by Aivazovskyi jointly with lllia Repin.

It took I. Aivazovskyi only four years to finish the six-year course of the Academy of Arts. He received a big gold medal and was granted a scholarship for training abroad.

In Italy I. Aivazovskyi ranked with the best painters of Europe. The seascapes of the young painter appeared at the exhibitions in Rome, Paris, London and Amsterdam. They were highly appreciated by the viewers. In 1831. Aivazovskyi was awarded in France a gold medal. In Holland he was elected an Academician. It was a significant event since Holland is known to be the homeland of the seascape painting.

I. Aivazovskyi came back from abroad a recognized master. He was made Academician of St, Petersburg Academy. The painter was attached to the Chief Naval Headquarters and was granted the right of wearing the full-dress coat of the Ministry of Navy.

In 1845 the painter settled in Feodosia for good because of his deep affection for the Black Sea and his native city. He took the most active part in the city’s life. He created an art studio, opened a library and initiated the construction of the archeological museum. His tireless civic activities promoted the building of the seaport in Feodosia and the railway to it.

I. Aivazovskyi strove to make his house a center of artistic life.In 1880 to the house where he lived and worked a large hall was added where his paintings were exhibited. This hall became one of the first picture galleries in the country. The house had a small stage where amateur theatricals were arranged.

The Gallery was visited by the townspeople and the passengers of the steamers calling at the Feodosia seaport. Ivan Aivazovskyi retained till the last day of his life the ability to creative work without which he could not live. His words “To live means for me to work”, could have become the motto of his life.

Aivazovskyi died in the night on April 18,1900.

In 1900, according to I. Aivazovskyj’s will the Picture gallery became the property of the city of Feodosia.

**Answer the questions.**

1. When and where was I. Aivazovskyj born?

2. I. Aivazovskyj studied at the St. Petersburg Academy of Arts, didn’t he?

3. Did I. Aivazovskyj and Pushkin know each other?

4. How were his seascapes appreciated by the viewers?

5. Where was I. Aivazovskyj elected an Academician?

6. Did he spend the rest of his life abroad?

7. When did the painter settle down in Feodosia?

8. Did I.Aivazovskyj take an active part in the city’s life?

9. What can you say about his house?

10. What was the motto of his life?

11. When did the famous painter die?

**Finish the sentences.**

1. Ivan Aivazovskyi was born \_\_ .

2. In 1836 I. Aivazovskyi was introduced to O. Pushkin as a \_\_.

3. At took I. Aivazovskyi only \_\_ to finish the \_\_ of the Academy of Arts.

4. He received a \_\_ and was granted \_\_ .

5. The painter was attached to the \_\_ .

6. In 1845 the painter settled in Feodosia for good because of \_\_ (

7. Aivazovskyi strove to make his house \_\_ (.

8. His words “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”, could have become the motto of his life.

9. The painter died \_\_ .