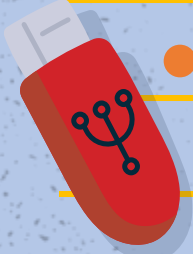
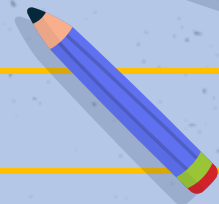
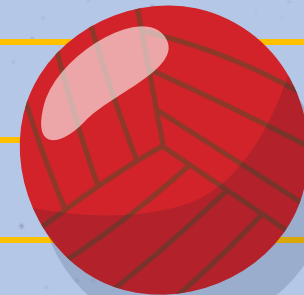
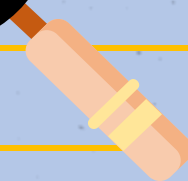


Check Out Google-Maps & Examine
The Russian Core! Explain What You
Find!

INVESTIGATE



4.5

The Russian Core



As a Young Geographer, I will be able to...

- **Examine the physical geography of The Russian Core**
- **Investigate the history of the region & how that has affected life today**
- **Analyze how the region attempts to deal with climate issues**

Landforms

Russia has 2 notable mountain ranges, **the Ural Mountains & the Caucasus Mountains**

The Ural Mountains form a natural barrier between European Russia & Siberia, The Caucasus separate Russia from southern countries

The Northern European Plain has navigable waterways & chernozem

Chernozem- Rich, black topsoil found in the Northern European Plain (especially in Russia & Ukraine)

Landforms

East of the Ural Mountains is [Siberia](#)- Vast stretches of plains & plateaus with a harsh continental climate or wetlands & extreme cold

Ukraine is the second-largest country in Europe, occupying the SW of the Russian Plain

Belarus is the smallest of 3 Slavic republics that were once part of the Soviet Union

Glaciers have created a flat terrain & 11,000 lakes in the region



Water Systems

The **Volga river** is important to the region & one of the worlds greatest rivers

It's the longest river in Europe & is important for transportation & hydroelectric power

The Dnieper River in the Ukraine is its longest river & supplies transportation & energy for its region

Ukraine has few freshwater lakes & has had to create artificial ones over the years

Water Systems

Rivers in Siberia are often blocked by ice from the Arctic Ocean

This causes extensive flooding in the region causing swamps & flood lands

Lake Baikal in Siberia is the oldest lake in the world as well as the deepest

This has caused some unusual freshwater marine species & study of them have helped scientists understand evolution



Climates & Biomes

The dominant climate of the region is cold, snowy winters, but each region has varying lengths of each

10% of Russia is tundra, parts of the year are cast in constant darkness & other parts constant sunlight

Permafrost- A permanently frozen layer of soil beneath the surface of the ground

South of the Tundra is the sub climate zone with only 4 months of the year above 10 degrees

Climates & Biomes

Most of Russia lives in the midlatitude climates with milder summers & winters

The Steppe Region along Russia's border with Kazakhstan has open grasslands that allow important agriculture for the region

The Ukraine has a humid continental climate to the south allowing a warm summer season

Belarus has a humid continental climate that allows different thaw seasons of warm or cold weather



History & Government

600 C.E., Slavic people built city-states called the Kievan Rus that were ruled by princes

1200 C.E. The Mongols invaded the region for 200 years, but allowed the slavs some self rule

Late 1600s- Czar Peter I (Peter the Great) began to modernize Russia

He grew its territory, built a military, & developed trade with Europe

History & Government

Russia gained land along the Baltic Sea to create a sea port, creating St. Petersburg

Late 1700s- Cathrine the Great expanded the empire & built a warm water port on the Black Sea

Russification- The goal of making conquered people more “Russian”

1891- Czar Alexander III expanded into Siberia by building the Trans-Siberian Railroad



History & Government

Karl Marx advocated for greater economic equality by writing **The Communist Manifesto** & founding communism

Communism- a political & economic ideology advocating for a classless society where the means of production are owned collectively, & private property is eliminated

1917- Russians began to struggle for food & freedom during WWI & began the Russian Revolution

Joseph Lenin takes control & the region becomes the **Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)** or **Soviet Union**

History & Government

The Soviet Union helps secure an Allied victory during WWII & began controlling several countries in eastern Europe

Satellites- Country controlled by another country

The Cold War- A period of political & ideological war with the West, particularly the U.S.

The enormous cost of its military & economic policies began to weaken the nation



History & Government

1985- Mikhail Gorbachev begins to reform the Soviet Union & satellite countries begin to form their own governments

1989-1991 The Soviet Union collapses & splits up into 15 independent nations

2000- Vladimir Putin is elected president of Russia & begins to place pressure on the regions around Russia

2013- Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich abandoned EU support & sought closer ties with Russia

History & Government

2014- Massive protests caused him to flee & Russia took over the pro-Russian Crimea territory of the Ukraine

2022- Russia begins an invasion into Ukraine, beginning a war that still continues



Population Patterns

80% of Russians live west of the Ural Mountains due to its rich soil & milder climates

Moscow is the country's capital & has attracted most of the region to it

Population numbers have been declining due to a reduced birthrate

To offset this, Russia has begun paying allowances to families with children

Society & Culture

The Soviet Union banned the use of religion in the region, until the 1980s & after its collapse

People have been rediscovering religions & more than 100 languages are spoken in the region, Russian being the official language

Students today have a choice of different types of schools, but limited funding affects schools

Women have many rights, but often marry later in life to support their careers



The Arts

Peter Tchaikovsky composed many important musical numbers that contributed to a rich Russian culture

Russian ballet is important for its international reputation

Communism limited artistic expression & many books had to be smuggled from Russia to be published around the world

Many weren't available until after 1991!



Economics

During the Soviet Union, wages were very low and goods were hard to find

Black Market- Illegal trade of scarce or illegal goods, usually sold at high prices

**After its collapse, the country moved to
privatization- private ownership of state-owned companies & industries**



Resources

Russia is expanding in manufacturing & growth in oil & gas production

Russia has become one of the world's largest producers of crude oil, drilling in the Arctic Ocean

Fishing is important for the region, but Russia engages in super trawling by pulling large nets through the ocean

This has caused millions of fish to die every year as well as threatened marine life

Human Impact

Environmental damage from Soviet-Era industrialization has damaged Russia's water, air, soil, & forests

One danger to the area is nuclear waste from the results of 600 nuclear explosions due to testing

The Chernobyl explosion in Ukraine released 400 times more radioactive materials from a meltdown than the nuclear bombs in Japan!

Global warming has also caused massive changes in climate for the region



Find Me Five!

What are 5 Things you
learned about today?

Could be from a picture, information, or just
a fun fact!

RADICAL!

