"We should spend more money on preserving our past – it is too important to lose." Most people know about the founding fathers of their nation, about the people who introduced their language, and about other significant events and personalities that shaped their past. Yet, a question arises – what price does this knowledge command? Is this conservation of our past worth it? I believe that it is invaluable to remember our history.

First and most importantly, exploring our past and learning about the preceding generations answers the fundamental question: "Who are we?" Our identity, whether cultural or moral, is determined by our history. If we explore it, we answer the second essential question: "Where did we come from?" At this point we learn about our ancestors – the significant people who shaped our history. If their decisions were right, then we should be proud of them. On the contrary, however, if they could be condemned for what they did, we should learn a lesson from their faults. As a result, it can help us answer the third question: "Where are we going?" With all that said, I conclude that it is undeniably important to spread the word about our history, explore it, and commemorate it. For these intentions to be turned into reality, though, money is needed. If we want to teach future generations about our common history, we need to build museums and open exhibitions. The coming generations, however, are different and in order to approach them, we must use new digital and interactive methods, such as publishing history popularization videos, lectures, and TV shows. All these aspects need investments.

Contrary to these beliefs, many people suggest that we should focus on the present and future instead. I dare to object. If our identity were determined only by how we feel, we would lose a significant amount of our inherited culture and we would become mere strangers living in the country of our ancestors.

In conclusion, our cultural identity is based on our history. Therefore, we should spend our time, effort, and also more money to preserve our past. For what we can learn in exchange is priceless.

Ivan Grega

5.B.