



Year Group : Years 5 and 6 (KS2)

Date Monday 18th May 2020

Subject : Geography - Russia

LO : I can answer questions about Russia.

Prior Learning : children have researched the landscape, climate and human geography of areas of Russia.

Read the following information about Russia.



Facts about Russia

Russia, officially named the Russian Federation, is the largest country in the world. It is so big that it crosses two continents (Europe and Asia), shares borders with 14 countries and has shores on three different oceans: the Atlantic, the Pacific and the Arctic. In fact, Russia covers one tenth of the Earth's surface. Due to its large size, there are 11 different time zones in Russia. There are around 140 million people living in Russia today and over 100 different languages are spoken. However, Russian is the official language. The president, Vladimir Putin, lives in the capital city of Russia, Moscow, in a building called the Kremlin, meaning 'fortress'. Russia also has a Prime Minister, a man called Dimity Medvedev, who is the second most powerful figure in Russian politics after the President.



Russian Nature and Wildlife

Russia has 40 national parks and 100 wildlife reserves. It also has the largest area of forests of all the countries in the world. As a result of being so large, there are many different climatic zones in Russia and the environment ranges from deserts to



polar regions. Russia is home to many rare animals such as the Asiatic black bear, snow leopards and a small rabbit-like mammal called a pika. More famously, Russia is the natural habitat of the Siberian tiger, the largest cat in the world. They can grow up to 3 metres in length and weigh around 300 kilograms. Europe's longest river, the Volga, is in Russia and is 2,193 miles long.

Did You Know...?

There are approximately 10 million more women in Russia today than men. It is thought that this is due to how many Russian men died during the Second World War.



Russia in the 20th Century

Russia has a troubled and interesting history and this is particularly true of the last century. In 1922, Russia and 11 other countries became part of the USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) which was also known as the Soviet Union. During the Second World War, the President of the USSR, Joseph Stalin, worked with the leaders of the USA (Franklin D. Roosevelt) and the UK (Winston Churchill) to bring about the defeat of Germany. However, after the war ended in 1945, relations with the USA became strained and disagreements between the two nations led to the Cold War. This finally came to an end in 1991, when the Soviet Union broke up and Boris Yeltsin became the first freely-elected president of Russia.



Russian Culture

Russia is considered by many to be a country rich in culture and historical significance. Many of the world's most famous authors and composers come from Russia. Classical music has always been an important part of Russian culture and two of the world's most renowned composers are Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and Sergei Rachmaninoff. Tchaikovsky was born on 7th May 1840. He studied law as a young man as he was not considered to be a good enough musician to study music. However, his love of music never died and he eventually moved to Moscow to teach at the St. Petersburg Conservatory. His most famous work is the 1812 Overture and the ballets Swan Lake and The Nutcracker.

Rachmaninoff was born on 1st April 1873 and studied at a school where the teacher worked his students very hard; they worked for 16 hours each day! Rachmaninoff's career was slow to take off. When his first symphony was performed, nobody liked it and he was unable to compose music for some time after. Rachmaninoff lacked confidence in his ability as a composer and doubted his talent and so visited a hypnotist to help him. Eventually, he composed his famous and very popular Piano Concerto in C minor, as well as other concertos and symphonies before moving to America. He spent the rest of his life touring, conducting and performing his music and soon became known as one of the most important composers of the 20th Century.

Activity: Answer the questions on Purple Mash

2Do Geography Lesson 5