Chapter 16: Russia and The Caucasus

NAME:
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Chapter 16 –
Section 1: Physical Geography

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Physical Features...

- **Ural Mountains** – can stand on 2 continents at once
  - Europe and Asia *(meet)*
  - Europe to the West
  - Asia to the East

- **Eurasia** – a landmass made up of Europe and Asia

- **Russia** – is the worlds LARGEST country
  - 2Xs as large as the United States
Physical Features…

- The Caucasus – South of Russia
  - Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan
  - Between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea
- Caucasus Mountains – southern Russia
  - Mount Elbrus
  - 18,510 feet (5,642 miles)
  - Highest peak in Europe
Physical Features... Landforms

- **Northern European Plains**
  - stretches across Europe into Russia
  - Most Russians live here

- **Moscow** – Russia’s Capital (located in the plains)
Physical Features... Landforms

- Siberia – the vast area between the Ural Mountains and the Pacific Ocean
  - West Siberian Plain
  - Central Siberia Plateau
  - Eastern Siberia (Russian Far East)
    - Kamchatka (kuhm-CHAHT-kuh) Peninsula
    - The Ring of Fire – Earthquakes/volcanoes
Some of the **LONGEST** rivers in the world flow through the region of Russia and the Caucasus.

**Volga River** – one of the most important rivers
- Longest river in Europe
- Forms the core of Russia’s river network
Physical Features...Bodies of Water

- Rivers that flow northward to the Arctic Ocean:
  - The Ob (AWB)
  - The Yenisey (yi-ni-SAY)
  - The Lena
    - These rivers are frozen much of the year
    - Ice makes shipping hard
Russia has 200,000 lakes:
- **Lake Baikal (by-KAHL)**
  - the world's deepest lake
  - South-central Siberia
  - Jewel of Siberia

The Black Sea
- Connects the Mediterranean Sea
- Important for trade

The Caspian Sea
- Saltwater
- World’s largest inland sea
Climate and Plant Life…

- Russia is a cold country:
  - Short summers
  - Long, snowy winters

- Russia’s northern coast:
  - Tundra – winters are dark, bitterly cold
  - Brief cool summers

- Permafrost – permanently frozen soil
  - Only small plants such as mosses grow
Climate and Plant Life...

- **Taiga** – a vast forest of evergreen trees
  - South of the tundra
  - Covers ½ of Russia

- **Steppe** – rich, black soil
  - Grassy and warmer climate
  - Russia’s most important farming area

- **Caucasus** - generally warmer
  - Warm, wet (Black Sea) – hot and dry (Azerbaijan)
Natural Resources...

(1) Fertile soil – great farmland
   - Northern European Plain
   - The Steppe

(2) Wood – for building and paper
   - Taiga

(3) Metals, copper, gold, and precious gems
Natural Resources...

- (4) Energy Resources:
  - Coal
  - Hydroelectric
  - Natural Gas
  - Oil
Chapter 16 – Section 2: History and Culture of Russia

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The Russian Empire...

Early History and Empire

- Slavs were the first to develop towns and trade in Russia.

- AD 800s – the Vikings invaded the Slavs
  - Rus (ROOS) – Russia

- Missionaries introduced –
  - The Orthodox Christian faith to Kiev
  - Cyrillic (suh- RI-lik) – a form of the Greek alphabet
The Russian Empire…

Early History and Empire

- 1200s – Mongol Invaders: Tatars (TAH-ters)
  - Russian Princes ruled Muscovy (Russia)

- 200 years later – Ivan III seized control from the Mongols – became czar
  - **Czar** – or emperor (Russian for “Caesar”)

- Ivan IV “Ivan the Terrible”
  - cruel and savage ruler
  - Total power
  - Grandson to Ivan III
The Russian Empire…

Early History and Empire

- Muscovy – developed into Russia

- Strong czars built Russia into a huge world power:
  - Peter the Great
  - Catherine the Great
The Russian Empire…
War and Revolution

1914 WWI:
- Huge loss of people, and food shortages

Bolsheviks – a radical Russian Communist group
- Seized power - the Russian Revolution
- Formed the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)
- Vladimir Lenin – 1st leader
The Soviet Union... Under Stalin

- The Soviet Union was a Communist country.
- The government owned all businesses and farms
- They made all of the decisions
- Told the people how much to charge
- Stalin had anyone who spoke out against the government jailed, exiled, or killed
- **Gulags** — harsh Soviet labor camps often located in Siberia
The Soviet Union...

**Cold War and Collapse**

- The Soviet Union WWII:
  - Fought against Germany
  - Millions of Soviet citizens died

- The United States:
  - Saw communism as a threat to democracy
  - This led to the **Cold War** – a period of tense rivalry between the Soviet Union and the United States
The Soviet Union...

Culture

- Russia’s population is about 140 million

Religion:
- Russian Orthodox Christian
  - Main Religion
- Islam
- Buddhism
- Other forms of Christianity
The Soviet Union...

Culture

- Russian Ballet:
  - Nutcracker Ballet

- 1957 – The Soviet Union
  - Launched Sputnik into space
    - 1st satellite in space
Chapter 16 – Section 3: Russia Today

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The Russian Federation...

**Government**

- After the fall of the Soviet Union (1991) – change needed to happen:
  - New government – *Federal Republic*
  - Result – *More freedom for Russians*
  - Russia also has better relationships with western countries
The Russian Federation...

Economy

- Communism to Democracy:
  - Change to a market economy
  - Free trade and competition
  - Lead to economic growth
The Russian Federation...

City and Rural Life

Cities:

- More restaurants, and good shopping centers
  - 75% of Russians live in cities
  - Still connected to nature

Dachas – Russian country houses

- Richer Russians own
  - Garden and enjoy fresh air
Culture Regions...

- **Moscow Region:**
  - **Moscow** – Russia’s capital and largest city
  - **Kremlin** – center of the Russian government
    - Museums and churches

- Russia’s most important economic area
  - Factories, goods, and transportation
Culture Regions…

- **The St. Petersburg Region:**
  - **St. Petersburg** – a city founded by Peter the Great
  - Western ways
  - For 200 years – St. Petersburg was Russia’s capital and home of the czars
  - Gulf of Finland – making it a major port and trade center
Culture Regions…

The Volga and Urals Regions:

- **Volga River** – major shipping route
  - Hydroelectric power
  - Factories for oil and natural gas
  - Fish

- **Ural Mountains** – important for mining
  - **Smelters** – factories that process metal ores (copper and iron)
  - Semiprecious stones
Culture Region...

**Siberia:**
- East of the Ural Mountains
- In Tatar – Siberia means “sleeping land”
- Frozen/buried under snow – most of the year
- Lumber, mining, and oil

**Trans-Siberian Railroad** – a rail line that runs from Moscow to the east coast of Russia – the longest single rail line in the world.
Culture Region...

- The Russian Far East:
  - Coastline on the Pacific Ocean
  - Forest, mining, and some farming
  - Seaports: oils, minerals and fishing
Russia’s Challenges...

1) Shift in economy – Market Economy
   - Unemployment has risen
   - Gap between the rich and poor

2) Population falling
   - More dying than being born
   - Can’t afford good health care

3) Pollution
   - The Soviet Union did not prevent it

4) Ethnic conflicts
   - Fighting and terrorism – caused deaths
The Caucasus...

History

- Lies in the Caucasus Mountains
- Between the Black and Caspian Sea
- Many Invaders:
  - Persians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Turks, and Mongols
  - Russia took over much of the area in the 1800s
The Caucasus...

History
- The Ottoman Turks ruled Armenia
  - They distrusted the people
  - Abused and killed them
    - WWI the Armenians were forced to leave
    - Hundreds died during ethnic cleansing
- Turks lost WWI
  - Had to give up Armenia
The Caucasus...

**History**

- Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia:
  - Gained independence after WWI

- 1920s –
  - Were part of the Soviet Union

- 1991 –
  - Soviet Union fell apart
  - Caucasus Republics – true independence
The Caucasus Today…

- The Caucasus has a long history
- The countries do not – 1991 Independence
  - New governments, economics, and ethnic unrest

- Similar Governments:
  - Elected President
  - Appointed Prime Minister
  - Elected parliament/legislature
The Caucasus Today...

Georgia

- Tbilisi – is the capital of Georgia
- Religion: Georgian Orthodox Church
- Official Language: Georgian
  - With unique alphabet
- Economy – based on services and farming
  - Citrus fruits, grapes, and tea
  - Black Sea resort area
The Caucasus Today…

Armenia

➤ A tiny country – landlocked
➤ Smaller than the state of Maryland
➤ **Yerevan** *(yer-uh-VAHN)* – the capital

➤ Armenian Orthodox Church

➤ Conflict between Azerbaijan
➤ Hurt Economy
➤ Starting to grow – diamonds
The Caucasus Today...

Azerbaijan

- **Baku** – capital city of Azerbaijan

- Major Religion – Muslim

- Economy – Oil
  (found under the Caspian Sea)
- Strong economic growth
- Corruption is high – many people are poor
- Many refugees