

РЕГИОНАЛЬНОЕ МЕТОДИЧЕСКОЕ ПРИЛОЖЕНИЕ  
к журналу «ПРОСВЕЩЕНИЕ. ИНОСТРАННЫЕ ЯЗЫКИ»

Дополнительные обучающие  
материалы

# Spotlight on Russia 5-9 классы



Центр лингвистического образования  
АО "Издательство "Просвещение"

# СОДЕРЖАНИЕ

## 5 КЛАСС

<b>ANIMALS</b> .....	<b>8</b>
Захарова Е.А.	
Нарцева И.В.	
Олонцева А.С.	
Панарина Н.А.	
Пикалова Н.А.	
Филатова Н.А.	
Черепанова П.И.	
<b>FAME</b> .....	<b>15</b>
Пикалова Н.А.	
<b>FESTIVALS</b> .....	<b>16</b>
Жидкова Е.В.	
Неберикутья Е.В.	
Пикалова Н.А.	
Подболотова О.А.	
Ташбулатова В.Т.	
Шестухина О.А.	
<b>HOBBIES</b> .....	<b>22</b>
Гордиенко Н.С.	
Кардангушева И.	
Пикалова Н.А.	
Филатова Н.А.	
<b>HOLIDAYS</b> .....	<b>25</b>
Морозова И.Е.	
Пикалова Н.А.	
<b>HOMES</b> .....	<b>27</b>
Бабушкина Л.М.	
Мирошникова Л.И.	
Пикалова Н.А.	
<b>MUSEUMS</b> .....	<b>30</b>
Блинова Д.А.	
Владимирцева У.Н.	
Давыдова М.А.	
Пикалова Н.А.	
<b>OUR COUNTRY</b> .....	<b>34</b>
Антоник С.И.	
Воротинова В.В.	
Леновская Н.Г.	
Лубенец Я.В.	
Масалова М.А.	
Никифорова А.Н.	
Окель А.В.	
Пикалова Н.А.	
Силина Н.А.	
Соловьева С.Ю.	
Тащян Н.Э.	
Хамидуллина Г.Р.	
Четвернина Л.Н.	
Ярцева Т.В.	



<b>SCHOOL LIFE</b> .....	<b>48</b>
Маслова С.Н. Пикалова Н.А.	
<b>SEASONS</b> .....	<b>50</b>
Пикалова Н.А.	

## 6 КЛАСС

<b>FAMILIES</b> .....	<b>54</b>
Морозова И.Е.	
<b>FREE TIME</b> .....	<b>55</b>
Маслова С.Н. Родионова Е.В.	
<b>NATIONAL PRIDE</b> .....	<b>57</b>
Бабушкина Л.М. Бачкала Г.В. Каширских И.В. Олонцева А.С. Прокофьева С.В.	
<b>NATURAL PHENOMENA</b> .....	<b>62</b>
Филатова Н.А.	
<b>THE CITY I LIKE</b> .....	<b>63</b>
Бодрова Е.Н. Демидова Т.В. Джунгурова Н.Ц. Казанцева Л.Д. Сапрыкина О.Ю. Швецова Л.Н. Шлямнева М.С.	
<b>ZOO</b> .....	<b>70</b>
Бокарёва А.И. Окель А.В. Пристолова И.А. Филатова Н.А.	

## 7 КЛАСС

<b>ACTIVITY TIME</b> .....	<b>76</b>
Галюк И.В. Карпова Е.А. Михайлова А.В. Олонцева А.С. Реуцкая Т.Н. Чубатюк И.С.	
<b>HEALTH MATTERS</b> .....	<b>82</b>
Вакулина М.В.	
<b>MUSEUMS</b> .....	<b>83</b>
Богатырева А.С. Быков В.Ю. Демидова Т.В. Жигунова А.М. Олейник Т.В. Чуракова О.В.	

<b>TEENS</b> .....	<b>89</b>
Вакулина М.В.	
Морозова И.Е.	
Олонцева А.С.	
<b>TV</b> .....	<b>92</b>
Валеева А.Ф.	
<b>WRITER</b> .....	<b>93</b>
Гофман А.Ю.	

## 8 КЛАСС

<b>BEAUTIFUL PLACES</b> .....	<b>96</b>
Печкурова Е.А.	
Трефилова Т.В.	
<b>CULTURAL EXCHANGE</b> .....	<b>98</b>
Жигунова А.М.	
Капоткина Н.Ю.	
Кустенко Ю.И.	
Сирко И.А.	
<b>EDUCATION</b> .....	<b>102</b>
Карпова Е.А.	
Фисенко Е.Ю.	
<b>GREAT MINDS</b> .....	<b>104</b>
Алексенко Ю.С.	
Потапова Е.А.	
<b>NATURAL WORLD</b> .....	<b>106</b>
Гумерова Т.Л.	
Олонцева А.С.	
Утешева А.П.	
<b>PASTIMES</b> .....	<b>109</b>
Владимирцева У.Н.	
Филимонова Л.В.	
<b>SPECIAL INTERESTS</b> .....	<b>111</b>
Вербицкий Р.В.	

## 9 КЛАСС

<b>BEAUTIFUL BUILDINGS</b> .....	<b>114</b>
Жукова В.О.	
жунгурова Н.Ц.	
Квашнина Т.Н.	
Краева Е.Н.	
Мирошникова Л.И.	
Печкурова Е.А.	
Шартаева Л.Т.	
Юрьева Е.М.	
<b>GREAT WORKS OF ART</b> .....	<b>122</b>
Ксензова Е.В.	
Олонцева А.С.	
Прокофьева С.В.	
Шабтдинова О.П.	



**INSPIRING PEOPLE .....126**

Быков В.Ю.

Валтонен Е.М.

Гарная Е.С.

Новинкина Л.В.

Оленикова Т.Н.

Сучкова В.И.

Труханенко Е.А.

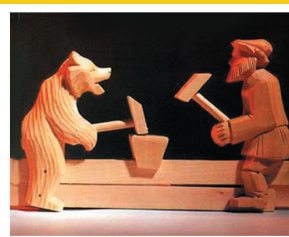
**SPECIAL DAYS .....133**

Реуцкая Т.Н.

# Spotlight

on **RUSSIA**

5





## **ANIMALS**

Захарова Е.А.  
Нарцева И.В.  
Олонцева А.С.  
Панарина Н.А.  
Пикалова Н.А.  
Филатова Н.А.  
Черепанова П.И.

## **FAME**

Пикалова Н.А.

## **FESTIVALS**

Жидкова Е.В.  
Неберикутья Е.В.  
Пикалова Н.А.  
Подболотова О.А.  
Ташбулатова В.Т.  
Шестухина О.А.

## **HOBBIES**

Гордиенко Н.С.  
Кардангушева И.  
Пикалова Н.А.  
Филатова Н.А.

## **HOLIDAYS**

Морозова И.Е.  
Пикалова Н.А.

## **HOMES**

Бабушкина Л.М.  
Мирошникова Л.И.  
Пикалова Н.А.

## **MUSEUMS**

Блинова Д.А.  
Владимирцева У.Н.  
Давыдова М.А.  
Пикалова Н.А.

## **OUR COUNTRY**

Антоник С.И.  
Воротынова В.В.  
Леновская Н.Г.  
Лубенец Я.В.  
Масалова М.А.  
Никифорова А.Н.  
Окель А.В.  
Пикалова Н.А.  
Силина Н.А.  
Соловьева С.Ю.  
Тащян Н.Э.  
Хамидуллина Г.Р.  
Четвернина Л.Н.  
Ярцева Т.В.

## **SCHOOL LIFE**

Маслова С.Н.  
Пикалова Н.А.

## **SEASONS**

Пикалова Н.А.

Many amazing animals live in Orenburg region. You can see roes, foxes, hares, wolves, boars and many others.

# Animals

## Spotlight on Russia looks at four of these

### Foxes

- Foxes are orange with a white stripe on the neck. They have got small triangular ears, a sharp nose and a long bushy tail. Foxes live in the forest.



Fact file	Animal	Fox
	Body	small triangular ears, a sharp nose and a long bushy tail
	Colour	orange
	Home	forest
	Food	mice, hares, birds

### Wolves

- Wolves are very dangerous. They are grey. They have got small ears, a long grey tail and sharp teeth. Wolves live in the forest.



Fact file	Animal	Wolf
	Body	small ears and a long grey tail, sharp teeth
	Colour	grey
	Home	forest
	Food	big or small animals, birds

### Hares

- Hares are small and grey or white. They are herbivores. They have got long ears and a short bushy tail. Hares live in the forest, in the burrows.



Fact file	Animal	Hare
	Body	long ears and a short bushy tail
	Colour	grey or white
	Home	forest, in the burrows
	Food	herbivores

### Roes

- Roes are the mammals. They are brown or orange with white stains. They have got thin and long legs, small ears. Roes live in the forest.



Fact file	Animal	Roe
	Body	thin and long legs, small ears
	Colour	brown or orange with white stains
	Home	forest
	Food	herbivores

- Tell your partner about one of these animals.
- Fill out a fact file like this about an animal in your region, write short paragraph about it and stick on a picture.

ACTIVITIES





# Animals

## *Spotlight on Russia* enjoys watching White Whales



White Whale (the Beluga Whale) is a small toothed whale that is white as an adult. It has got a fat body and a small head with a beak and tiny eyes. They live for 35-50 years. It lives in the Arctic. Whales are negatively affected by human activity.

Every summer Beluga Whales gather in the White Sea near the Solovetski Islands. It is one of few places on the planet where the white whales arrive for breeding. They are very sociable animals. Here you can observe these sea animals in their natural habitat.

### Activities

What other sea animals do you know?  
What can people do to protect endangered animals<sup>1</sup>?

<sup>1</sup>animals that are in danger





# ANIMALS (ОЛОНЦЕВА АНАСТАСИЯ СЕРГЕЕВНА — ГОКУ УСОЛЬСКИЙ ГВАРДЕЙСКИЙ КАДЕТСКИЙ КОРПУС)



*Sharik* is a dog from a story «Dyadya Fyodor, a Dog and a Cat» written by Edward Uspensky in 1974. Then it was screened by Vladimir Popov: a cartoon «Three from Prostokvashino» in 1978, a cartoon «Holidays in

Prostokvashino» in 1980 and a cartoon «Winter in Prostokvashino» in 1984. Sharik was sounded by Leo Durov. He lives in a village, likes his new owner and also likes taking photos of wild animals.

*Pirate* is a dog from a cartoon «Pirate's notes» that was screened by Anatoly Solin in 1989. He was sounded by Victor Proskurin. Pirate is a very curious dog who keeps a diary and tries to understand the meaning of life.



A *puppy-mitten* from a silent cartoon «A Mitten» that was screened by Roman Kachanov in 1967. The puppy was imagined by a little girl who dreams about it very much. That's why a mitten turned into a nice and moving puppy.

A *Dog* from a cartoon «A hedgehog in a fog» that was screened by Yury Norshtein in 1975. It is based on a fairy-tale written by Sergey Kozlov. The Dog says nothing but brings a parcel to a hedgehog. However this character plays an important role in the message of the story as a whole.



## ANIMALS

*Are you interested in animals?  
Do you like dogs?  
Do you know that it is a year of a dog?  
Nice to meet you dogs in cartoons!*

SPOTLIGHT ON RUSSIA presents you cartoon dogs.

An image of a true human's friend may be shown in many Russian cartoons. There are a lot of them where characters are dogs.

A *Dog* from a musical cartoon «Bremen musicians» (1969) and «In Bremen musicians footsteps» (1973) that were screened by Inessa Kovalevskaya. This Dog is a symbol of devotion and faith. He loves his friends and helps them.



### DISCUSS:

- 1) Have you got a dog at home?
- 2) What interesting facts do you know about dogs?
- 3) What Russian cartoons about dogs do you remember?

### ACTIVITY:

Imagine that you are going to create a new cartoon about animals. What kind of cartoon would it be? Write and tell us about it.

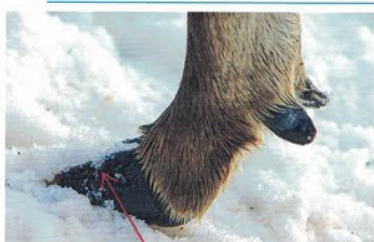


# Animals

Some people keep cows, pigs and goats as farm animals. Not far from Kostroma there is an elk farm in the village Sumarokovo...



**Why elks? Spotlight on Russia finds out more...**



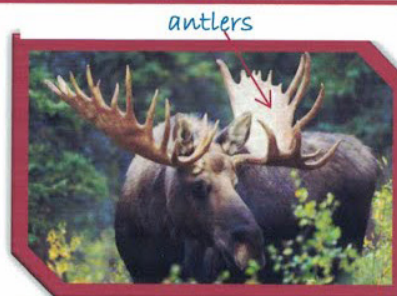
*an even-toed ungulate*

A lot of animals live in thick forests of Russia. Among these animals you can see elks. They are very beautiful animals.

The elk is an *even-toed ungulate*. Its body can be more than 2,5 metres of height and 3 metres of length. They are called forest giants. The body colour of an elk varies from deep brown to light tan. Males, that are called bulls, grow large with a body weight till 480 kg. They have widely branching antlers. In late autumn males shed the *antlers*. The antlers regrow every year.

An elk eats leaves, branches of trees and bushes, as well as grass, mushrooms and berries. They are social animals living in groups, called herds. An elk is a good swimmer and can stay under water more than one minute. Elks can run very fast and reach a speed of 56 m.p.h. But eyesight by elks is not good, that's why they can't see an unmoved man from a distance of 20-30 metres. A healthy elk lives about 15 years.

Many years ago people in Russia decided to domesticate these animals.

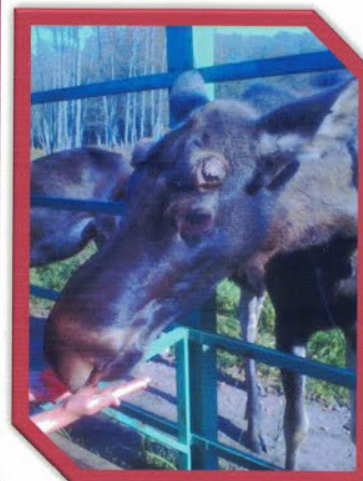


*antlers*



Nowadays the Sumarokovo elk farm is a unique national park, where they breed young elks, keeping adult elks and studying the biology of the species. It is a big attraction for scientists and tourists. The farm allows people to watch the life of elks in their natural habitat. These forest giants are not scared to make contact with visitors.

You can take a tour of the farm, feed the elks with carrots and try elk milk, which cures various diseases and illnesses.



## Activities

- ✚ What would you tell your foreign pen friend about elks?
- ✚ What farm animals do people breed in your area you live in? Would you like to keep an elk as a farm animal?
- ✚ What animal do you want to domesticate? Write how you would look after it!





## ANIMALS



Is there a Zoo in your city? Do you have an opportunity to look after wild animals? People like to watch TV programmes or go to the zoos to know more about rare species.

Spotlight on Russia goes to the.....

## NOVOSIBIRSK ZOO

The Novosibirsk Zoo is one of the largest zoos in Russia. It covers the territory over 63 hectares. In 2016 it was named after Rostislav Alexandrovich Shilo after his death. Rostislav Shilo was the zoo's curator from 1969. The Novosibirsk Zoo is a popular tourist attraction. Over 1,500,000 people visit the zoo every year.

The Novosibirsk Zoo is a wonderful place for a family weekend. People can easily get there by car or by city transport as it is situated exactly in the city. The Zoo looks like a park with a great number of trees, wide roads and rest zones. It is clean and cozy so people feel comfortable there.

Just imagine that there are 11,000 animals representing 738 species in the Zoo. The first-time visitor will be surprised by a variety of animals. People have a chance to look at mammals such as lions, wolves, deer, bears, jaguars and so on, cranes, eagles, cocks, parrots are birds which you can see in the Zoo. If you are interested in reptiles, pay you attention to pythons, snakes and turtles. In addition, there are a plenty of amphibians, fish and invertebrated animals.

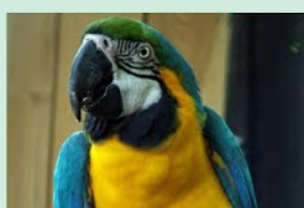


The Novosibirsk Zoo is well-known not only in Russia but all over the world. It received international attention upon the birth of Kiara, a rare liliger cub in November 2012. Her parents are a male lion and a female liger (male lion- female tiger hybrid).

Welcome to the Novosibirsk Zoo!

### ACTIVITIES

- What rare animals do you know?
- Imagine that you are to write an article to the Red book. Choose an animal and write about it (how it looks like, place of living, food, habits).

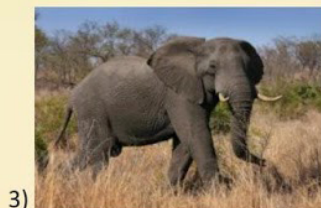




# Animals

**African animals display the widest variety in a size and a structure of any of the continents. Africa is the world's second largest continent with almost 12 million square miles of tropical rain forests, deserts and vast savannas. There are over one million species of animals in Africa. Look at this page and work with some information on it.**

*Spotlight on Russia* looks at some African wild animals



**Read these texts and match them with words and pictures.**

*A zebra, a hyena, a lion, a hippo, an elephant, a chimpanzee, a giraffe.*

- It is a large mammal (млекопитающее) that is found in Africa and India. They belong to the cat family. They live together in groups called prides. They hunt at night for large animals such as antelope and zebra.
- It is a mammal that lives in groups in forests and central Africa. They are related to the ape (примат) family. Their main diet is fruit and nuts, though sometimes they eat small animals.
- It is a large mammal that lives in Africa too. They spend most of the time in lakes or rivers and eat water plants.
- It is a fierce (ожесточенный) mammal from Africa and Asia that looks like a large dog. They hunt for some food and have a strange bark (лай) that sounds like a laugh.
- It is a very tall mammal that lives on dry plains in Africa. They eat lives on trees, which they can reach with their long necks.
- It is a huge (громадный) mammal that leaves in southern Asia and Africa. They eat tree bark (кора), roots, leaves, grass and other plants. They use their trunks like hands to pick up or hold their food.
- It is a striped African mammal that is a part of the horse family. They live in herds (стадо) on open plains and eat grass and shrubs.

## DISCUSS

*How all these animals live in the wild?  
How do wild animals see in the dark?  
What animals work together in the wild?*

A zebra	A hyena	A lion	A hippo	An elephant	A chimpanzee	A giraffe



There is an Amur tiger on the flag and on the coat of arms of Perm and Khabarovsk regions. A silver coin of the Bank of Russia is dedicated to the Amur tiger too.

# Animals

## Spotlight on Russia looks at...

### An Amur king of animals

Amur tigers live in the Southern Siberia and on the coast of the Amur River. An Amur tiger is the biggest cat in the world.

It has a very warm and thick skin. Its fur is white and black and red. Fat protects it from a cold wind and frost. An Amur tiger has a long flexible body, short paws, a round head and small ears.

It has a keen eye, it can see even at deep night. A tiger can distinguish colours. It usually hunts big animals. Traditionally Amur tigers avoid people. An Amur tiger has been listed in the Red book.



**What's your favourite animal?**

### AKTIVITIES

- Do you like tigers?
- Do you like other wild animals?
- What wild animals of Russia do you know?



# Fame

Mikhail Ivanovich Apollonov was born in the village of Kuzminovka of the Oktyabrsky district, Orenburg region. In his childhood he didn't associate his future profession with a sea.

## *Spotlight on Russia* looks at the famous person of the Oktyabrsky district, Orenburg region



### Important Dates

**Date of birth:** 7 November 1946

**1966:** He graduates from the Orenburg Road College

**1971:** He graduates from the Kiev Higher Naval Academy.

**1984:** He graduates from the Lenin Military Political Academy.

**1984-1995:** He serves on the ships of the Russian Navy.

**At present:** He is an Adviser (Councillor) of the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation, the military rank -Vice Admiral.

**Residence:** He lives in Moscow.

**Family:** Father -Ivan Nickolaevich; Mother- Anna Zotovna.

Wife- Valentina Ilyinichna

Children: a daughter- Marina and a son-Evgeni

Grandchildren: 4 grandsons and 1 granddaughter.

**Hobbies:** doing the gardening and mowing the grass at his dacha, driving a car

### ACTIVITIES

- Ask and answer questions about M. I. Apollonov.
- Write a fact file about one of the famous persons of your city/ village. Use the fact file as a model.



## Festivals

Most people in the world like apples. They are very useful for humans. People grow apple trees in their gardens, cook apple dishes and celebrate Apple Days. Do you know when and how Russians celebrate Apple Day?

### Apple Spas



Do you celebrate Apple Spas? How? Do you cook any apple dishes? Ask your mother an apple dish recipe and send it to us.

Read the proverbs and give Russian equivalents to them. Explain the meaning. a) *If you want apples, you have to shake the trees.*  
b) *An apple is never far from the apple tree.*

Since ancient times people in Russia celebrated "Apple Spas" when it was time to collect ripe apples. On the Church calendar this festival is called the Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus. It is on the 19<sup>th</sup> of August. On this day Jesus first appeared in front of people. On that day people went to Church to sanctify the apples and then treated their relatives and friends.

Nowadays you can watch lively holiday atmosphere of street fairs, dancing and other harvest celebrations on Apple Spas. Last summer the giant Russian apple pie "sharlotka" appeared in the center of Moscow. The pie included 100 kg of apples, 100 kg of flour and 200 eggs.

In the churches there are traditional services on sanctification of apples, grapes and other fruits of the new harvest.

Keep in touch with the Russian traditions of Apple Spas and help yourselves to apples.

Transfiguration-преображение  
to sanctify- освящать

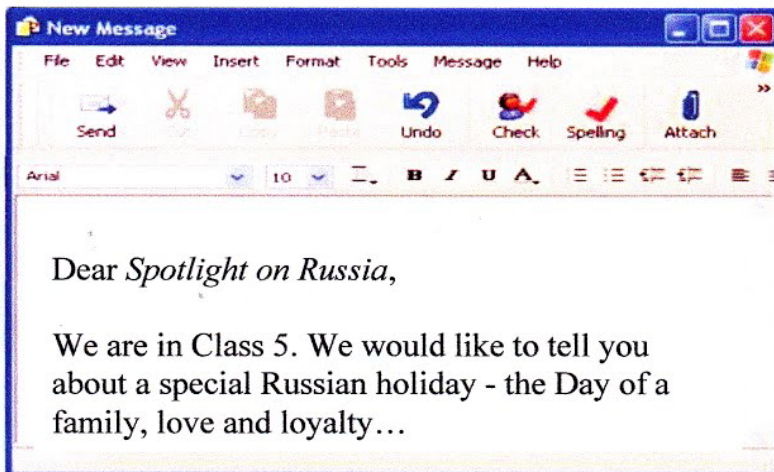


# Festivals

Here's another e-mail to the *Spotlight on Russia* website. It's from schoolchildren in Oktyabrskoe, Orenburg region.



A chamomile



The medal  
"For love and loyalty"

**Read the text from Class 5. They've got great photographs too!**

A special Russian holiday is the Day of a family, love and loyalty. It is celebrated on July 8. This date also has another name – the Day of Peter and Fevronia thanks to the Murom prince Peter and his wife Fevronia who lived in the XIII century. Orthodox Christians respect this married couple for patrons of a family and marriage.

The symbol of this holiday is a chamomile. The couples who celebrate the "Golden anniversary" or the "Diamond anniversary" of the marriage get a public award - the medal "For love and loyalty".

On this day, you can visit an exhibition of arts and crafts by the local craftsmen, try the local cuisine and listen to the songs of the folk groups.



You can try the  
local cuisine.

1. What else do you know about this holiday? Tell your partner.
2. Write an email about your favourite holiday and complete it with the beautiful photos.

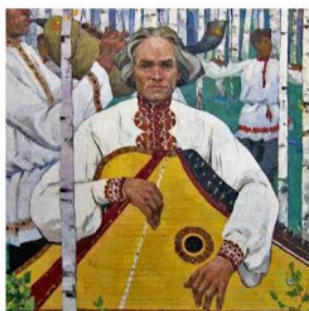
ACTIVITIES



**Do you know how many ethnic groups there are in Russia? Just imagine there are over 130 of them. Each group has its own language and culture!**

## FESTIVALS

**Spotlight on Russia presents Mari national festivals.**



Mari El Republic is located in the Volga region. The capital is Yoshkar-Ola. This republic is not very big but it is really magic. Two out of three people are Mari. The majority of Mari people are pagans. They worship nature, animals and birds. Mari people have still got their own festivals and holidays. Such as Peledysh Pajrem (the holiday of flowers), Mari Muro Pajrem (the festival of Mari national songs), Uginge Pajrem (the harvest festival) and many others. Peledysh Pajrem (or the holiday of flowers) is one of the most favourite festivals among Mari people. It is celebrated on the third Saturday of May. On this day people celebrate nature rebirth after a long winter. The streets of the cities and towns are decorated with flowers. People put on national costumes. There are lots of concerts and competitions on this day. Those who are brave can prove their force climbing a huge pole or take part in fist-fighting tournament. In the evening there are special meetings “Mari Kas” (discos). Peledysh Pajrem is an essential part of Mari culture.



### Activities

Peledysh Pajrem is a holiday of flowers. Draw your favourite flower and write a fairy tale about it.

### Discuss

Would you like to visit Mari El republic and take part in celebration of Peledysh Pajrem?  
Are there any special ethnic festivals in your region?

### Glossary

worship-поклоняться  
pagan-язычник  
rebirth-возрождение  
pole-шест  
fist-fighting tournament-  
кулачный бой  
essential-неотъемлемый  
ethnic group-народ, этнос



# FESTIVALS



*Dear Spotlight on Russia!  
Hi! I'm in Class 5 at School 17 Mytishchi*

I like festivals and I'd like to tell you about  
the famous Russian holiday called «Easter».

## *Easter is coming!*



The Easter weekend people usually celebrate in late March or early April, but the date changes each year.

Easter is one of the most important Christian holiday. People celebrate the day when Jesus came back from the dead.

On Maundy Thursday many people colour **eggs**, cook traditional Easter food.

On Easter Sunday Russians have a special breakfast or Easter meal. It usually includes **kulich** (Russian Easter bread), **paskha** (a dish made from cheese in the of pyramid).

Sometimes the food is blessed by the church before being eaten. Eggs may be cracked with nails as a reminder of

Christ's suffering on the cross. Additionally, one egg may be cut into pieces - one piece for each family member at the Easter table.

Here are the two phrases and their meanings - if somebody says the first to you, it is considered polite to respond with the second: **Christ is risen! - Indeed he is risen!**



Many people attend churches to bless their Easter meal before eating it.

Eggs represent a new life.  
**Red** is the most popular colour,  
it symbolises the blood of Christ.





*They walked through the fights and troubles  
for the happiness of Motherland.  
Many of them were shot and burned in ovens.  
However, they did not die; they are still alive in the memories of every generation.  
Their deeds are immortal.  
Fireworks and eternal fires lit the skies and the hearts of people  
in honor of the dead and living soldiers.*



## Victory day: The memories of the past

*Spotlight on Russia invites you to celebrate this memorable day*

The 9<sup>th</sup> of May is a great patriotic holiday in Russia.

Its official name is the Holiday of the Victory of the Red army and Soviet people over Nazi Germany in the Great Patriotic war in 1941-1945.

It was established in 1945. First, it was a working day. However, since 1965 it became a holiday for the whole country. People in Russia carefully keep traditions of celebrating Victory Day. The greatest of them is military parades. They are held in almost all cities. People walk in columns to praise the veterans and to show the military power of our nation. There is also a tradition to lay wreaths and flowers to the tombs of soldiers and war monuments.

In the evening people have family dinners, watch fireworks and sing patriotic songs.



In the early 2000s there was one more tradition established. It is the immortal regiment. People carry pictures of their dead relatives who were soldiers at war. It seems that all people unite and become unconquerable.

George Ribbon became the symbol of the Victory day in 2005. It traces its history to 1769. Empress Catherine II established it. It was the sign of special distinction for soldiers. Nowadays young people tie "Georgievka" on their clothes as a sign of respect, memory and solidarity with the heroic Russian soldiers who defend the freedom of our country in the 40s.



### Activities

Draw a post card. Write a letter to a war veteran.

### Discuss

Why do you think Victory Day is an important nowadays in Russia?  
What do you do to celebrate Victory Day?



## Festivals

Dear, *Spotlight on Russia*

Hi! I'm in class 5 at school. We're doing a school project about festivals in Bashkortostan. Can you tell us about a special Bashkir celebration?

### *Sabantuy Festival*

Sabantuy is a great holiday for countryside workers in Bashkortostan. It means that the field's job was ended.

It does not have a set date. The festivities take place approximately from June 15 to July 1, and usually fall on a Sunday.

There are more than 20 national and common types of sport competitions and games in the Sabantuy program. The major competitions are the Bashkir national wrestling- "Kuresh" and the horse races. There are also a lot of funny competitions and sport games, for example, egg-races, "running-in-sacks" races. Climbing up a high pole is rather difficult, but very funny. The prize is a big cock, sitting on the top!

Everyone can taste original and delicious food from the region learned the secrets to making koumiss, a fizzy drink that is said to cure diseases.

All competitions of the Sabantuy are accompanied by concerts of national ensembles, dances and songs, fair of crafts, products of decorative art. Everyone tries to show his or her skills and talent.



The Bashkir national wrestling- "Kuresh"



A man is trying to get a cock! It's difficult, isn't it?



The girl is wearing the Bashkir national costume.

#### ACTIVITIES

Can you talk about Sabantuy festival?

When do people celebrate Sabantuy?

Are there any competitions at the festival?

Write and tell us about another festival in Bashkortostan.

Send photos too!

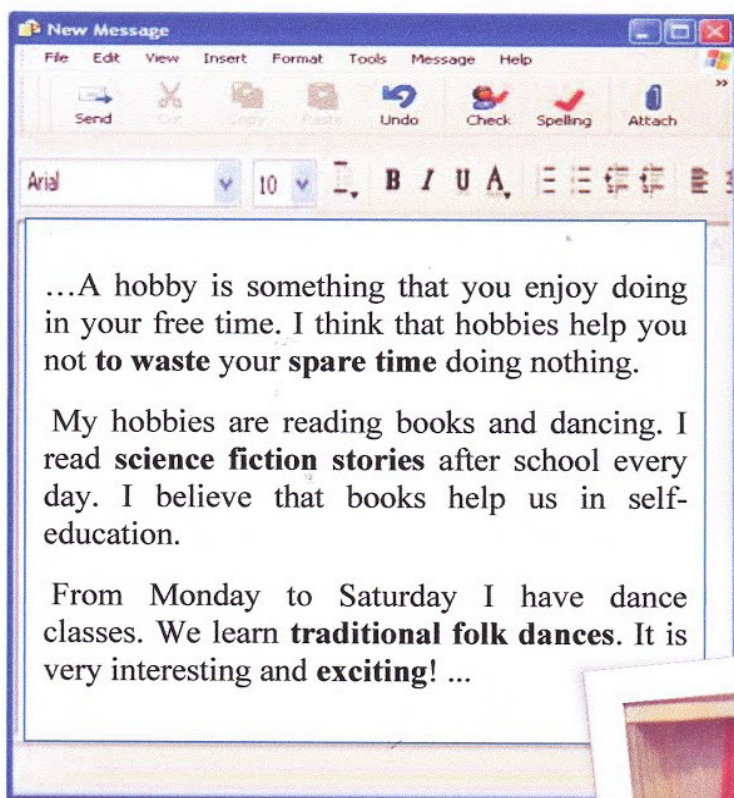


# HOBBIES

(ПИКАЛОВА НАТАЛЬЯ АЛЕКСАНДРОВНА — МБОУ «ОКТЯБРЬСКАЯ СОШ»)

## Hobbies

This is part of an e-mail to the *Spotlight on Russia* website. It is from Anna Ivanova, Orenburg region.



### DISCUSS

- What are your/your friends' hobbies?
- Explain the words in bold.

### ACTIVITIES

Write an e-mail in English about your hobby. (50-60 words)

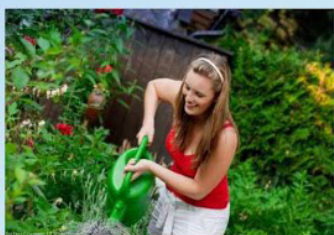


# Hobbies

A hobby is something you very much like to do in your free (свободное) time, such as making models, growing flowers or collecting different things.

Each man has his peculiar hobby. (Latin Proverb)

What's a hobby? Which kinds of hobby do you know?  
*Spotlight on Russia* finds out more information about it.



Read the text and say what hobbies people can have.

Different people like doing different things; different people have different hobbies. My father is fond of collecting stamps. He has got a very good collection and he is proud of it. His stamps can tell you about different people and different countries. My father says that his hobby is popular with people of all ages.

Collecting stamps is easy and interesting. It is real fun. You begin to learn many interesting facts about history and famous people when you start to collect stamps. Sometimes people specialize in stamps of one subject only: for example, birds, animals or flowers. Birds or flowers is your theme. This kind of collecting is called thematic. My father's collection is thematic. His theme is the protection of nature.

My mother is a collector too. She is fond of collecting butterflies. She keeps her butterflies on the wall. When you come into her room you can see them all there.

My grandfather collected coins when he was a boy. Some people collect dolls. My aunt does. When she travels she always brings home dolls from different countries.

Collecting things is not the only hobby people have. Some people are fond of travelling, gardening or knitting.

If you have one, what is your hobby?

## ACTIVITIES

Let's play a game. Could you give a summary of this text? Make it as you can but don't forget important facts. Let's see who the champion is.

## DISCUSS

Tell your classmates:

- What a hobby is;
- What hobbies you know;
- What things people usually collect;
- What a thematic collection is.



# HOBBIES

## My hobby is fencing!

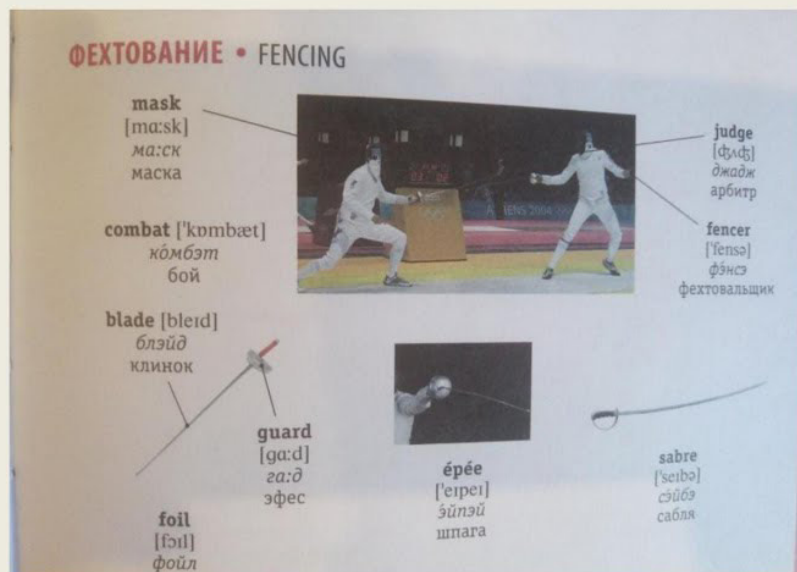
There are many different hobbies and out door activities: horse riding, parachute jumping, cycling. I like fencing.

Three times a week, I go to sports center. I have fencing lessons after school. I enjoy doing fencing in my free time. There are three forms of modern fencing: foil, épée and sabre. They have different rules. I do fencing with sabre. I put on protective clothing and combat with another fencer.

I love fencing!

## ACTIVITIES: Match them up!

- |           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 1. mask   | a) бой          |
| 2. combat | b) клинок       |
| 3. blade  | c) сабля        |
| 4. foil   | d) эфес         |
| 5. guard  | e) арбитр       |
| 6. épée   | f) маска        |
| 7. sabre  | g) эфес         |
| 8. fencer | h) фехтовальщик |
| 9. judge  | j) шпага        |



## DISCUSS

What are your favourite activities and hobbies?

What do you like doing in your free time?

How much free time do you have?





# Holidays

## See You at Summer Camp!

Orenburg region has got over 1100 children's camps. Every year, over 400,000 children go to camp - especially in the summer. They go for health reasons, to make new friends or just to have a great time. They swim, sunbathe, play sports and enjoy campfires, concerts and discos.

*Spotlight on Russia* looks at one very special camp ...

### Solnechnaya Strana

#### Children's Centre



My name is Dasha Mamontova. Last summer I went to the camp "Solnechnaya Strana" in the Tyulgansky district, Orenburg region. I had a great time there. We played sports, swam in the swimming pool and had art and dance classes. The time flew very quickly. It was a wonderful summer in my life!

**Any child who comes to "Solnechnaya Strana" will have the best holidays of a lifetime!**

#### ACTIVITIES

- Do you go to summer camp? Where?
- What can you see in the photographs? Choose one photo and describe it.





# HOLIDAYS

(МОРОЗОВА ИРИНА ЕВГЕНЬЕВНА — МБОУ СОШ № 27)



## HOLIDAYS

Summer – it's time for happy holidays! So, let's find out where we can have a good rest within the city boundaries. Spotlight on Russia looks at school health camp "Summer" in Khimki, Moscow region

### SCHOOL HEALTH CAMP "SUMMER"

*This summer camp is situated on the basis of school in Khimki, Moscow region and works two shifts - on June and July. There are 4 units in the camp, they include children of different ages. It's a splendid opportunity to have a well-organized rest at a new comfortable school if you can't allow yourself to go to any suburban camp.*

*The camp provides optional classes where you can choose what you like most of all. But one of the camp distinctive characteristic is theme English lesson. During this lesson you can revise all the studied lexicology as well as improve your knowledge through role-playing, quiz and quest games.*

*The camp offers Moscow city sightseeing tour and visit to Moscow zoo. Children have four meals a day and a wonderful sport and entertainment programmes. The school health camp "Summer" waits for you!*



### ACTIVITY

Imagine there's a summer health camp for children at your school. Have you got any ideas how to organize an exciting rest in this camp? Write and tell us about it.

### DISCUSS

Do you like visiting school summer camp? Why or why not. What theme activities do children provide during English classes in the photographs?

Where do you prefer to spend your summer holidays?





The Eskimos have two types of houses. In summer they live in tents. These houses are usually built of wood, whalebone and covered with seal skins and earth. Seal oil is burned for warmth and light.

*The Eskimos, or Esquimaux, are indigenous people of Alaska.*

In winter the Eskimos live in igloos. These ice houses are made from blocks of snow and have got a hole in the top for a chimney. Igloos can be of different shapes and sizes. The igloos for hunting trips are small and only accommodate one person, while larger ones can shelter a family.

*The name "igloo" derives from the word "iglu" meaning "house, dwelling" in the Eskimo-Aleut language.*

The interior of an igloo is a dome-shaped space with ice and snow-packed walls. Snow is a good insulator, and igloos shelter the inhabitants from the wind which can reduce the outside temperature considerably. Igloos trap the body heat, and it has been estimated that a single oil lamp combined with body heat can raise the temperature inside an igloo by 40 degrees above that of the outside air. The heat inside melts a layer of the snow which refreezes overnight and seals any gaps in the walls.

## Activity

Prepare a project of your future igloo. Describe its interior and exterior design. Present it to our

## HOMES

### SPOTLIGHT ON RUSSIA GETS ACQUAINTED WITH ESKIMO HOUSES – IGLOOS.

The Eskimos use willow twigs as a mattress and bedding made from thick fur to insulate the heat within their sleeping areas. They use these materials so they can insulate the heat to remain near their bodies. In addition, they also choose to sleep with a group. The more people to sleep in an Eskimo, the more body heat there is available to warm the atmosphere.

By the way, you can visit igloo hotels. For



example, the hotel "Горная территория"

is a typical igloo resting area located in Sochi. Of course, it's a kind of imitation. But it can be inspiring and not so extremely to experience. The official site is <http://igloohotel.ru/>.



## Discuss

1. Would you like to see igloos or try to live in them for just a short period of time?
2. Have you ever spent a night outside, e.g. in a tent while camping?



# HOMES (БАБУШКИНА ЛЮДМИЛА МИХАЙЛОВНА — МОУ «ГИМНАЗИЯ С. МАЛАЯ ПУРГА»)

"Ludorvai" is the architectural and ethnographic museum-reserve. It is an open-air museum. It is located in a beautiful place. It is 17 km from the city of Izhevsk, the capital of the Udmurt Republic.

# Homes

## Spotlight on Russia visits the museum at the Udmurt Republic.

### We are at Ludorvai, near Izhevsk.

This is a typical udmurt house. The houses were located along the rivers.



That is «kenos». It's like a summer house. The family lived there from April to October. Kenos is one of the most ancient building. Their appearance is connected with hunters. They left the warm houses in the spring and built a summer house (kenos).



### Let's look inside the udmurt house.

«Korka», as well as an izba among Russians, is the main building of Udmurt country people and it is a log house with a big stove, a ceiling and a floor



Also there is outer entrance hall [korkaz'].



There are different sorts of traditional buildings in different parts of Russia. Draw or photograph some old buildings and tell about them.

### Activities:

- \* Draw your room and sign the furniture in it.
- \* Compare your house with the house of the 19th century.

Here's an e-mail to the *Spotlight on Russia* website from the students Dasha Mamontova and Anna Ivanova, Orenburg region.

Homes

## Spotlight on Russia visits Oktyabrskoe, Orenburg region



I live in a block of flats. My flat is on the second floor. It is small. There are 4 rooms: a living room, a kitchen and 2 bedrooms. There is a bathroom and a balcony in our flat too. My favorite room is my bedroom. We have got a lot of furniture: a table, two beds, a sofa, three wardrobes, two armchairs and six chairs. There are beautiful paintings on the wall.  
(Dasha Mamontova)

Some people think it is a good idea to live in a flat. I think it is much better to live in a house. My family and I live in a big house. We can enjoy a yard with a lot of flowers and fruit trees. We can spend our free time there.

The hall is rather big. On the wall there is a big mirror. In the living room there is a thick carpet on the floor. The bedrooms are small but very cozy. The kitchen is very comfortable. We also have a bathroom. In the bathroom there is a bath, a washbasin and a mirror above the washbasin.

I love my house! (Anna Ivanova)



**Write an e-mail in English about your house/flat.**

**Answer the following questions:**

1. What type of house do you live in?
2. How many rooms are there?
3. What is your favourite room? Why?
4. Do you like your house/flat?

ACTIVITIES



*Spotlight on Russia* goes on a school excursion. Come with us to ...

# Museums

## Tula

### The Museum of Tula Samovars



70 litres samovar

A samovar is the symbol of Russian cultural originality. Instead of this beautiful paunchy machine, a kettle is used today. The best samovars have always been made in Tula. The museum of Tula samovars is located in the historic building named after Tsar Alexander II and this is the cultural landmark of the city. The museum has a huge number of samovars: from a gigantic 70 litres samovar, to a small samovar that holds only three droplets of water.



A "spider" samovar



The museum of Tula Samovars



Samovar in a bottle

#### DISCUSS

- Imagine you went to the Museum of Tula Samovars last week. Did you like the visit? What did you see there?
- Do you like tea? What do you prefer to drink it with?
- Do you know any other items made in Tula?

#### ACTIVITY

*Think about other symbols of Russian cultural originality!*  
*Write and tell us about the one you like!*

*Spotlight on Russia goes on a school excursion. Come with us to ...*

# Museums

## Angarsk Clock Museum

In a small Siberian town of Angarsk, there is a unique museum where you can watch a great collection of clocks. It was founded by Pavel Kurdyukov, an electromechanician who repaired and collected clocks as a hobby. Visitors can see not only Russian but also French, German, Japanese and Swiss exhibits made in XVIII-XX centuries. Clocks shaped as an elephant, a steam train, a boat, a castle, a sewing machine and a plane amaze viewers. A space clock donated by Georgy Grechko, a Soviet astronaut, is also a hit. New exhibits get into the museum from time to time, so you can come and enjoy your visit again!



## Activities

- 1) Have you got a clock at home? How old is it?
- 2) Have you got a smart watch or would you like to have one?
- 3) Find out and tell your classmates about ways to measure time in ancient times. Compare them with modern ones.



## Spotlight on Russia goes on a school excursion. Come with us to...

# Museums

### Local History exhibition hall of the Oktyabrsky district

Local History Museum was founded by the teacher Ignatiy Voropaev in 1964. In 2013 it was called Local History exhibition hall of the Oktyabrsky district. There are 5 expositions:

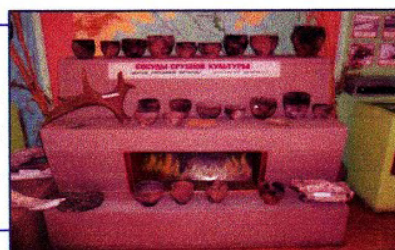


#### Ethnography and the model of life of the 19th century

There is a typical *izba* with a large clay oven, low benches along the walls, the “krasny corner” with the family icon and a special table.

#### Kargaly - the forgotten world

There are the vessels (сосуды) which are more than 3,000 years old. They were found by the archaeologists from Moscow directed by E. Chernikh in the area of the district.



#### My fellows – the defenders of the Motherland

It is devoted to surviving veterans and those who died in World War II and the local wars. You can find here the Books of Memory.

### ACTIVITIES

- Do you often go on excursions? Where do you go?
- What museums are there in your area?



#### In the world of animals

There are the stuffed animals and birds that live in the area of the district.



#### Exhibition of paintings and sculptures

There are the works by Ramil Khantemirov, Paul Inkin and others.





## Museums

### Spotlight on Russia goes on an excursion.

**Hello! My name is Darya, I am in Year 5 at school. My favourite school subject is History. Come with me to Buguruslanskiy Local History Museum.**



Buguruslan in Orenburg Region is famous for its wooden houses, oil industry and multi-cultural friendship. The Local History Museum in Buguruslan was founded by Alexander Nikolayevich Karamzin, the last owner of the village Polibino, a miner engineer, a statesman, a scientist in the very beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A lot of cultural collections and exhibits were lost during the Great October Revolution. But in spite of these difficulties the local history museum was renewed and opened again in 1930. The museum was famous for its numerous exhibits, its library which contained 6 thousand books, and the art studio. A. Anikhovsky found several burial mounds. Nowadays archeologists are collecting new subjects of ethnography.

When you enter the museum, a brown bear greets you. You can find traditional national costumes of peoples living in Buguruslan, you can see how people lived before. There is a hall that contains different things that were found after the Great Patriotic War like forks, guns, helmets, officers' and soldiers' uniforms, their letters to relatives and other things connected with the Great Patriotic War.

**Buguruslanskiy Local History Museum is worth visiting! You are welcome!**



#### Activities

**Imagine you are going to work in a local history museum. Prepare a speech for your first visitors. How will you grab their attention?**

#### Discuss

- ❖ **Is there a local history museum in your area?**
- ❖ **What local history museum could you recommend?**





# OUR COUNTRY

(ВОРОТЫНОВА ВЕРА ВАЛЕРИЕВНА — МБОУ «СОШ № 50» Г. КЕМЕРОВО)

In order to celebrate the 70th birthday of the Kemerovo region the most remarkable natural, historical, architectural and cultural objects of Kuzbass were defined.

## Spotlight on Russia visits the Golden Ring of Kuzbass...

### 7 wonders of Kuzbass

1. The mountain range "Podnebesnye Zubya" ("Sky Teeth") – one of the most beautiful part of the Kuznetsk Alatau, it is situated next to the town of Mezhdurechensk.
2. The Museum-Reserve<sup>1</sup> "Tomsk Pisanitsa" in the Yashkinsky district, the main objects of which are the unique paintings of ancient people – petroglyphs<sup>2</sup>. This museum is situated on the right bank<sup>3</sup> of the River Tom.
3. The Kuznetsk fortress - historic and architectural monument in Novokuznetsk. It was built in 1799. It is the only West Siberian military fortress of the 19<sup>th</sup> century which is still preserved<sup>4</sup>.
4. The Azasskaya cave in the Mountain Shoria in the Tashtagolsky district can be the home of the yeti. The Snowman Day is officially celebrated in the Kemerovo region in November, 11. The length of the Cave is 7 kilometers.
5. The sculpture "Golden Shoriya" in the town of Tashtagol by the sculptor Darya Nadmakova – the symbol of the past, the present and the future of the Kuzbass people.
6. The city-museum Mariinsk – a small old Siberian town, where there are 74 architectural monuments.
7. The monument "Memories to miners of Kuzbass" by the sculptor Ernest Neizvestny – the symbol of the hard miners' work in order to remember the dead miners. It was opened in 2003 on the bank of the Tom River in Kemerovo.

The tourist route "The Golden Ring of Kuzbass" appeared in Kemerovo region in 2014, its program includes all these cultural and natural places of the region to visit by tourists.

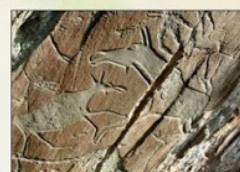
### ACTIVITY

Find out 7 wonders of your region or city. Share the information with your classmates.

### DISCUSS

- When did the Golden Ring of Kuzbass appear?
- Why was it named in such a way?
- What places are there in this tourist route?

## OUR COUNTRY



<sup>1</sup>reserve – заповедник

<sup>2</sup>petroglyphs – петроглифы (древние наскальные рисунки)

<sup>3</sup>right bank – правый берег (реки)

<sup>4</sup>is still preserved – все еще сохраняется

*There are a lot of lakes in Russia but everybody knows that the deepest and most beautiful one is Lake Baikal.*

### **Spotlight on Russia** has a trip to Lake Baikal, Irkutsk Region

Lake Baikal is the largest freshwater lake by volume in the world, containing 22-23% of the world's fresh surface water with 23,615 km<sup>3</sup> of fresh water. It contains more water than Great Lakes combined with a maximum depth of 1,642 m, Baikal is the world's deepest lake. It is considered among the world's clearest lakes and is considered the world's oldest lakes - at 25-30 million years. It is the seventh largest lake in the world by surface area.

The Baikal Seal or nerpa is found throughout Lake Baikal. It is one of only three freshwater seal population in the world. A wide range of land mammals can be found in the habitats around the lake, such as brown bear, Eurasian wolf, red fox, sable, Siberian red deer, reindeer, red squirrel, Alpine hare.

#### Activities

Imagine that you are going to have a trip to Lake Baikal on holidays. You need to get more information about this place. Think over and ask four questions to find out the following:

- The weather
- What clothes to take
- Activities
- Food

#### Discuss:

- Where is Lake Baikal located?
- What is it famous for?
- How old is the Lake?

# Lake Baikal



#### Word list

- Volume
- Surface
- Depth
- mammal



# OUR COUNTRY

(МАСАЛОВА МАРИЯ АЛЕКСЕЕВНА — МБОУ «ГИМНАЗИЯ № 22», Г. МАЙКОП)

## OUR COUNTRY

Russia is a country of many cultures and unique places. Let's travel to the south of the country and meet a small and hospitable republic.



*Spotlight on Russia* looks at the Republic of Adygeya.

### The Republic of Adygeya

The Republic of Adygeya is situated in the northern foothills of Caucasus Mountains in the south of Russia. This region is rich in waterfalls, canyons, fir forests, caves and rocks. The tourists like to visit this great place. The republic has a population of about 400 thousand people. There live people of many nationalities: Russians, Adygs, Armenians and others. A lot of people speak Adyghe language as well as Russian. The national adyghe culture and food are famous all over the world: dances, music and adyghe cheese.



### The Valley of Apples

Maykop is the capital of the Republic of Adygeya. It was founded in 1857. Nearly 150 thousand people live there. The name of the town means "the valley of apple". You can still see a lot of fruit gardens and flowers there. Maykop is famous for its wide and straight clean streets, historical buildings, a beautiful park with a large open-air swimming pool, museums and galleries.



### ACTIVITIES

Find out about other republics in Russia. Share the information with your classmates.



## OUR COUNTRY

*Russia is a country of many cultures and unique places.  
Let's travel to the south of the country and meet  
magnificent place.*

**Spotlight on Russia** looks at the Republic of Crimea...

### Welcome to the Crimea

People like to travel, because during the traveling you can learn a lot of new things and make new friends. There are many interesting places, where you can rest. One of such places in Russia is the Crimea.

The Crimea is the peninsula in the Black Sea. Along the coast there are many health resorts and beaches, bays and picturesque mountains. In the Crimea there are many attractions and places for excursions. You can go to Yalta's zoo and large botanical garden, splendid palaces as Lastochkino Gnezdo and Vorontsov Palace and beautiful cascades.

In the Crimea there are such unique nature creations as stalactite caves. These caves are situated on Chatyrdag Mountain, the highest mountain in the Crimea.

In addition you visited unique valley between mountains called the Ghosts' Valley. The wind created fantastic and beautiful stone figures. One of them looks like the head of a man named Lord of the Ghosts' Valley.

Everyone can visit peninsula and see all the miracles of nature.



ACTIVITY

Find out more information about sights of the Crimea and  
share with the classmates.



# Our Country



*Russia is a multinational state. About 150 million people live here. In Russia there are about 1200 cities and towns. One of them will be discussed.*

## Elektrogorsk is my small homeland.

Elektrogorsk dated back to 1912-1914 as a settlement with the first Soviet power station, working on peat, designed by Robert Eduardovich Classon the talented engineer. The settlement was built quickly, barracks and houses for workers appeared there. This beautiful, light, European-style houses have survived so far in the town.

In the village there was a council, a school, vocational courses, a hospital, a malaria station, a day nursery, a postal and telephone office, 9 shops and a canteen of the *Consumer Society* and working club.

April 25, 1946, the settlement of *Power transmission* was transformed into the city of Elektrogorsk. Since that time, many things have changed.

In 2014, the Lenin Club Culture was reopened, which for a long time was under reconstruction. May 15, 2015, the new sport center "Leader" with the swimming pool was built. The recreation zone "Visiting a fairy tale" is being developed, the city park is being renovated near the Lenin club. September 18, 2015 the Youth Centre was opened. The city is actively built up with new residential complexes.

### DISCUSS

- Who is the founder of Elektrogorsk. What do you know about him?
- What sights are there in your city?

### ACTIVITY

- Remember the history of the city and briefly tell it.
- Imagine that you are a correspondent. What questions would you ask the residents of the city to write an article about?

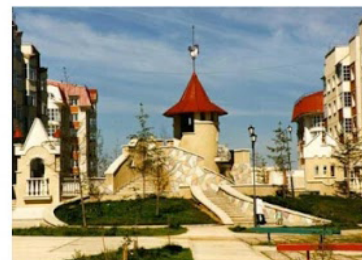


## OUR COUNTRY

Russia is one of the largest and richest countries in the world.

There are a lot of wonderful places to visit in Russia. To the northeast of Kaluga lies a small town called Maloyaroslavets. It is a land of legendary history and wonderful people.

Spotlight on Russia visits the town of military glory.



### Maloyaroslavets.

Maloyaroslavets is one of the oldest towns of Russia. It is 600 years old. The first historical document which is spoken about Maloyaroslavets was "Spiritual Document". The town was founded in 1402.

There are many fascinating places to visit in Maloyaroslavets. The most unusual place of interest is Chernooostrovsky Convent. On the gates one can see the marks of bullets made during of the battle of 1812.

In the middle of the central square of the town you can see a monument to G. K. Zhukov. There are some museums and one library in the town. The museum of 1812 is one of them. The collection of this museum contains interesting exhibits.

During the Great Patriotic War the inhabitants of Maloyaroslavets fought bravely against fascist invaders for freedom and peace. In memory of the killed soldiers there are some monuments on fraternal tombs.

#### Glossary

Spiritual-духовный

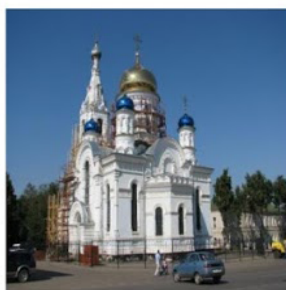
Convent-монастырь

Bullet-пуля

Battle-сражение

Fraternal-братский

Invader-захватчик.



#### Activity

Find more information about visiting Maloyaroslavets.

Think about:

- interesting places to visit
- well-known people
- historical events



# OUR COUNTRY

(ЯРЦЕВА ТАТЬЯНА ВЛАДИМИРОВНА — МБОУ ШКОЛА № 41, Г. НИЖНИЙ НОВГОРОД)

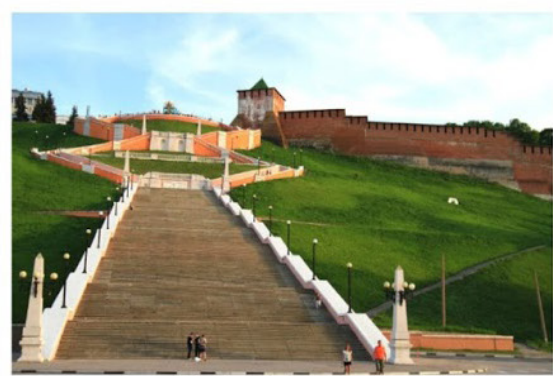
There are almost 1100 cities in Russia. Some of them are very old and played a great role in the history of Russia. Nizhny Novgorod is one of them...

## OUR COUNTRY

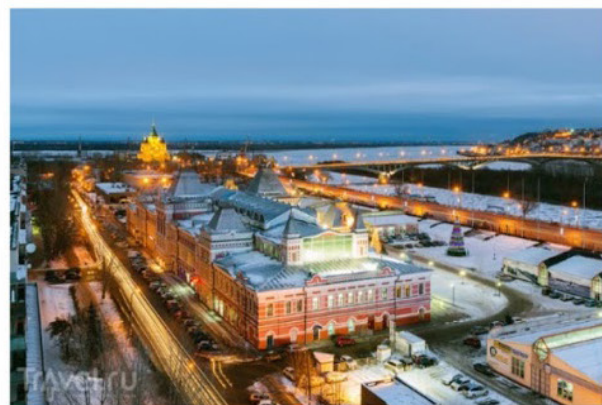


## Spotlight on Russia invites you to Nizhny Novgorod

**Nizhny Novgorod** colloquially shortened to **Nizhny**, is a city in the administrative center of Volga Federal District and Nizhny Novgorod Oblast in Russia. From 1932 to 1990, it was known as **Gorky** after the writer Maxim Gorky, who was born there. It stands on the banks of two great Russian rivers – the Volga and the Oka. The city is an important economic, transportation, scientific, educational and cultural center in Russia and is the main center of river tourism in Russia. In the historic part of the city there is a large number of universities, theaters, museums and churches. Nizhny Novgorod is located about 400 km east of Moscow.



The city was founded in 1221 by Prince Yuri Vsevolodovich of Vladimir. In 1612 Kuzma Minin and Prince Dmitry Pozharsky organized an army for the liberation of Moscow from the Poles. In 1817 Nizhny Novgorod became a trade center of the Russian Empire. In 1896 at a fair, an All-Russia Exhibition was organized. About 1.5 mln people live in Nizhny Novgorod today.



### Discuss

- Do you like travelling? Why or why not?
- Look at the pictures
- What other cities would you like to visit?

### Activity

Collect information and pictures about a Russian city or town which you visited not long ago. Write a short report for English tourists. Don't forget to write about:

- It's name
- location
- what it is famous for
- what you can see there



# Our Country

## One Country, Many Cultures ...

### Spotlight on Russia looks at Orenburg Region

Orenburg Region is one of the largest and most beautiful regions in Russia. It was founded in 1934. The capital of the region is Orenburg. Orenburg Region is situated in the Southern Ural. The river Ural divides it into Europe and Asia. In the South and in the East our region borders on Kazakhstan. In the North it borders on Chelyabinsk Region and Bashkortostan and in the West on Samara Region. The population of the region is about 2 million people. Its total area is about 124000 square kilometers.



## Oktyabrskoe

1. Oktyabrskoe is a big village, a district centre on the River Big (Bolshoi) Yushatyr. It is situated 75 kilometers to the regional centre Orenburg.

2. There are about 8,000 people in Oktyabrskoe, with different nationalities – Russians, Tatars, Kazakhs, Ukrainians, Bashkirs and more.

3. There are some sightseeing places. One of them is the Alley of Fame. It is the most beautiful park in the village where you can see different kinds of the military equipment, the monument to Unknown Soldier with the eternal flame, the monument to heroes of the local wars and the tall clock tower.



*The monument to Unknown Soldier*



*The River Big Yushatyr*

4. In the centre of the village there are the monument to V. Lenin, the Church of St. Michael the Archangel and the Local History Museum where you can find some information about the village, its history, people and traditions.

Welcome to Oktyabrskoe!

### ACTIVITIES

Read the text and match the title to each paragraph. One title is extra.

1. **Nationalities**
2. **Languages**
3. **Location**
4. **Park**
5. **Sightseeing**



**Have you been to Rostov Veliky? If not, *Spotlight on Russia* would like you to visit it.**

## **ROSTOV**

**OUR  
COUNTRY**

### **Landmarks of Old Russian Architecture**



Rostov Veliky (Rostov-the-Great) is one of the most **ancient** cities in Russia. First mentioned in the chronicles of 862, Rostov played an important part in Russian History.

During the formation of ancient Russian **state** it became the major town of Rostov-Suzdal principality and an important political and cultural centre of the Russian north-east.

The earliest of the surviving **masonry** structures of Rostov date back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Its

architectural centre is the ensemble of Cathedral Square and the Metropolitan's Residence. The Rostov Kremlin was created by genius of anonymous Russian architects. Its buildings include richly **embellished** chambers, high churches and well proportioned towers. The Kremlin is characterized by the diversity of its architectural forms, **echoed** by polyphony of the bells ringing in the Kremlin belfry. The charming beauty of the Kremlin's architectural ensemble is emphasized by magnificent Cathedral of the Dormition, which has been the

symbol of Rostov for many years.



The Spaso-Yakovlev monastery gives the finishing touch to Rostov's architectural ensembles which are **stretching** along Lake Nero. It can be seen to best advantage from the Moscow highway.

Nowadays architects strive for retaining the Russian building tradition. Thus the new hotel complex Rostov Veliky



### **VOCABULARY**

**ANCIENT** – древний

**IMPORTANT** – важный

**STATE** – государство

**MASONRY** – каменная кладка

**EMBELLISHED** – украшенный

**ECHO** – вторить

**Discuss**

**Activity**

1. Do you like travelling?
2. What cities have you been to?
3. Are you going to visit Rostov after reading about it?

Collect more information and pictures about Rostov and write a short report for English tourists. Don't forget to write about:

- its name
- location
- what it is famous for
- what you can see there





## Our Country

# Siberian Switzerland



The coat of arms

*Our district is the richest of Novosibirsk oblast and the main wealth is people.*

We live in Maslyaninsky district. It is very beautiful place. Sometimes it is called Siberian Switzerland. District located on **the foothills of the Salair ridge**. River Berd flows here. It's the the biggest one.

District has rich nature. A lot of forests with **moose, roe deer, foxes, wolves and hares**. There are three monuments of nature "Barsukovskaya cave", "Elbanska spruce" and "Petenevskaya spruce".

People of Maslyaninsky district are very **hardworking**. The main product is **flax**. Flax is present on **the coat of arms** of the district. Also they produce bricks, **plywood**, doors and windows, **furniture**, bakery products, **canned** vegetables, cheese and dairy. On the Suenga river gold is **mined**.

Centre of district is Maslyanino. It has some **attraction**. There is **the memorial of the fallen in the Great Patriotic War** at the entrance to the village. In the centre of the village is **St. Nicholas Cathedral**. There are sports complex, swimming pool, sports club Olympian, sports school, winter skating rinks in the district center.



wealth - богатство  
the foothills of the Salair ridge - предгорье Салаирского кряжа  
moose - лоси  
roe deer - косули  
Barsukovskaya cave - Барсуковская пещера  
Elbanska spruce - Елбанские ельники  
Petenevskaya spruce - Петенёвские ельники  
hardworking - трудолюбивые  
flax - лён  
plywood - фанера  
furniture - мебель  
canned - консервированные  
is mined - добывается  
attraction - достопримечательности  
the memorial of the fallen in the Great Patriotic War - монумент павшим в Великой Отечественной Войне  
St. Nicholas Cathedral - собор Святого Николая

*Look at the pictures. Read and choose the picture.*

River Berd

St. Nicholas Cathedral

The memorial of the fallen in the Great Patriotic War

Field of flax

Barsukovskaya cave

Bricks from Maslyanino

*Read the text. Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?*

1. The biggest river in district is the Berd. \_\_\_\_
2. There are a lot of animals in the forests. \_\_\_\_
3. There are five monuments of nature. \_\_\_\_
4. Bricks are present on the coat of arm. \_\_\_\_
5. St. Nickolas Cathedral is in the centre of village. \_\_\_\_



# OUR COUNTRY

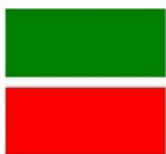
(ХАМИДУЛЛИНА ГУЛЬНАРА РАФИСОВНА — МБОУ «ХАСАНШАЙХСКАЯ ООШ», С. ХАСАНШАЙХ)

## Our Country

One Country, Many Cultures....  
Russia is a multi-national state with over 185 ethnic groups designed as nationalities. Among the 85 subjects which constitute in Russia, there are 21 national republics and 1 autonomous oblast.

## Spotlight on Russia in The Republic of Tatarstan

### DISCUSS



Flag

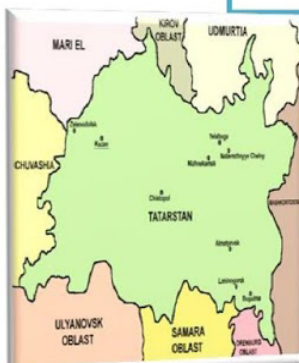
Do you like to visit Tatarstan?  
With which republics are border Tatarstan?  
What is the capital of Tatarstan?

### Coat of arms



### ACTIVITY

Fill out a fact file like this about Tatarstan



Name:  
Location:  
Occupation:  
Nationalities:  
Languages:

The Republic of Tatarstan is a federal subject of the Russian Federation, located in the Volga Federal District. Its capital is the city of Kazan. The republic borders Kirov, Ulyanovsk, Samara, and Orenburg Oblasts, the Mari El, Udmurt, and Chuvash Republics, and the Republic of Bashkortostan. The area of the republic is 68,000 square kilometres. There are about 2 million ethnic Tatars and 1.5 million ethnic Russians, along with significant numbers of Chuvash, Mari, and Udmurts, some of whom are Tatar-speaking. The Ukrainian, Mordvin, and Bashkir minorities are also significant. In accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Tatarstan the two state languages of the republic are Tatar and Russian.

### Tatar national costume





# Our Country

**Russia is the largest and one of the most developed<sup>1</sup> country in the world. It has got rich history and wonderful nature. There are a lot of places to visit in Russia.**

**Spotlight on Russia** invites you to Tatarstan - one of the most attractive regions for tourists in Russia.



The Republic of Tatarstan is a subject of the Russian Federation.

Tatarstan is located in the center of the European part

of Russia on the East European Plain, at the confluence<sup>2</sup> the Volga and Kama Rivers.

Tatarstan is a multinational Republic. The main two nationalities are Tatars and Russians. The official languages of Tatarstan are Tatar and Russian. Today, Tatarstan's population is 3.8 million people. Tatars and Russians, Chuvashes and Udmurts, Mordovians and Maris, Ukrainians and Bashkirs live in Tatarstan in peace and harmony.

The capital is Kazan. In 2005, it celebrated its 1000<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

There are many interesting tourist places throughout the Republic of Tatarstan. This, for example, the famous ancient city of Bolgar, the unique island-hillstones of Sviyazhsk.



*Kazan is the capital of Universiade` 2013*



*Sviyazhsk was built by Ivan the Terrible as a fortress<sup>4</sup> for the siege of Kazan*



*The Great Bolgar (Bulgar) - the ruins of an ancient city on the bank of the river.*

<sup>1</sup>powerful  
<sup>2</sup>mix  
<sup>3</sup>name

<sup>4</sup>a strong building that can be protect from attack

## ACTIVITIES

- What is your republic or area you live in famous for?
- Tell your partner about the republic or area you live in.



# OUR COUNTRY

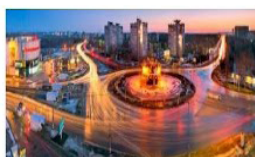
(ТАЦЯН НЕЛЛИ ЭДИКОВНА — МБОУ КАРСУНСКАЯ СШ ИМ. Д.Н. ГУСЕВА)

**Sinbirsk, Simbirsk, Ulyanovsk – three names of one city.**

## Spotlight on Russia

### Ulyanovsk overview

**Ulyanovsk** (in 1648-1780 - Sinbirsk, in 1780-1924 - Simbirsk) is a city in the European part of Russia, the capital of the Ulyanovsk region, standing on Privolzhsky hill, on the banks of the Volga River (Kuybyshevsky water reservoir) and the Sviyaga River, 879 km southeast of Moscow.



Ulyanovsk was founded by Tsar Alexey Mikhailovich's decree as a fortress called Sinbirsk in 1648. The fortress was built to protect the Russian kingdom's eastern borders from the raids of nomadic tribes.

In 1780, it became the main town of Simbirsk governorship (province) and received a new name Simbirsk. In 1864, a great fire destroyed three-quarters of the buildings.

In Soviet times, the city received a new name - Ulyanovsk - in honor of Vladimir Ulyanov (Lenin), the leader of the Bolsheviks, who was born in Simbirsk.

Informal name of the city: Aviation Capital of Russia.

There are different nationalities - Russians, Tatars, Chuvash, Mordvinians, Ukrainians.

The longest bridge over the river Volga is in Ulyanovsk

There are two airports, a river port, a railway hub in Ulyanovsk. Urban transport is presented by trams, trolleybuses, buses, and minivans.



### Ulyanovsk places of interest

Ulyanovsk can rightly be called a city of museums. Numerous museums offer exhibitions about the city's history, culture and architecture. The history of several museums has its origins in the distant past, when Simbirsk scholars and merchants collected and presented to their hometown great cultural and scientific heritage.



The most popular museums in Ulyanovsk are: Local History Museum named after I.A. Goncharov, The state historical and memorial preserve "Lenin's Homeland".

This museum is a unique complex of historical, cultural and architectural monuments of old Simbirsk. There are ten museums and an exhibition hall showing the life and traditions of the people of Simbirsk, architectural appearance of the old town, the history of Simbirsk crafts and trade. Also there are parks, theaters, such as Ulyanovsk Regional Drama Theater named after Ivan Goncharov, Puppet Theater named after Valentina Leontieva, Youth Theater "Nebolshoy Theater",



### ACTIVITIES

**Do you want to visit Ulyanovsk?**

**What facts about your city do you know?**

**Imagine you are in Ulyanovsk,**

**What place of interest would you like to see the first?**



*Have you ever heard about the only city in Russia that begins with the letter "y"? This city is also called «Small Venice». This article will help you to find the answer.*

## Our country

### Spotlight on Russia invites you to Yoshkar-Ola

Translated from the Mari language "Yoshkar-Ola" means "red city". This is the name of the capital of the Republic received in 1928. Throughout the history of Mari, the capital was a quiet provincial village. A lot of interesting architectural sights and many unusual buildings and monuments appeared in the city in recent years, for example, the Kremlin.



Tourists walking along our beautiful embankment can easily imagine themselves in Venice. Embankment in Yoshkar-Ola - is not just a cluster of monuments and attractions that want to conquer tourists from other cities, this place is perfect for a simple walk in the fresh air and you can be sure that it was worth it. On the waterfront you can see a sculpture which depicts the wedding ceremony of Prince Rainier III of Monaco and actress Grace Kelly.

Beside the art gallery is a monument to the founder of Moscow, Prince Ivan Obolensky. But the most famous sculpture is located near the main building of the Mari state university. Here is a bench where sits Yoshkin cat. Cat's nose is always shining, because students preparing for session, by tradition, touch him for good luck.



In Yoshkar-Ola there is a copy of the Moscow Spasskaya tower, and the square that bears the name of Obolensky-Nogotkov, you can see the reduced copy of the famous Tsar cannon. Near it there are four cores, the total weight is 12 tons. However, like the original, Mari cannon does not shoot.

So, if you want to see all these sights with your own eyes, visit Yoshkar-Ola-our small Venice!

### Discuss

1. Do you like visiting small Russian cities?
2. Do you want to visit Yoshkar-Ola? Why?
3. Are there any interesting sights in your city?

### Activity

Find the most interesting sight in your town, draw a picture and write a short report about it



# School life



What are the Russians schools like?  
Here's a very interesting letter.

Hello! My name is Dima. I live in settlement Tomarovka, in Belgorod region. I would like to tell you about my great experience. I wrote a letter to Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain. I told how I enjoy learning the English language. I sent my letter on the 12-th of October 2017 and become an answer on the 24-th of November. I was very happy, because it was my dream. Her Majesty wishes the Laidy-in -Waiting to write me and to say "...thank for your letter".

Many children say that the learning English is very difficult. But I advise you: the first step is - to listen very carefully your English teacher during the lessons.

I wish all of them good luck and all your dreams come true!

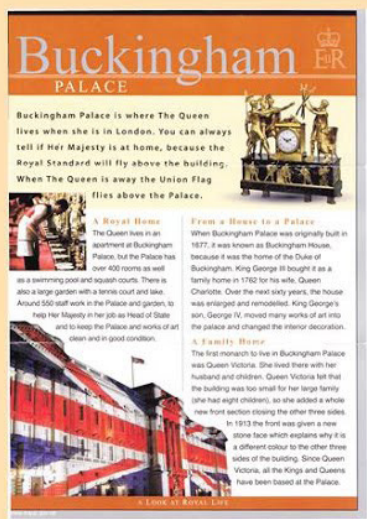
Chernikov Dmitriy



## Activities: Discuss in class

- What do you think about Dima's letter?
- What school year is he in?
- What does he do well?
- Did he write a letter to the Queen of Great Britain?
- Is it difficult to write a letter to the Queen?
- What would you like to know about the Queen?

## A small present from the Queen



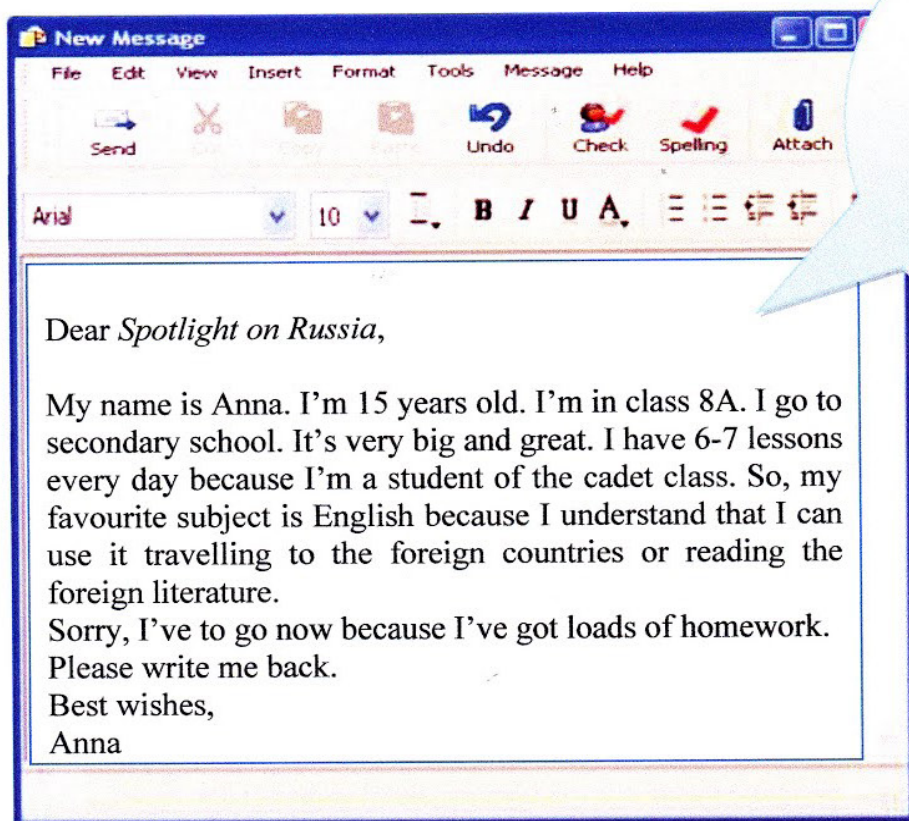


## What are Russian schools like?

Here's an e-mail to the *Spotlight on Russia* website from Anna Ivanova, Orenburg region.

### Spotlight on Russia at school in Oktyabrskoe, Orenburg region

## School life



**Read the text and mark the statements  
True (T), False (F), Not Stated (NS).**

1. Anna is fifteen years old.
2. Her favourite subject is English.
3. Anna's school has two floors.
4. Anna like reading the foreign books.
5. She has only 6 lessons every day.

**Write an e-mail in English  
to Anna about yourself.**

**Answer the following questions:**

1. How old are you?
2. What class are you in?
3. Is your school big?
4. What is your favourite subject? Why?

**ACTIVITIES**



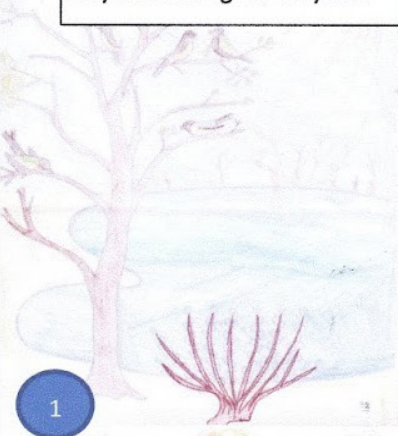
# SEASONS

(ПИКАЛОВА НАТАЛЬЯ АЛЕКСАНДРОВНА — МБОУ «ОКТЯБРЬСКАЯ СОШ»)

**Spotlight on Russia** goes to an exhibition of paintings by schoolchildren of Orenburg Region. They are landscapes showing the students' favourite seasons.

## Seasons

Alyona Sudorgina -11 years



1



2

Sasha Pozhidaeva -11 years



3

Yaroslav Ezhov -11 years old



4

Elvira Sigizova-11 years old

Look at the paintings. Match the beginnings (1 - 4) and the endings (A-D) of the descriptions to the paintings.

1. It's hot and the sun is shining. The sea ...

2. It's warm. The leaves ...

3. It's very cold. There's a lot of snow. ...

4. It's warm and the sun is shining. The birds ...

A. are sitting on the trees.

B. is warm. You can swim, sunbathe on the beautiful beach.

C. on the trees are red, yellow and

D. The sky is grey.

Match the opposites describing seasons and clothes.

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. heavy | a. low   |
| 2. long  | b. hot   |
| 3. high  | c. wet   |
| 4. cold  | d. short |
| 5. dry   | e. loose |

### ACTIVITIES

- **Game** Play in teams. Choose one painting and describe it. The other team guesses it.
- **Writing** Write an e-mail to your English-speaking pen friend about your favourite place for holidays in different seasons. Answer the three questions. What is the place? What's the weather like there? What do you usually do there? Write **50-60 words**.



*Spotlight on Russia* goes to an exhibition of photographs by schoolchildren of Oktyabrskoe. They are landscapes showing the students' favourite seasons.



Dasha Mamontova



Sasha Pozhidaeva



Anna Ivanova



Dima Smirnov

Look at the photographs. Match the beginnings (1 - 4) and the endings (A-D) of the descriptions to them.

1. It's hot and the sun is shining. The water in the river ...

2. It's warm. The leaves ....

3. It's very cold. There's a lot of snow. ...

4. The sun is shining. The grass ...

A. is green. It's a bit cloudy but it looks warm.

B. is warm. You can swim, sunbathe.

C. on the trees are red, yellow and brown.

D. It's freezing.

### ACTIVITIES

- Choose one photo and describe it.
- Write an e-mail to your English-speaking pen friend about your favourite season.



# Spotlight

on **RUSSIA**

6



**Don't miss!**





## **FAMILIES**

Морозова И.Е.

## **FREE TIME**

Маслова С.Н.

Родионова Е.В.

## **NATIONAL PRIDE**

Бабушкина Л.М.

Бачкала Г.В.

Каширских И.В.

Олонцева А.С.

Прокофьева С.В.

## **NATURAL PHENOMENA**

Филатова Н.А.

## **THE CITY I LIKE**

Бодрова Е.Н.

Демидова Т.В.

Джунгурова Н.Ц.

Казанцева Л.Д.

Сапрыкина О.Ю.

Швецова Л.Н.

Шлямнева М.С.

## **ZOO**

Бокарёва А.И.

Окель А.В.

Присталова И.А.

Филатова Н.А.



# FAMILIES

(МОРОЗОВА ИРИНА ЕВГЕНЬЕВНА — МБОУ СОШ № 27)



## THE DAY OF FAMILY, LOVE AND TRUSTINESS

Family is the only place where you always find comfort, support and understanding. From the early childhood we are eager to spend much time with our family. Thus, it's so wonderful that we can celebrate the Day of Family, love and trustiness on the 8-th of July in memory of Saint Peter and Febronia.



Spotlight on Russia tells about family meaning



Family... Each person realizes that this word means something special. It's so nice when you can come home and be with your family. Family gives you strength, inspiration and unique opportunities to achieve necessary goals in your life. So, it's very important to bring up a child to respect the family members. From the early childhood we feel how our parents and grandparents love and take care of us and we begin to express kindness towards them. If you have some problems, your native people always try to help you to solve them. And when you're succeed in something, your family shares this success with you. We should appreciate that our parents learn us to be good people, trust us and believe sincerely in our brilliant future. Let's all these dreams come true and all our families will be glad! It's a splendid opportunity to celebrate the Day of family, love and trustiness on July, 8-th together with all your family members!

*\*Some interesting facts of the Day of family love and trustiness celebration history. Holy Prince Peter (David in monasticism) and Holy Princess Febronia (Euphrosyne in monasticism), Wonderworkers of Murom. Prince Peter was the second son of the Murom prince Yuri Vladimirovich. He entered upon the throne of Murom in the year 1203. Several years before this St Peter had fallen seriously ill and no one was able to heal him. In a vision it was revealed to the prince that the daughter of a bee-keeper would be able to heal him: the pious maiden Febronia, a peasant of Laskova village in Ryazan gubernia. St Peter sent his emissaries to this village. When the prince saw St Febronia, he fell in love with her because of her piety and wisdom, and wanted to marry her after being healed. St Febronia healed the prince and became his wife. The holy couple loved each other through all their ordeals. The haughty boyars did not wish to have a princess of common origin, and they urged that the prince leave her. St Peter refused, and so they banished the couple. They sailed off on a boat from their native city along the River Oka, and St Febronia continued to console St Peter. Soon the wrath of God fell upon the city of Murom, and the people begged the prince return together with St Febronia. The holy couple was famous for their piety and charity. They died on the same day and hour, June 25, 1228, having received the monastic tonsure with the names David and Euphrosyne. The bodies of the saints were put in the same grave. Sts Peter and Febronia showed themselves exemplary models of Christian marriage, and are considered the patron saints of newly-weds. We celebrate this day on July 8-th since 2008.*

*\* The symbol of this celebration is chamomile. A chamomile flower is a sign of pure love, faithfulness, tenderness and beauty. White colour means purity and yellow colour means a home hearth. All the petals are as a close-knit family.*

### ACTIVITY


What do you see in these pictures? How are they related to the celebration of the Day of family, love and trustiness? Who are the Saint Peter and Febronia? What does legend say? What does family mean for you? Tell us, please.

### DISCUSS

There is a wise proverb that "The family is like the forest: if you are outside, it is dense; if you are inside, you see that each tree has its own position." What does it mean? How do you understand it?



**FREE  
TIME**



DO YOU LIKE ICE CREAM?

THEN IT'S FOR YOU!

### Spotlight on Russia visits the Moscow Ice Cream Festival



The Festival "Moscow Ice Cream, 2016" ran from June 24 to July 10. The symbols of this festival were polar bears and pink penguins. For **the first three days** of the festival Muscovites ate about **20 tons** of the main summer dessert. They could taste more than **150** varieties of ice cream from 30 metropolitan and regional manufactures.

What varieties of cold desserts were offered to the guests of the Festival?



Of course, there were not only traditional types of ice cream with flavours such as vanilla, chocolate, nuts, berries and crème brulee but guests could also try ice cream with exotic fillings: cuttlefish ink, sweet-and-salty bacon, cheese, chips, tomatoes, onions, spices, ginger, halva. Japanese rice ice-cream, Syrian ice-cream with Orchid roots, sorbets made of goat milk were available, too. Fans of healthy lifestyle could enjoy desserts without sugar, gluten, eggs, sports ice cream with protein and L-carnitine, as well as dietetic ice cream with probiotic. In addition, ice cream with portraits of some celebrities, such as Marilyn Monroe, Vladimir Mayakovsky, etc. and cartoon characters such as Darth Vader, Donald Duck, etc. were offered to the guests of the Festival. Visitors enjoyed delicious milkshakes, bubble-tea, smoothies, homemade lemonade. A new variety of mint-strawberry ice cream called "Moscow seasons" was created by Sergio Dondoli, the famous Italian ice cream manufacturer, especially for this very Moscow Ice Cream Festival.

During this Festival children and adults took part in musical and theatrical performances, creative and culinary master classes, games and contests.



#### DISCUSS

- Have you ever visited Ice Cream Festivals?
- Do you like ice cream? What is your favourite ice cream?
- How many ice creams can you eat per day?
- What other festivals do you know?

#### ACTIVITY

- Imagine you are an ice-cream manufacturer. What kind of ice cream would you create for the next Moscow Ice Cream Festival? Draw the picture of your ice cream and write down its main ingredients.





## Free time

# Summer camp in Tomarovka

Every year we have got a summer camp in our school. This year our camp worked under the motto:

*"Will be modern and successful,  
Active, popular and handsome.  
Learning English it's for you-  
Summer camp will helping you!"*

### ON THE 4-TH OF JUNE

we made presentations about our small motherland. You can see some of them:



On the 7-th of June we made a video about Tomarovka. Tomarovka has a long and rich history. According to the legend Georgian Queen Tamara used to be in our places and since then the area is named Tomarovka.

Tsar Peter the first passed in his ships on our river Vorskla.

On the 9-th of June we celebrated the Russia Day and made cardmaking "Russia Day". Enjoy our best works!



### WORDCLOUDS

Our kids took part in wordclouds. They used words and phrases about Tomarovka: Tomarovka, Happy birthday, Tomarovka! Vorskla.



13-th of June was devoted to our families, our friends, all people in Tomarovka.



### Activities

#### Discuss in class

- What did the children do on the 2-d of June in the camp?
- Do you like their card-making works?
- Can you make wordclouds?
- Have you got the same summer camp? Tell us about your camp

In conclusion we can say that our summer camp was interesting and usefull for us. Welcome to our Tomarovka!



There were some authors who wrote about ordinary people. In Russia they were Victor Astafiev, Alexander Vampilov and Valentin Rasputin. Rasputin's "French Lessons" are well-known all over the world.

## Fame



*Spotlight on Russia* finds out more about this Siberian writer.

Valentin Rasputin was born on 15 March 1937 in the village of Atalanka in Irkutsk Oblast of Russia. Valentin spent his childhood in the village with his parents. His father worked for a cooperative store and his mother was a nurse. Their village was located near the Angara River and now it does not exist because it was flooded\* when the Bratsk Power Station was built. After finishing the elementary school his parents sent him to study far away from his home village. He was the first child from his village to continue his education in this way. After studying in Irkutsk University Valentin Rasputin started working for local newspapers in Irkutsk and Krasnoyarsk. He published his first short story in 1961.

In 1967, after the publication of his *Money for Maria*, Rasputin was indeed admitted\*\* to the Union of Soviet Writers. Over the next three decades, he published a number of novels (*Farewell to Matyora*, *Live and Remember*, *Ivan's Daughter*). Most of them were translated into English. Moreover, Rasputin's literary work is closely connected to his activism on social and environmental issues. He got several awards: USSR State Prize, Order of Lenin, Solzhenitsyn Prize.

He died in Moscow on 14 March 2015, a day short



### Activities

**Fill in the Fact File:**

**Date of Birth.....**

**Place of Birth.....**

**Parents.....**

**Education.....**

**Works.....**

**Awards.....**

**Date of death.....**

\*was flooded - была затоплена

\*\* was admitted - был принят



**NATIONAL PRIDE** (БАБУШКИНА ЛЮДМИЛА МИХАЙЛОВНА — МОУ «ГИМНАЗИЯ С. МАЛАЯ ПУРГА»)

**Udmurtia is not only the spring region, it is the land of artists and composers, writers and poets. And one of them is Kuzebay Gerd.**

**Spotlight on Russia**  
finds out more about this  
great Russian writer.

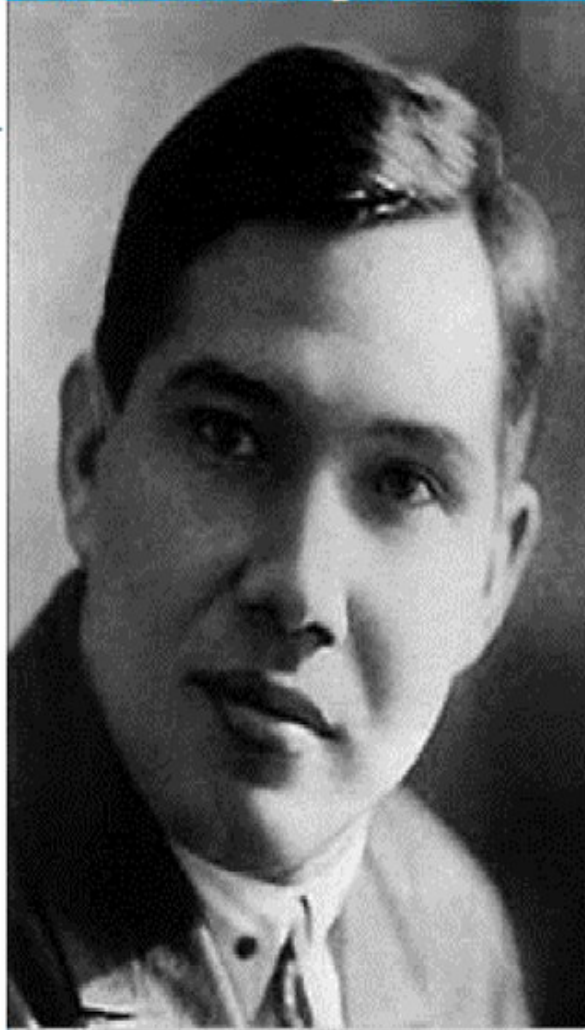
Kuzebay Gerd was born in the village of Pokhchivukho on 2nd January 1898. It is in Vavozhsky district of Udmurtia. His real name is Kuzma Pavlovich Chaynikov.

«KuzebayGerd» is his pseudonym. It means «knot». He began to collect Udmurt folk songs at the age of 12 and then he begins to write poems. In his childhood Kuzebay was curious and liked reading books. He was good at all subjects, but he wasn't good at mathematics. He published his first poem at 16 years old.

K. Gerd was the first Udmurt writer who turned to the social theme and revolution' theme. The poet represented the revolution as a fire, then as a sword, battling everything old and he believed that the revolution would bring the joy of freedom to the native people.

In the second half of the 1920, the best collections of his poems were published: "Blossoming Land", "Steps", the poem "Zavod". By right, K. Gerd was recognized as the founder of Udmurt children's literature. He wrote over 50 works where he described the nature of the native land. Kuzma Pavlovich Chaynikov was only 39 when he died. He played a big role in Udmurt literature, the life of the Udmurt people. Because of that he won the title "Honorary Citizen of the Udmurt Republic".

## National pride



### Activities

- \* Write a quiz for your classmates about Kuzebay Gerd life and work.
- \* Are there any famous writers in your region? Write about them.





*Are you interested in Olympic mascots?  
Do you appreciate a history of Russian sport?  
Would you like to know more about it?  
Let's remember a history of our favourite mascot Misha the Bear!*

SPOTLIGHT ON RUSSIA presents you the Olympics-80.



## DISCUSS:

- 1) Are you proud of a history of Russian sport?
- 2) Do you like our mascot Misha the Bear? Why or why not?
- 3) What interesting facts do you know about the Olympics-80 in Russia?

## NATIONAL PRIDE

The Olympic mascot is a part of the Olympic symbolism and a compulsory thing of the Olympic games. Also it is a symbol, which has an advert and a commercial meaning. It is used by an organizer-country as an additional source of financing. The main aim of a mascot is to express a spirit of an organizer-country, to bring good luck to athletes and to intensify a festive atmosphere. The Olympic mascot is represented as an animal, which is the most popular in the organizer-country, or as an animated creature. It must be a character with an outstanding name, a bright personality, which becomes a main figure of a unique and exciting story. It must be interesting, original, attractive to everybody and maintain Olympic ideals. Moreover the mascot must express Olympic values: Excellence, Friendship and Respect.

GOODBYE, OUR TENDER MISHKA,  
GOODBYE AND SEE YOU SOON!!!

Misha the Bear was a mascot of Olympic games in Moscow in 1980. A brown bear is a symbol of Russia. It was created by a famous painter Victor Chizhikov. His Misha looked at spectators and smiled a happy smile. On the closing ceremony an enormous doll of a bear was flown with the help of balloons in the sky. It was a very affecting performance. People listened to a song «Goodbye, Moscow» by Pakhmutova and Dobronravov and even cried.



## ACTIVITY:

*Imagine that you are going to create a new mascot for our country. What kind of mascot would it be? Write and tell us about it.*



# NATIONAL PRIDE

(ПРОКОФЬЕВА СВЕТЛАНА ВАЛЕРИЕВНА — МБОУ ГИМНАЗИЯ «УВК № 1», Г. ВОРОНЕЖ)

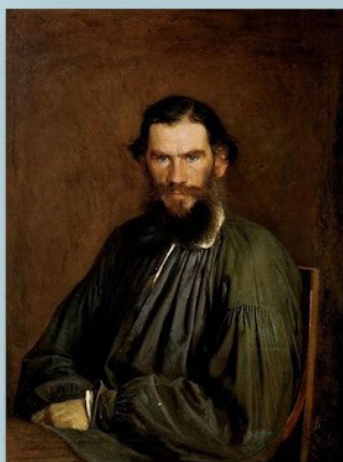
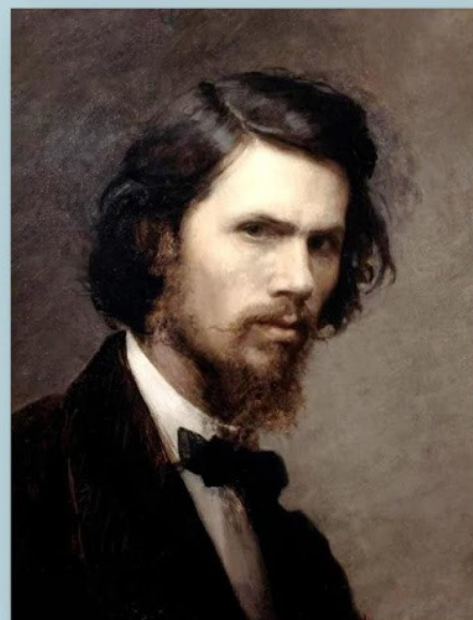
Russia is world famous for its painters. Ivan Kramskoy, the leader of *The Wanderers* (*Peredvizhniki* – the group of Russian artists) and the teacher of Ilya Repin, is one of them.

**Spotlight on Russia** finds out more about this outstanding artist.

Ivan Kramskoy was a great Russian artist. He was born in 1837 in Ostrogozhsk in Voronezh province. When he was a boy, he liked drawing but he could not study art. Ivan was very shy and unhappy. Young Ivan Kramskoy became a clerk when his father died. Ivan did not like his job and decided to work as a colour-correction artist for a photographer.

When Ivan was 19, he went to Saint Petersburg. His dream came true in 1857 - he started studying at the Academy of Arts. He was a very talented student but he left the Academy. Ivan and 13 other students wanted to be free to paint their own pictures.

## National pride



Kramskoy is best-known for his portrait paintings. He painted many portraits of famous writers, poets, scientists, artists and composers - Lev Tolstoy, Nikolay Nekrasov, Aleksandr Griboyedov, Ivan Shishkin, Ivan Turgenev, Dmitry Mendeleev, etc.

Ivan Kramskoy did not live a long life. He died on 24 March, 1887 with a paintbrush in his hand.

You can see Kramskoy's paintings in many Russian museums including the State Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow, the State Russian Museum in Saint Petersburg and the Kramskoy Museum of Fine Arts in Voronezh.

### DISCUSS

Do you like drawing/painting?  
What do you draw/paint?  
What painting styles do you know?  
What was Kramskoy's painting style?

### ACTIVITIES

Look at the paintings. Find their titles on the Internet.  
Imagine you are a museum guide. Tell your classmates about the paintings.  
Find some facts about *Peredvizhniki*.





# Marshak

**Every child and adult in our country knows the name of Samuil Marshak. The first monument in the world to the great poet appeared in Voronezh in 2015.**

## Spotlight on Russia finds out surprising facts in the poet's biography.



Samuil Marshak was born on 22 October in 1887 in Voronezh, but the early years he spent in Ostrogozhsk. In gymnasium he was fascinated with classical poetry and started writing poems himself. Teachers supported his efforts. They thought he was a child prodigy. Later his family moved to Petersburg. And Marshak was lucky to meet Vladimir Stasov, a well-known art critic, who helped him to enter one of the best gymnasiums of the city. Most part of his free time the talented man spent in a public library.

S. Marshak became a correspondent and travelled a lot in different countries. He visited Turkey, Greece, Syria, Palestine etc. During that period he met his wife Sofia Milvidskaya. And later the young couple moved to Britain, where the poet continued his education in London University. On holidays Marshak toured England, studied the local folklore and practised translating British verses and ballads. He was the author of the classical translation of world-known masterpieces by W. Shakespeare, R. Burns, J. Keats, R. Kipling etc.

In 1914 Marshak came back to his motherland. He created and published his new literary works. In 1920 together with other artists and composers he founded the first theatre for children. Soon it turned into "Children Town", an organization with various facilities (a theatre, a kindergarten, a school and clubs). The poet published his first books for children "The House that Jack built", "The tale about a silly mouse" in 1923.

S. Marshak died at the age of 76 in Moscow. But people will never forget his name. Almost every city in Russia has a street named after the outstanding poet. Besides, the International Children Theatre Festival "Marshak" is held every year in Voronezh. And no doubt, the first words that children learn by heart in Russian language are the lines from poems by Marshak. They show us love, kindness and the brightness of the world.



*Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall  
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.  
And all the king's horses,  
And all the king's men  
Couldn't put Humpty together again*

**What facts from the poet's life surprise you?**

**DISCUSS**

**Why do little children like poems by Marshak?**

**ACTIVITY**

- **Write the list of 5 works by Marshak. Underline your favourite poem. Compare your results with the classmates.**
- **Read the famous English rhyme *Humpty Dumpty*. Do you remember the Russian translation by the poet?**
- **Draw the portrait of Humpty Dumpty. Arrange the display of the portraits and choose the best image in the class.**

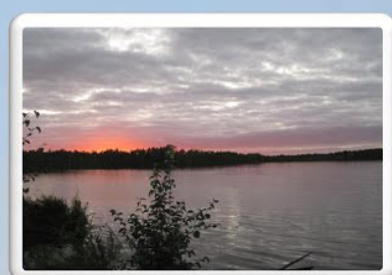
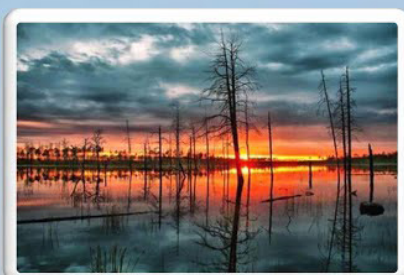


# NATURAL PHENOMENA (ФИЛАТОВА НАДЕЖДА АЛЕКСАНДРОВНА — МБОУ СОШ № 75/62)

## Natural Phenomena

One of the Russian natural phenomena is The Great Vasyugan mire (Большое Васюганское болото) which has no analogues in the world, it is the object of UNESCO world heritage.

*Spotlight on Russia* is on the Great Vasyugan mire



The Great Vasyugan Mire, the largest swamp system in the northern hemisphere of the planet, a geographical phenomenon due to extremely wide spreading of swamps. It is located in Western Siberia, between the rivers Ob and Irtysh, in the Tomsk region, Novosibirsk and Omsk regions. Wetlands area – 53 thousand square kilometers and is constantly growing. It is home to many species of animals and birds, including such rare in our time, as *a reindeer, a golden eagle, a white-tailed eagle, an osprey, a gray shrike, a peregrine falcon*. There is *a sable and a mink, an otter and a wolverine*. And, of course, a huge number of *wild cranberries, blueberries and cloudberries*.

After all, here, under the water surface, there are huge reserves of peat (about 2% of the world), and peat is a kind of natural filter for the atmosphere of our planet. Both Russian and the World Heritage Lists do not contain similar objects.

Vasyugan Mire appeared nearly 10 thousand years ago and from that time they constantly increase. 75 % of their contemporary area became waterlogged less than 500 years ago. The swamp is the main source of fresh water in the region (water reserves here are equal to 400 km<sup>3</sup>). Nearly 800 thousand of small lakes are located here. The great number of rivers spring from the swamp.

### ACTIVITIES

- Translate the words from the text (an italic type) into Russian
- Find some information about these animals and berries.

### DISCUSS

- What do you think about the climate there?
- Do you know another Russian natural phenomena?



## The City I Like

Have you ever heard about small republic in Russia, situated on the borderline between the European and Asian continents? Then I'd like to tell you about its capital.

**Spotlight on Russia visits Elista – the capital of Kalmykia.**



### ELISTA

Elista is the capital of a national republic in the south of Russia. Kalmyk people are the only Asians who live in Europe representing the unique oriental and Buddhist culture.

Elista was founded in 1865 as a small settlement. The name is from Kalmyk word “elsn” which means “sandy”.

Elista is unofficially considered the capital of Buddhism in Europe. There is the largest Buddhist temple not only in Russia but in all European continent. It is the main attraction of Elista – “Golden Abode of Buddha Shakyamuni”. The name of the temple was given by the Dalai Lama himself, who made a pastoral visit in Kalmykia in 2004. The “Golden Abode” is surrounded with a beautiful flower garden, fountains, monuments of great ancient Buddhist masters and prayer wheels.

Elista is the capital of the chess world. It was a host of the XXXIII World Chess Olympiad which was held in 1998 and attracted guests from all the continents. It became a major event in the social life of the Republic. There is a district called “City Chess” in Elista which was built especially for the Chess Olympiad. In the centre of this area is the Chess Palace around which can be found many interesting monuments related to the game of chess.

Kalmykia is the land of endless steppes and wild tulips. In spring, when the steppe blossoms out and suddenly turns into a fabulous many-coloured carpet, tourists from all regions of Russia come to the Tulips Festival. It takes place from the 20<sup>th</sup> till the 30<sup>th</sup> of April. During the festival there are performances of Kalmyk folkloric ensembles, Kalmyk wrestling and archery competitions.

#### Discuss:

- What is your town/city famous for?
- What festivals are held in your town/city?
- What are the most popular places in your town/city?

#### Activity:

Imagine you are going to visit Elista. What places of interest would you like to see?



# THE CITY I LIKE

(БОДРОВА ЕЛЕНА НИКОЛАЕВНА — МБОУ «СОШ № 34»)

## The city I like

Russia is a big country. There are many beautiful cities and towns which are worth visiting. But my favourite city is my home town.

**Spotlight on Russia** visits Kemerovo – the capital of Kuzbass.

### KEMEROVO

Kemerovo is the capital of Kuzbass. It is a nice city in the southern part of Western Siberia. It stands on the banks of the Tom river.

The history of the city is connected with the name of Mikhailo Volkov. In 1721 he found coal on its territory. Kemerovo was founded in 1918. The first name of the city was Shcheglovsk.

Today Kemerovo is a modern city with a lot of parks and picturesque streets. In the centre of the city there are three beautiful squares: Soviet Square, Teatralnaya Square and Volkov Square. In their free time people go to theatres, cinemas, cafes and restaurants, skating-rinks and other places where they can have fun. There is Concert Hall in our city where everyone can listen to classical music. Sometimes popular singers, famous bards and other musicians visit our city and we enjoy their performances.

The inhabitants and guests of our city like to visit museums. There are a lot of them but the most popular museum is the «Krasnaya Gorka». It's situated in the birth place of the city. Many historical monuments and places of interest attract the attention of our guests. The visitors admire the Monument to Miners by Ernst Neizvestny, the statue of Mikhailo Volkov. Last time many unusual sculptures appeared in the streets of Kemerovo. Walking along the embankment you can see «The monument to our grannies», to «Homeless dog» and many others.

Kemerovo is a big industrial centre. One can find a lot of big chemical plants in all parts of Kemerovo. Many of them are well-known not only in Russia but in many other countries as well.

Some guests come to Kemerovo every year. They want to visit the famous historical places of the city and the places of interest. I hope you will visit my wonderful city.

### ACTIVITY

### DISCUSS

What do you think about Kemerovo?

What places in Kemerovo do you want to visit?

Complete the chart about your native city and speak about it.

Date of foundation	
Population	
River	
Main square	
Important dates	
Places to see	
Places to visit	



## Komsomolsk-on-Amur

If you want to enjoy the beauty of the youth city,  
welcome to Komsomolsk-on-Amur.

### Spotlight on Russia visits the youth city

#### Komsomolsk-on-Amur.



Komsomolsk-on-Amur is the second largest and most important city in Khabarovsk Territory. Our city was founded on June 12, 1932.

On May 10, 1932, the first builders for the new city had arrived on the shores of the Amur at the old Russian settlement of Permskoye. Young people from all ethnic groups of Russia built our city. Today Komsomolsk-on-Amur is the third largest city in the Far East.

The population of the city is 251 283 people.

In our city there are a lot of interesting places. It is well developed culture, cinema, theatres, art galleries, museums. There are 131 objects of the cultural heritage. The city has 6 monuments and 23 sculptural monuments and buildings.

#### Activities

Collect information about your home town and write an article about it.

Write about:

- location
- foundation of the city
- population
- interesting places



#### Discuss

- Do you like your city or town? Why or why not?
- Would you like to move in another city or town? Explain why.

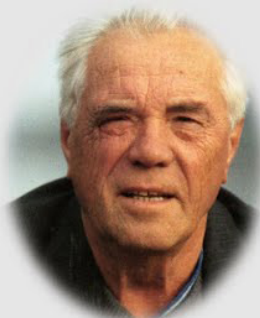


# THE CITY I LIKE (ДЕМИДОВА ТАТЬЯНА ВИКТОРОВНА — МБОУ «СШ № 129»)

## KRASNOYARSK



Have you ever admired the beauty of natural “sculptures” in the Krasnoyarsk Nature Reserve “Stolby”? Have you ever been to the Krasnoyarsk Literary Museum of Victor Astafiev? If you have not done it yet, start your tour to Krasnoyarsk.



## Spotlight on Russia visits Krasnoyarsk – the heart of Siberia.

The city of Krasnoyarsk is one of the largest and the most beautiful cities in eastern Siberia. It is located on the Yenisei river. Krasnoyarsk is very rich in its history and it is famous for lots amazing things. Tourists from all over the world come here at any time of the year to admire beautiful natural landscapes, architectural sights and cultural places. Two symbols of the city – the Chapel and the Bridge across the Yenisei river- represent Krasnoyarsk on a ten-ruble banknote.

Krasnoyarsk has got a lot to offer everyone: from well-known museums and theatres to the largest zoos and leisure parks. Visitors can spend time on picturesque ski slopes or have a trip by a funicular railway in the Fanpark “Bobrovyy log”. But there is a place that attracts tourists for sure. That is the Nature Reserve “Stolby”. “Stolby” is a unique wonder of nature full of unusual rock pillars. Visitors can climb rocks and enjoy the beauty of Siberian nature.

And yet one can't imagine Krasnoyarsk without illuminating “singing” fountains and impressive bridges. Moreover, Krasnoyarsk is a city that gave birth to such outstanding people as V. Surikov and V. Astafiev. Don't miss a chance to visit Surikov's Museum or the Literary Museum of Victor Astafiev if you come here. The national pride Dmitriy Hvorostovsky is also a native of Krasnoyarsk. Brilliant!

So, a visit to Krasnoyarsk is a fantastic experience.

**What's your favourite city? Send us pictures and a short description of it.**

### ACTIVITIES

- Imagine you are on holiday in your favourite city.
- Write to your friend about your impressions.



1 great 2 famous

### Discuss

- What did you like most about Krasnoyarsk?
- Describe your route around it.





# Murom



## ACTIVITIES

Discuss in class:

- What legends about Murom do you know?

Collect information and pictures about a Russian town that you visited not long ago. Write a short text for tourists. Write:

- name
- location
- what it is famous for
- things to do and see there
- what you did and saw there

Present it to the class.

Nearly all Russian cities and towns have a lot of historic architectural monuments. They are valuable symbols of ancient Russian culture. One of the most attractive towns for tourists is Murom.

### Spotlight on Russia visits Murom – one of the oldest Russian towns.

Murom is an ancient town in the central part of Russia. It is situated on the left bank of the Oka River. Murom was founded in the year 862. However, it is young and beautiful.

The name of the town is associated with the tribe<sup>1</sup> Muroma who lived near the Oka River. In the middle ages, Murom was a commercial centre. It was famous for its pottery<sup>2</sup> and metal-working.

The history of Murom was connected with a legend about Ilya Muromets, the son of a peasant<sup>3</sup>, who lived in the village of Karacharovo not far from the town. Ilya Muromets was a defender of Russia. He was the only person who was not afraid of a highway robber<sup>4</sup> (Solovei razboinik) and defeated him on his way to Kiev. Another beautiful legend is about Prince Peter and Princess Phevronia and their great love. They are Murom saints.

Murom is famous for its churches. They are wonderful monuments of Russian architecture. White-stone churches add the beauty to the town.

There are many interesting places in Murom: cinemas, art galleries and museums, for example, the Museum of Local Lore, Kulikov Museum, Gastello Museum, Kaurov Museum and the Exhibition Hall.

The town has rich cultural traditions. One of them is the international cycle-racing Peleton. Every year people from different countries come to Murom to take part in it.

A lot of famous people lived and worked in Murom. They are architect Bespalov, inventor Zvorykin, scientist Gubkin, playwright Gladkov etc. Gorky, Pushkin and Griboedov visited this town.

The history of the town, its sights and beauty attract a lot of tourists. Come and enjoy some Russian history!

**Do you like travelling? Would you like to visit Murom? Why or why not?**

<sup>1</sup>ethnic group, nation

<sup>3</sup>agricultural worker

<sup>2</sup>ceramics

<sup>4</sup>burglar, thief



# THE CITY I LIKE (КАЗАНЦЕВА ЛЕСЯ ДМИТРИЕВНА — ГБОУ СОШ № 1103)

## THE CITY I LIKE. STARITSA



You know that only 200 km from Moscow you can visit the old-world city?

Where you can see ancient buildings and visit caves.

### Spotlight on Russia vizits Staritsa - one of the oldest sities in Russia.

Staritsa is a beautiful city located on the Volga river. And it is divided by the river into two parts, connected by a bridge. Staritsky bridge is a part of the highway "Tver-Rzhev" and was built in 1963. The bridge offers a beautiful view of the Volga and the «Svyato-Yspenskii monastery».

The monastery is the main religious monument in the Tver region. The construction of the monastery was carried out in the year 1110. Within the ancient walls of the Holy Dormition men's monastery to this day quietly and steadily flowing monastic life, and the chime of the bells gathers the congregation into worship. The monastery celebrated its 900th anniversary on July 2, 2010.

Underground caves located 30 km length on the Volga river. Previously, it was mined "white stone", and after the closure of mines formed pillars of calcite deposits. The study of caves, a group of archaeologists found a military burial ground weapons of the Great Patriotic War. In these mazes are very fond of walking extreme tourists.

The city center is decorated with a monument of the old women, founder of the city.

«Staritsa» is an old woman with a stick, wandering along the endless roads of Russia. She also decorates the emblem of the city of Staritsa.

#### ACTIVITIES

- Imagine you are on holiday in the cave in Staritsa
- Tell about your emotions to your friend



#### DISCUSS

- What did you like most about Staritsa?
- Tell your opinion in class



## The City I Like

# SEVASTOPOL



Sevastopol is a large port on the Black Sea. Sevastopol is the **naval**<sup>1</sup> base of the Black Sea fleet of Russia. It is a centre of shipbuilding industry. A lot of docks are situated there. The city also has well-developed light and food industries.

The territory, where the central part of Sevastopol is located, is mountainous with a large number of deep well protected bays. This area has almost subtropical climate. There are a lot of sand and pebble beaches.

You can really love this city not only for its beauty, for its white houses and the blue sea, but for its heroic history. During its short period of existence (the city was founded in 1783) it was twice **razed**<sup>2</sup> to the ground by the war and twice it rose from the ashes. That's why Sevastopol is rich in historical places and monuments. It is called "the Museum under the open sky", because it has more than 2000 monuments. The first monument which was unveiled in 1834 was the monument to A. Kazarsky. It reminds about the fight of brig "Mercury" with two Turkish ships. The heroes of "Mercury" returned to Sevastopol

## Activities

### Discuss in class:

- ✓ What impressed you most about Sevastopol?
- ✓ Would you like to visit Sevastopol? Why or why not?
- ✓ What is your town/city famous for?

### Sevastopol is not the only town in the world having this name.

- ✓ Collect information on other places in the world having this name and write an article about it.  
Write about:
  - location

"The name **SEVASTOPOL** on the map of the world"

*Spotlight on Russia visits Sevastopol - the largest ice-free sea trade, fishing port, industrial, scientific, technical, recreational, cultural and historical center of Crimea.*

**invincible**<sup>3</sup>. The inscription on the monument reads: "To Kazarsky. Posterity in example". The Monument to the Scuttled Ships became an emblem of Sevastopol. During the Crimean war (1853- 1856) the Russian ships were **scuttled**<sup>4</sup> at the entrance to the Northern Bay in order to save Sevastopol. The Panorama "Defence of Sevastopol in 1854-1855" tells the visitors about one of the days of this heroic defence which lasted 250 days. The central square of Sevastopol is Nakhimov Square with a majestic monument to the legendary Admiral. The Diorama "The assault of Sapun Hill on May 7, 1944" tells the people about the events of the Great Patriotic War and the liberation of Sevastopol.

You can't get bored in Sevastopol. There are lots of things to see and to do here, especially in June, when it celebrates its birthday. The museums and galleries are opened to the public. There are a lot of beaches in Sevastopol, where you can swim, dive and get a great tan. Another thing you can like about Sevastopol is it's great for going to the theatres. Sevastopol's got some good theatres. It's wonderful to sit in a cosy café in the evening admiring the beauty of the sea. This beautiful city attracts tourists from many countries of the world.

- what famous for
- activities one can do
- recommendations

## GLOSSARY

<sup>1</sup>**naval** – военно-морской; морской;

<sup>2</sup>**raze** – разрушать до основания;

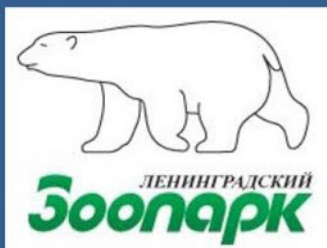
(**raze to the ground** – стереть с лица земли, сровнять с землей (о городе и т. п.))

<sup>3</sup>**invincible** – непобедимый;

<sup>4</sup>**scuttle** – затопить судно (открыв кингстоны или пробив отверстия в обшивке)



# Leningrad Zoo



There are more than 70 zoos in Russia. Their aim is to show wild animals to the people. Zoos also organize researches of wildlife and educational programmes.

## Spotlight on Russia visits the Leningrad Zoo, one of the oldest and biggest zoos in our country.

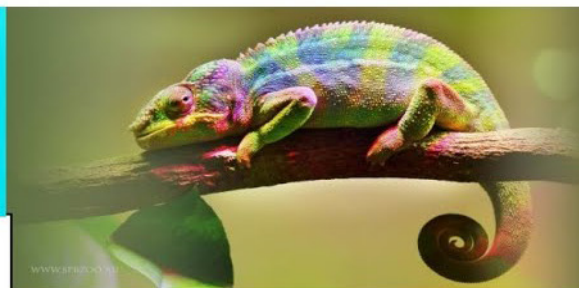
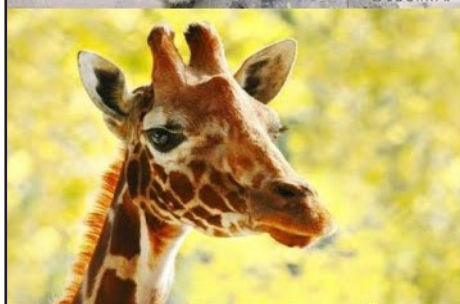


The Leningrad Zoo was founded in 1865 in the centre of St. Petersburg. First, it was a private menagerie but in 1917 the Leningrad Zoo became a state-run organization. During the Great Patriotic War and the Siege of Leningrad many animals remained in the city. The Zoo workers took care of them.

Nowadays there are more than 600 species of mammals, birds and fish from different places of the Earth in the Leningrad Zoo.

The symbol of the Zoo is a white polar bear. It is one of the biggest predators on the Earth. The white bear called Uslada lives the Leningrad Zoo nowadays.

You can go on an excursion, visit exhibitions, ride a horse or a pony, and look at the feeding of animals at the Zoo. There is also an open exposition at the Zoo. Here you can see geese, chickens, cow and other farm animals. The young guests of the zoo like the contact area, where they can touch and feed the animals.



### DISCUSS

1. What is a «contact area»?
2. Is it popular nowadays?
3. Look at the pictures. What animals can live in a contact area?
3. Have you ever visited any contact area?
4. Did you like it? / Would you like to visit it?
5. Why?

### ACTIVITIES

1. Zoos often sell souvenirs. What kind of souvenirs of the Leningrad Zoo would be interesting for you and your friends? Tell your partner.
2. Imagine that you are the director of a new zoo. What symbol would you choose for it? Why? Draw the logo of your zoo.

### GLOSSARY

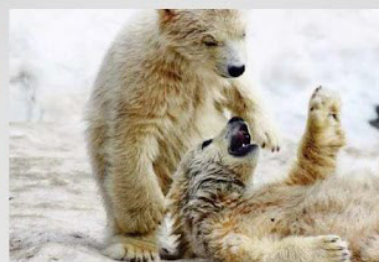
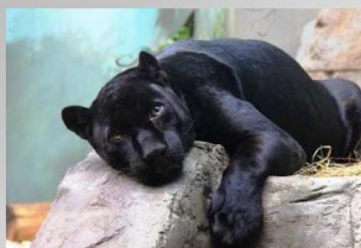
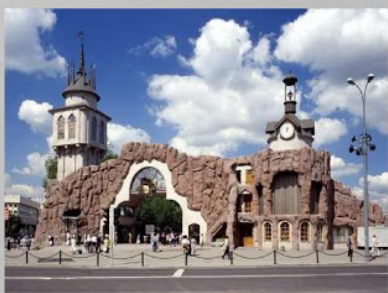
research – исследование  
 wildlife – живая природа  
 was founded – был основан  
 private menagerie – частный зверинец  
 state-run – государственный  
 the Great Patriotic War – Великая Отечественная война  
 the Siege of Leningrad – Блокада Ленинграда  
 remain – оставаться  
 species of mammals – виды млекопитающих  
 predator – хищник



# Moscow Zoo

**The Moscow Zoo has, perhaps, the largest collection of animals on the territory not only of Russia, but also of Western Europe, which is represented on an area of 22 hectares and is located almost in the center of the capital.**

*Spotlight on Russia* learns the Moscow Zoo's history



## DISCUSS

*Is there a zoo in your city?  
Do you like to go to the zoo?  
What animals are there in the zoo?  
What is your favourite animal?*

## ACTIVITIES

*Imagine you visited the Moscow Zoo.  
What did you see there?  
Tell about it to your classmates.*

*Let's play a game. Could you give  
a summary of this text?  
Make it as you can but don't forget  
important facts.  
Let's see who the champion is.*

Perhaps starting from the times of ancient Rome and the Middle Ages, when the era of large and small travels and conquests came. In the courts of royalty or not destitute nobles, it was quite fashionable to place in some rooms or enclosures of outlandish animals living in those countries that were conquered and subdued by the colonists. So in particular, one of the most famous institutions of this type were well-known to us from the course of history of the general education school, the famous ancient Roman circuses. Where, in addition to the gladiators, various wild beasts participated in the battles, in the genus of the same lions, tigers and panthers, which naturally did not reside on the territory of the continental part of the Roman Empire.

This is the background of the emergence of such popular institutions as zoological parks, which today are located almost in all major cities and capitals of the world. The capital of the Russian Federation, the city of Moscow, is also an exception.

In the middle of the nineteenth century, namely in 1864, on the initiative of the Russian Imperial Society for the Acclimatization of Animals and Plants, the oldest zoo in Russia, the Moscow, was created. At the same time, the most active initiator of the creation of the Moscow Zoo was the famous naturalist, professor of the Moscow University Anatoly Petrovich Bogdanov, who at his university department was engaged in questions of acclimatization of animals and plants brought to the territory of the central part of Russia from various expeditions.



**THE NOVOSIBIRSK ZOO****ZOO**

*The Novosibirsk Zoo is one of the largest zoos in Russia. It covers an area of 63 ha. It has about 11000 individuals 756 species of animals. More than 350 species are in the International Red Book and about 180 species are in the Red Book of Russia. The staff of the zoo takes part in 67 international programs for the conservation of rare and endangered animals.*



The history of the Novosibirsk Zoo starts in the middle of 1933. The zoo consisted of a living area in a small study room of Zoology on the children's station. There were only fifty species of birds and thirty-five species of animals in 1937. In 2005 the zoo was open in new area in pine forest in Zaeltsovsky district of city. All the years the zoo has conducted a large collector's job. As a result, the staff of the zoo managed to collect one of the richest and most unique collections of animals in the country.

The emblem of the Novosibirsk zoo is the snow leopard, a beautiful and graceful animal that has been preserved in Siberia in the Altai and in the Sayano-Shushensky nature reserve. Some time later, another animal — peregusna representative of the weasel family has been added to the snow leopard.

In 2008 the Novosibirsk zoo was a finalist in the competition "Seven miracles of Russia"

**DISCUSS**

- 1) Have you ever been to the zoo?
- 2) Would you like to visit the Novosibirsk zoo?
- 3) Have you ever heard about it?

**ACTIVITIES****What do these numerals mean?**

350      2005      50      63      7  
67      35      180      11000

**GLOSSARY**

*covers an area* - занимает площадь

*individuals* - особи

*species of animals* - виды животных

*the staff of the zoo* - коллектив зоопарка

*conservation of rare and endangered animals* -

сохранение редких и

исчезающих видов животных

*a living area* - живой уголок

*has conducted* - проводит

*managed to collect* - удалось собрать

*the snow leopard* - снежный барс

*has been preserved* - был сохранен

*nature reserve* - заповедник

*peregusna* - перевязка

*weasel family* - семейство куньих

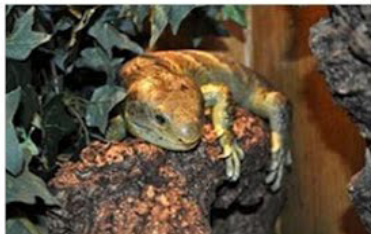




# Tula Exotarium



What is an exotarium? What can you see there?  
Let's find out more!



An exotarium is a kind of the small zoo or a mini-zoo.

The Exotarium was opened in Tula in 1987. Nowadays it has the largest collection of snakes in the world – more than 524 **species**<sup>1</sup>! But you can see not only snakes there. There are 50 species of other animals including the giant tortoise, the unique poisonous lizard – the beaded lizard, amazing fox-cubs<sup>2</sup> of the fennec fox, the African crocodile, the biggest snake in the world – the regal python, the toucan – one of the most beautiful birds on the planet, the striped mongoose, the wonderful porcupine, curious raccoons and funny monkeys.

Up to 90 000 people visit the Exotarium yearly. It is very popular not only among kids and teenagers but also among adults and tourists due to its interesting exhibitions, informative excursions and special programmes. During the special programmes you can see very rare animals that are kept and bred in the closed scientific laboratories of the Exotarium. Every weekend you can take part in feeding some animals or join a creative workshop.

<sup>1</sup>species – kinds of animals

<sup>2</sup>a cub – a child of an animal

## Discuss:

- Have you ever been to the Exotarium?
- What special do you remember about your visit?
- Would you like to visit the Exotarium once again? Why (not)?

## Project

1. Your English friend is going to visit Tula. Invite him to the Exotarium!

Tell him/her

- what it is,
- about the animals living there,
- what he/she can do there.

2. Write about one of the animals you like most of all in the Exotarium. Draw its picture!



## Animals Glossary

beaded lizard	ядозуб
fennec fox	лиса-фенек
regal python	сетчатый питон
toucan	тукан
striped mongoose	полосатый мангуст
porcupine	дикобраз
raccoon	енот



# Spotlight

on RUSSIA

7





## **ACTIVITY TIME**

Галюк И.В.  
Карпова Е.А.  
Михайлова А.В.  
Олонцева А.С.  
Реуцкая Т.Н.  
Чубатюк И.С.

## **HEALTH MATTERS**

Вакулина М.В.

## **MUSEUMS**

Богатырева А.С.  
Быков В.Ю.  
Демидова Т.В.  
Жигунова А.М.  
Олейник Т.В.  
Чуракова О.В.

## **TEENS**

Вакулина М.В.  
Морозова И.Е.  
Олонцева А.С.

## **TV**

Валеева А.Ф.

## **WRITER**

Гофман А.Ю.



# ACTIVITY TIME (ОЛОНЦЕВА АНАСТАСИЯ СЕРГЕЕВНА — ГОКУ УСОЛЬСКИЙ ГВАРДЕЙСКИЙ КАДЕТСКИЙ КОРПУС)



*Are you tired of your school assignment?  
Would you like to relax and keep calm?  
Do you want to spend free time quietly?  
Welcome to our embroidery club!*

SPOTLIGHT ON RUSSIA presents you a new club.



## DISCUSS:

- 1) Do you like fancy-work? Why or why not?
- 2) Have you ever sewed?
- 3) What traits of character should a person have to do embroidery: intelligent, creative, imaginative, patient, balanced?

## ACTIVITY:

*Imagine that you are going to embroider some picture. What kind of picture would it be? Write and tell us about it.*

## ACTIVITY TIME



Embroidery is a kind of fancy-work. It is a method of embroider a picture on the canvas with the help of a needle and coloured threads. This kind of art is rooted in the era of primitive culture, when people used stone needles to sew clothes made of animals' skins.

Modern people sew with coloured threads, silk threads, gold threads, silver threads and use beads, glass beads, bugles, pearls, semiprecious stones and sparkles.

Russian embroidery is remarkable for great number of vegetative motive, images of birds, animals and classical national literary topics.

Embroidery techniques are individual for each nationality.

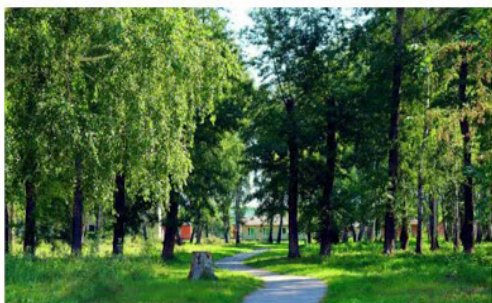




## ACTIVITY TIME

**Summer camp is a great way for kids to spend their summer holidays**

# CAMPS



The children's health camp "Lesnaya Polyana" of Karasuk district was created in 1964 with the aim of organizing schoolchildren's recreation in the summer and strengthening their health. The camp is located in a picturesque place on the shore of the Blagodatnoe lake. In the camp there is a creative team of teachers and students from the educational institutions of the region. Students from Karasuk and Kuibyshev Pedagogical Colleges, the State Pedagogical University and other higher educational institutions from Novosibirsk and Tomsk are trying to do everything possible to organize inspiring and creative activities and develop children's social life skills. In the camp it is developed and successfully implemented the educational program of the civil-patriotic direction "Save yourself for Russia, save Russia for yourself!" The organization of mass affairs and holidays allows children to understand the culture and history of their native land better. The sports and recreational program is realized on the open summer grounds such as basketball and volleyball one's, football pitch and equipped isolated beach. Tournaments, sports and strategic games in the open air alternate with role games, concerts, creative competitions. And, of course, there are video films, evening "lights" and discos. For fans of creativity there are different clubs, such as: "Nature and Fantasy", "Art Painting", "Theater", "Dance", etc. They also organize possible excursions to the Local History Museum, bio-station. Summer camp is the perfect place when most schools are on break. The activities that are introduced at this camps are fun, interactive and educational at the same time.

### Discuss

**Where is your camp situated?**

**What kinds of the most exciting activities are there in your camp?**

**What does a typical day at the camp look like?**



# ACTIVITY TIME

(ЧУБАТЮК ИРИНА СЕРГЕЕВНА — МОУ ЗАРЕЧЕНСКАЯ ШКОЛА)

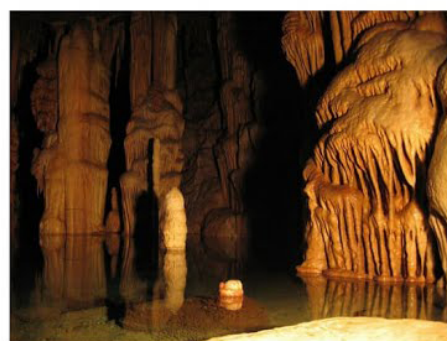
*Last month we visited the Crimea looking for the best activities for teenagers.*

## Activity Time

**Spotlight on Russia** has known all about spending your free time during holidays in the Crimea.



1. **The Golitsyn Path** is a mountain trail which was cut down on the slope of mountain Koba-Kaya. The Path begins from the settlement Novy Svet. The track is laid along the coast and lead to the Golitsyn Grotto and the picturesque Cape Kapchik. It was built in 1912 for the arrival Nikolay II by order of knyaz Golitsyn L.S. The lasting of the route is 3 km. Walking the Golitsyn Path you can see unforgettable views of the Novy Svet, sea and mountains.



2. **The Marble Cave.** There are almost 900 karst caves in the Crimea. Some of them are specially equipped for sightseeing. The Marble Cave in Chatyr-Dag thanks to its grandiose halls, whimsical forms of stalactites and stalagmites, and rare kinds of crystals is included into the five most beautiful caves on the planet. The length of guided tours is 1,500 m.



3. **Ai-Petri Mountain** is one of the most famous mountain massifs in the Crimea. Its height is 1,234 m. At the top there are several monuments and small restaurants. A cableway connects the Ai-Petri Jags with Miskhor. Travelling by it is one of the momentous impressions of your rest in the Crimea for excitement of feelings and enchanting sights. The unfolding views are simply *fantastic!*



### Activity

Does your region have different activities? What are they? What are the most popular ones? Why?

### Discuss

1. What kind of activity do you like?
2. Which one would you like to visit on holiday? Why?



**Rag dolls keep traditions and legends alive, which have always been essential to the Russian people.**

**“Spotlight on Russia” presents you a folk craft!**

## RUSSIAN RAG DOLLS



Doll in ancient times was considered as a lucky charm (“obereg”); it protected the owner, the house from harm, misfortune and evil spirits. People believed rag dolls help with work, protect from diseases and accidents and bring luck. Rag dolls were used for playing too.

The doll was the famous and the lovely toy of children. The very first rag doll met the new born in the cradle. Mummy made it when she was expecting a baby. It was called “Pelenashka”.

The baby grew and played with the doll. The children started making dolls from the age of four or five. Boys could make dolls only before seven years old.

A girl’s doll was her friend and helper, she shared her troubles and her happiness with it. She taught to cook the kasha with “Kasha doll”. After the wedding she took the dolls into the husband’s house with the dowry.

“Krupenichka” comes from the word “krupa” which means “cereal”. The doll brought the abundance and wealth and was given as a wedding gift to couples in their first home.

“Kubyshka-travnitsa” comes from “trava” (“grass”). It was made to protect from illnesses.



Traditional rag doll has no face, it’s white, blank. So evil spirits couldn’t settle in these dolls. Each doll has its own value. And it is incredibly important to do it with love, with clean and bright thoughts, with an open heart.

Dolls were made from two or three pieces of fabrics without using scissors and a needle. Rags just was torn with hands. All parts are usually held together only by threads- red ones. People believed that red colour could protect them from the evil spirits. The doll was born with its own character and a great value.

I adore these amazing dolls! While I’m making them, I feel the warmth, the joy and happiness to touch to my roots.

**Do you like to make Russian dolls?  
What is your favorite  
doll?**

**Discuss**

**Let’s make “Kolokolchik”.  
I’d like you go to the fair and describe the  
doll which will impress  
you most of all.**

**Activity**



# ACTIVITY TIME

(КАРПОВА ЕЛЕНА АНАТОЛЬЕВНА — ГБПОУ «1-Й МОК» СП СОШ ТИХОМИРОВА 6)

Do you know that nowadays our school offer children and students a wide range of choices to develop their skills and abilities?

Welcome to our First Moscow Educational Complex!

Take a look!

## Activity time

**Spotlight on Russia** casts an eye on school clubs.

**Drama club introduce musical theatre «Fairy tale» where you can get the opportunity to**

- Sing and dance
- Speak in a proper way
- Not to be afraid of people around
- Wear colourful costumes
- Act
- Take part in performances



**Dance club let you know and understand your abilities ,encourage you**

- To learn lots of movements
- To dance in pairs
- To take part in competitions
- To get prizes
- To become a real ladies and gentlemen



**Art club helps you to choose your own way in**



- Painting
- Sculpture
- Art modeling
- Composition
- Talks about art
- Art workshop

**Cookery club offers everyone**



- Developing and Mastering your skills in cooking
- The secrets of carving
- The ideas of modern design in serving dishes

- What clubs are there in your school?
- Which one would you like to join and why?

**Discuss**

- Does your school have any after-school clubs or activities? What are they?
- What are the most popular ones?
- Why?
- Write and tell the class about them/
- Don't forget to illustrate your speech with photos.

**Activity**



## Activity Time

## RUSSIAN SCHOOLCHILDREN'S MOVEMENT



### *Russian Schoolchildren's Movement celebrates its birthday!*

*The Russian Schoolchildren's Movement celebrates its 2nd birthday on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2017. The Russian Schoolchildren's Movement was founded in 2015 according to the Edict of the President of the Russian Federation in order to improve civic and national education.*



Spotlight On Russia finds out about  
The Russian Schoolchildren's  
Movement.

The Russian Movement of Schoolchildren is a children's and youth organization. The main idea of which is to involve young people in different activities, which are focused on the development and upbringing of schoolchildren in line with values our community has. Another goal of the organization is to unite and coordinate organizations and people engaged in the upbringing of the younger generation and the formation of personality.

Sergei Ryazansky, a Russian cosmonaut, is the head of the Russian movement. He thinks that we are moving in the right direction because the number of volunteers is growing constantly. "If young people come up with a good list of their personal achievements and participated in social projects, they will be in demand in the social field. Guys, the leaders of the school Council, regular members of volunteer projects, would be of interest to any commercial company, because they are people with an active lifestyle," says Hero of Russia.

Members of the Russian Schoolchildren's Movement live in different parts of Russia. Boys and girls of our school take an active part in various events, which are held on different occasions. The project "Children to children" is one of the most interesting and useful activities. We visited little children in the kindergarten. We draw a very beautiful "Bouquet of Friendship".



We are happy to be the members of this organization. Let us do good things and help each other! Join the Russian Movement of Schoolchildren and be successful and helpful in your native country!

### ACTIVITY

- ✓ Find information about another movement of young people in Russia. Write and tell us about it.



### DISCUSS

- ✓ Would you like to be the member of the Russian Movement of Schoolchildren? Why?
- ✓ Have you ever heard of this movement?

More information about the Russian Movement of Schoolchildren can be found on the website <https://xn--dlaxz.xn--plai/>



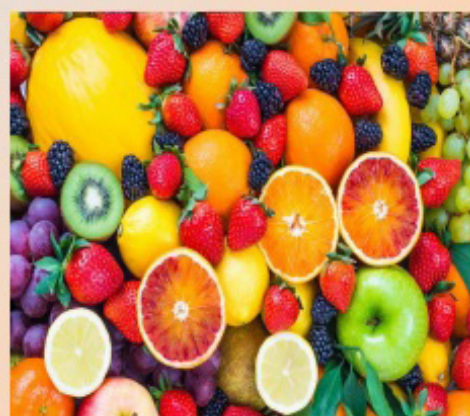
## How not to get fat?

Really popular question nowadays. That is because teenagers eat too much fast food. Hamburgers contain lots of fat and harmful additives. How to stop, they are so tasty!



The answer is very easy, try to motivate yourself. Eat more healthy food; fruits and vegetables and then you will realize how tasty and useful they are.

The Healthiest fruit is apple. In fact, people who eat at least one apple a day won't suffer from thousands of diseases. Looking through the research of Harvard University, strawberry can burn fats and contains a lot of vitamin C that can help you become slim.



**What do you prefer, fruits or vegetables?**

MAX INC

**Discuss**



**Do you like fast food?**

**What is your favorite dish?**



## Spotlight on Russia visits a museum "Cosmic Samara" - the pride of the Russian rocketry

*"Cosmic Samara" - a museum of the genesis of  
Russian space power*



Few people know that Samara was one of the main builders of the Soviet Union's space programme. It is there where "Vostok" rocket, which made the first flight in the history of mankind into space, was assembled. It is there, where the aerospace power of the Soviet Union was formed, and it would be strange if such a memorable event were not perpetuated in the city's history.

A real-life P-7 rocket was installed in Kozlov Square, Lenin Avenue in 2001. The history of the rocket began in 1984, when it was manufactured as a simulator for the USSR's Space Forces. 15 years later it was overage, and returned to the plant, where it was stripped of all the equipment and made a real rocket model. The architects designed a pedestal to the rocket and on October 1, 2001 the grand opening of the monument dedicated to the 40th anniversary of the first manned flight into space took place. The height of the monument is 68 meters, and weight is over 20 tons.

The monument became very popular and on April 12, 2007 near it the "Cosmic Samara" Museum was opened to present the rocketry history. Soon, the museum was awarded as the best tourism project of Samara, becoming an indispensable item in the excursion programs. Indeed, this is one of the most unusual and interesting landmarks in the city.

### DISCUSS

- Would you like to become a space tourist?
- What interesting facts about space do you know?



### ACTIVITY

Choose one of famous cosmonauts and write a short article about his/her achievements.

# Museums



# MUSEUMS

(БЫКОВ ВЛАДИСЛАВ ЮРЬЕВИЧ)

*We arranged a trip to Tikhvin some days ago. Julia loves classical music and was really excited to visit one of the oldest museums in Leningrad region. I didn't think that I and she would like it that much, but we spent a wonderful time, visiting it.*

*Spotlight on Russia invites you to visit Nikolai Andreyevich Rimsky-Korsakov Home-Museum in Tikhvin.*

## Nikolai Andreyevich Rimsky-Korsakov Home-Museum



Tikhvin 200 kilometers east from Saint Petersburg is famous for its Nikolai Andreyevich Rimsky-Korsakov Home-Museum. This early-19th-century wooden house was the composer's childhood home until the age of 12. It became a museum in 1944, the **centenary** of Rimsky-Korsakov's birth.

The museum exhibitions feature the history of the great composer's family: the history of Rimsky-Korsakov's parents, his brother and uncle lives. Composer's childhood is the main theme in the museum exhibition. The "Nika's corner" (Nika was the family name for Nikolai Andreyevich Rimsky-Korsakov) is recreated in the house. The **school manuals** and books of the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, copies of child Nika's paintings are displayed on the table and secretaire.

The rosewood grand piano used by Nikolai Andreyevich for more than 30 years has a special **significance**. The piano followed the composer, when he moved to other apartments. It was his companion of many of his creations.

Music festivals are regularly held in the museum in memory of the great Russian composer.

*centenary – столетие*  
*the museum exhibitions feature – музейные экспозиции*  
*представляют*  
*the school manuals – школьные учебники*  
*significance – значение*

### DISCUSS

- Have you visited a museum before? Where?
- Did you enjoy it? What did you like most about it?
- What is a museum and what is in it? (Exhibitions, café, shop, ...)
- Who works in a museum?
- What other things do museums do? (Research, education)
- Are museums important?

### ACTIVITY

Design a page for your class photo album / school site with the title "One Day in a Museum" to show your British friends.



## The Krasnoyarsk Regional Museum

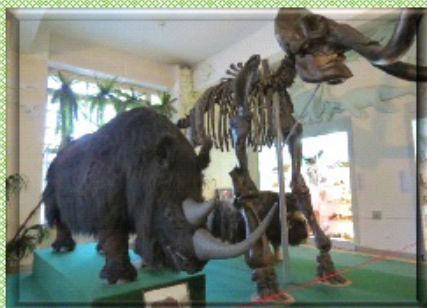
Let's arrange an excursion to the historical museum in Siberia. Going around the museum is a great experience.



### *Spotlight on Russia goes on an excursion to the Krasnoyarsk Regional Museum*

The Krasnoyarsk Regional Museum is one of the oldest museums in Siberia and in the Far East. It is also one of the largest museums in Russia. About 360 thousand people visit it per month. The Krasnoyarsk Regional Museum is recognized as the best Regional Museum of Russia and as the winner of the competition "The changeful museum of the changeable world". The museum was opened in 1889. The present building is constructed in a modern style and it is stylized as an ancient Egyptian temple. The architect of the project is a famous Krasnoyarsk architect Leonid Chernyshov.

The exhibition of the Krasnoyarsk Regional Museum traces the history of the region from ancient times to our days. Some of the exhibits are of great value. Here one can find archeological (more than 35 thousand objects), paleontological (the complete skeleton of a mammoth, the reconstruction of a woolly rhino, the unique skeleton of a stegosaur and so on). The



Krasnoyarsk Regional Museum includes worldwide artistic, church, ethnographic and scientific collections as well as manuscripts, written documents, weapon, the heritage of Decembrists, Surikov's and Astafiev's funds. Moreover, the museum has got such unique exhibits as autographs of Napoleon and Rasputin.



Excursions are held in four languages: Russian, English, German and French. Come along and see for yourself!

#### Discuss

- What things would you like to see in this museum?
- What museums are there in your city?

#### Activity

- What is the best museum you have ever been to? Write to us and describe it.







# MUSEUM

The Kalashnikov Museum and Exhibition Complex of Small Arms in Izhevsk Udmurt Republic is in the top 5 best military museums in Russia. Founding this museum is the great way to demonstrate our respect to the out-standing gun-maker.



The Kalashnikov Museum appeared on the map of Russian culture in 2004.

The museum presents hi-tech and interactive expositions. Here is created demonstration hall, including modern shooting gallery where are presented different models of historical and contemporary arms, also a pneumatic shooting gallery, that is equipped by multimedia programs.



Permanent Exposition named "A Man's Destiny" is focused on M.T. Kalashnikov's biography and depicts main stages of his life. The exposition is divided into three sections: "Life", "Creation", and "Glory".

The exhibits range involves samples of small arms manufactured at Izhevsk arms plants during 200 years: from a smooth-bore firelock and up to Kalashnikov and Nikonov guns.

## Discuss

Creating weapon has got 2 sides of the same coin. Could you find arguments "for" and "against" arms in our life?

Are there any kind of military museum in your area?

Have you ever shot from the gun? If yes, where? What was your result? What did you feel? If no, would you like to try? Why?/Why not?



In the centre of a big modern city in the heart of Siberia there is a small corner of the remote past: the Home-Museum of one of the greatest Russian artists Vasily Surikov. Have you ever been to that small cosy place where time has slowed down?

**“Spotlight on Russia” invites you to visit Surikov Home-Museum in Krasnoyarsk.**

## Surikov Home-Museum



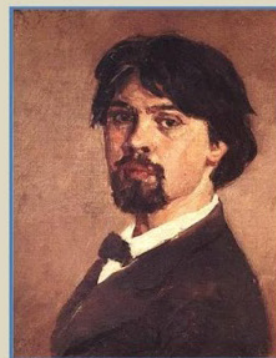
Imagine a typical Russian house of the second part of the XIX century, made of larchwood. Vasily Surikov was born there to an old Don Cossack family on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 1848. Twenty years later the young artist left his hometown for St Petersburg where he studied at the Imperial Academy of Arts. In 1877 he moved to Moscow. Unable to afford a house, Surikov lived in rented apartments and hotels and visited Krasnoyarsk

whenever possible. There, in his old studio, he worked at his most joyful picture, "The Capture of Snow Town", made sketches for one of his most familiar works, "The Conquest of Siberia by Yermak Timofeyevich", painted a lot of portraits and Siberian landscapes.



The museum was opened in 1948, on the occasion of centenary of the birth of the artist. On the ground floor you can see the rooms where the Surikovs lived, their original furniture, clothes, kitchenware and household items. The biggest room upstairs is the painter's studio. There you can enjoy his pictures, small sculptures and also see photographs and old manuscripts.

Today Surikov Home-Museum is one of the most interesting places to see in Krasnoyarsk. Thousands of people visit it every year. It reconstructs the atmosphere of the past and helps us feel the beauty of the old Siberian town. You can also learn more about the life of Vasily Surikov, enjoy his famous works of art and participate in different museum programmes such as lectures, intellectual games, workshop sessions, etc.



### DISCUSS

Have you ever been to a home-museum of a famous person? Work in groups and think of three or more common features of such type of museums.

### ACTIVITY

Learn some more interesting facts about Vasily Surikov's life and artwork. Tell the class what you have found out.



What are school museums look like?  
What is special about them?

## Museums

### Spotlight on Russia goes on an excursion

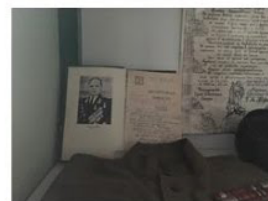


The museum of the 274th Yartsev Order of the Red Banner ,Order of Suvorov rifle division

In the 1st MEC (First Moscow Educational Complex) you can find a unique museum. It's a school museum. In the museum you can follow the history of the division. The museum was founded in 1977. The history of its creation is amazing. The headmaster of the school number 274(former name) got acquainted with a veteran of the 274th division M.G. Shatrov. It was he who suggested to organize this school museum. All the students and the staff did their best to find veterans from all over the USSR and in 1977 there were 565 veterans in the list. On the 7th of May hundreds of veterans came to Moscow to the opening ceremony which took place in the cinema "Ladoga".

In 2014 the museum was transformed into the Museum Zone. The students of the complex have still been working on investigation projects.

In this museum you can find soldiers' letters from the war, ammunition from the territories where the division fought, a book «Adolescence and War» written by Michail Shatrov, etc. You can't but admire the new technology used in the museum too. It's really worth visiting!



#### Discuss

Have you got a museum in your school?  
When was it opened?  
Have you ever visited school museums?  
Did you like it? Why? Why not?  
Why is it important to have museums in schools?

#### Activities

Imagine you are a headmaster of your school. What kind of museum would you open? Write down 3 main purposes of the museum.





## TEENS

13-year-old schoolboy of Moscow school Dmitriy Reznikov and specialists of State Medical-Stomatological University worked up a unique youth brush, which intends for spacemen, who work in orbital development.

16-year-old boy Vadim Khomich from Zhitomir invented a gadget, which blocks a car with a drunk driver. This invention can save a lot of people all over the world.

10-year-old girl Anastasia Rodimina from Moscow became the youngest patentee in Russia, when she thought out a new kind of printing graphic arts. Her grandfather helped her to take out a patent and became a co-author. Doctors offer to use this invention as a method of art-therapy for psychocorrection of person.

11-year-old boy Vladislav Koren from Irkutsk region successfully took out a patent for a toy highway of a new kind.

**Do you know anything about Russian children's inventions?**

**Would you like to know more about it?**

**Let's meet some Russian children, who invented interesting and very useful for people things!**

SPOTLIGHT ON RUSSIA presents you children-inventors.

Talented seamstresses and cutters, well-known engineers and architects, top-level cooks and bakers – all of them studied at school and their talents showed during school-days. Child's creative work influences on formation of his personality. A child need be outside his field of ordinary thinking. The main thing is not only result, but a process. Because to invent is a natural state of all the children.

An international Kid Inventors' Day (the 17<sup>th</sup> of January) was created for early developing of children's abilities and popularization of engineering. This day wide spread and became popular holiday in western countries. In Russia this day becomes publicity only recent years.

In 2013 young schoolchildren Anton Zarubin, Nikita Chernyadev and Ilya Danilov from Nizhniy Novgorod became finalists of a competition «Google Science Fair» for their new digital information carrier, which doesn't have any analogues. Boys are sure that their invention will replace modern information carriers. Moreover this device provides an incredible safety of information.



### DISCUSS:

- 1) Do you like to think out?
- 2) Have you ever invented anything?
- 3) Have you ever heard of Russian young inventors?

### ACTIVITY:

Imagine that you are going to invent some unusual and helpful for people thing. What would it be? Write and tell us about it.





*Spotlight on Russia would like to find out what future jobs and professions are popular among teens. What depends on the teen's career choice?*



## VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE

Teens at the age of 13-14 years provoke a great interest to their future professions. So, it's very advisable to help them in vocational guidance. Of course, children like to change their mind, but a reasonable conversation and a right professional orientation can provide their intelligent choice. In this regard, it's necessary to have talks with teens about their future interests and preferences. The professional orientation lesson is a wonderful solution of this issue. During this lesson we have an opportunity to learn about teen's hobby as well as to introduce them with different jobs. Role-play games provide the most effective impact on the teen's choice. Children play the roles of their future professions with a great pleasure that allows them to look ahead to make the right career choice. During the game teenagers imitate the function of airport, shopping mall, florists', post office, hospital, restaurant and others. They are eager to demonstrate all their best features and achieve a success in the playing position. After the role-play games teens can make an analysis of the job and admit their further occupation in this profession. Teens learn to socialize with each other and work as a friendly team. Thus, a role-play game is a reliable helper in the teen's future career awareness. The more we play games related to the job's choice, the more we realize our own interest to our future profession.



### ACTIVITY

What jobs are children playing in the photos? Do you know what is your future profession? Prepare and act out the dialogue with your friend on the theme "My future career".

### DISCUSS

Do you agree with the contents of the text? What impacts on your job choice? What professions are the most popular today? Do you dream to have the same job as your parents?



# Jobs for Teens

Russia is the biggest country in the world,  
Here we can find the cleverest and most  
creative teenagers!



Of course they want to have their own pocket money.

In Russia teenagers can do a lot of different professions .

Working in retail as well, in the supermarkets or shopping centers. If you like animals, you can walk with dogs, look after pets.

You are excellent at telling stories and  
you can play with small kids,  
Help people with children who want to  
go out, they will be happy.  
That is a great start for businessman,  
teenagers want to understand how to  
make money.



**Discus** ↓

**Do you have your  
own pocket money?**

**What do you prefer  
save or spend?**

**What kind of job do you  
want to have? Why?**



Hello everyone! I am Aliya, I am in Year 7 at School. Russian children like to watch TV when their homework is ready, my classmates and I are not an exception. Here's what I usually watch in the evening on Channel called Russia1.

РОССИЯ 1



## Spotlight on Russia looks at one of the most popular TV channels in Russia.



**11:20 Смеяться разрешается**



**16:20 Золото нации**



**18:00 Танцуют все!**

If you ask anybody if he/she watches TV, you will most probably hear “Yes, of course!” Russians like watching Channel One and Russia 1. They are among the most popular channels in my country.

Channel Russia 1 was founded on the 13<sup>th</sup> of May 1991. There are a lot of interesting entertaining programmes on this channel. My favourite ones are “100 to 1”, “Allowance to laugh”, “Gold Nation” and “Everybody dances!”

“Allowance to laugh” is a comedy show with funny sketches and stand-up comedians, they tell jokes about politics, about common people and their life, about foreigners, especially Americans and their thoughts on Russia.

“Everybody dances” is a reality show popularizing different kinds of dances. Experienced Russian dance groups are given a task to perform a dance they have never danced before. For example, those who usually dance Paso Doble have to dance Lambada or a national dance.

“Gold Nation” is a competition for children aged from 5 to 12 where they are grouped into two teams of five kids in each. Aleksandr Pushnoi asks the competitors various questions from different school subjects like History, Geography, Maths, Biology, Physics and others.

Of course there are also lots of other popular TV shows but with so many different types of programmes it's quite hard to choose!

### DISCUSS

- Have you ever watched Russia 1?
- What programmes made by this Channel are popular with your family and friends?

### ACTIVITY

- You've got a favourite channel but some programmes are so boring that you don't like them at all. What programmes could you offer instead of the dull ones?



Hello everyone! I am Anastasia, I am in Year 7 at School. I am fond of reading. You'll never know much about Russian culture if you don't read the works of Alexander Pushkin, the greatest poet and writer of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. On this page you can read an extract from an English translation of one of "Belkin Tales" called "Mistress into Maid".

# Pushkin

## Spotlight on Russia presents Pushkin



"Try, Nastya, to see Alexey Berestov and tell me then how he looks like and what he is like."

Nastya promised to do it, and Liza had been looking forward to hearing from her. In the evening Nastya appeared.

"Well, Lizaveta Grigoryevna", she said, entering the room, "I saw young Berestov, I watched him enough, we have been together the whole day."

"Who's he? Tell me, tell me in order."

"OK, we, Anisya Egorovna, Nenila, Dunka went ..."

"All right, I know. What's then?"

"Let me tell you everything in order. We came to lunch. The room was full with people. There were people from Kolbino, Zakharyevo, a counterwoman with her daughters, people from Khlupino..."

"And what about Berestov?"

### DISCUSS

- What do you think about reading Pushkin's prose in English?
- Would you like to read his poems in English?

### ACTIVITY

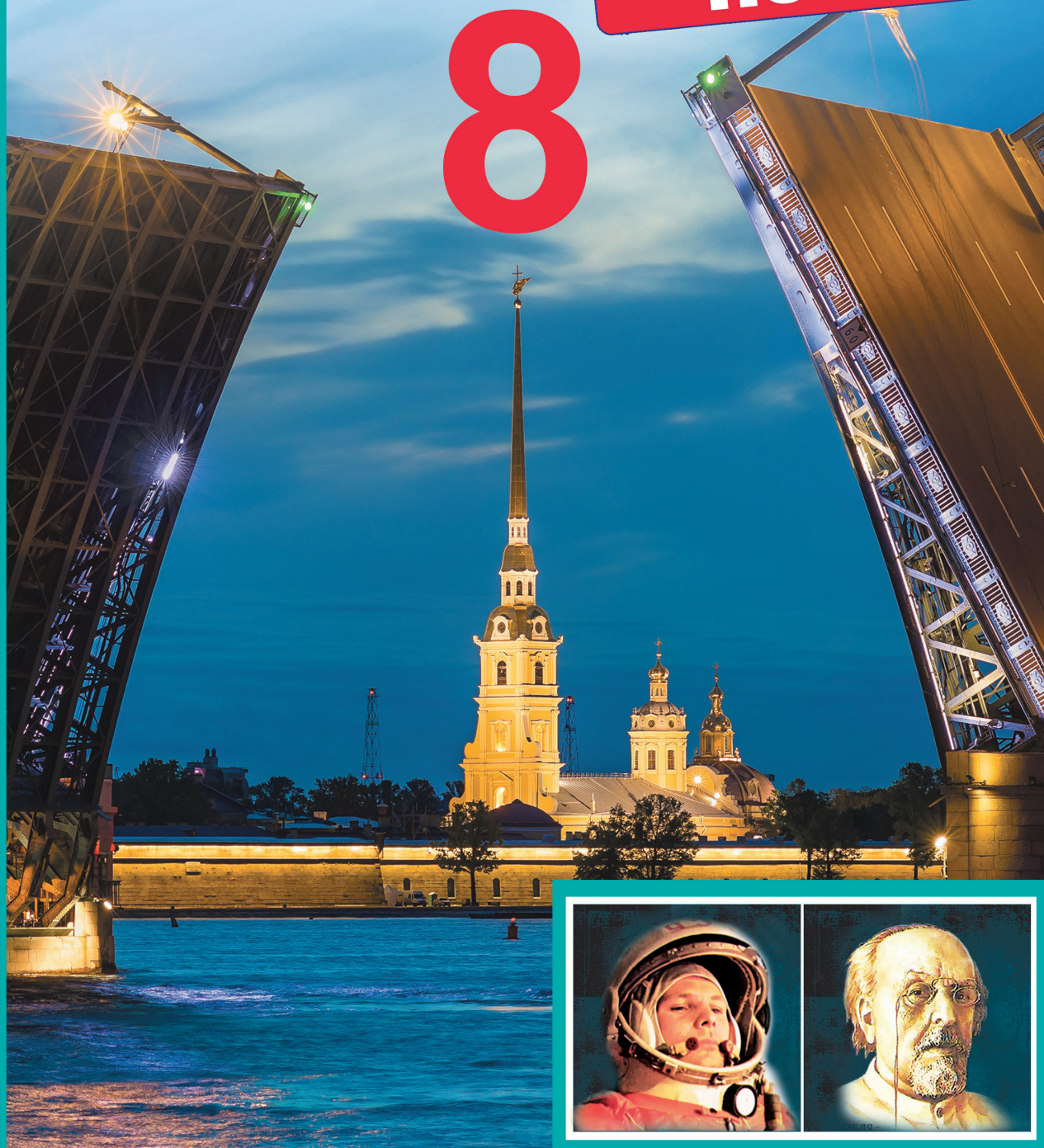
- Watch the film "Mistress into Maid" directed by A. Sakharov and write a short film review of it.



# Spotlight

on **RUSSIA**

# 8





## **BEAUTIFUL PLACES**

Печкурова Е.А.  
Трефилова Т.В.

## **CULTURAL EXCHANGE**

Жигунова А.М.  
Капоткина Н.Ю.  
Кустенко Ю.И.  
Сирко И.А.

## **EDUCATION**

Карпова Е.А.  
Фисенко Е.Ю.

## **GREAT MINDS**

Алексеев Ю.С.  
Потапова Е.А.

## **NATURAL WORLD**

Гумерова Т.Л.  
Олонцева А.С.  
Утешева А.П.

## **PASTIMES**

Владимирцева У.Н.  
Филимонова Л.В.

## **SPECIAL INTERESTS**

Вербицкий Р.В.



# BEAUTIFUL PLACES (ПЕЧКУРОВА ЕЛЕНА АНАТОЛЬЕВНА — МОУ СОШ № 17 Г. О. ПОДОЛЬСК)

*There are a lot of places to visit in our country and one of them is Podolsk*

**SPOTLIGHT ON RUSSIA  
LOOKS AT PODOLSK**

**Beautiful  
Places:  
PODOLSK**



## My Native Town Podolsk

Podolsk is one of the most beautiful towns in Moscow region. It stands on the Pakhra River and has its own history. The town was named after Podol village on the 5th of October, 1781 according to the decree by Russian Empress Catherine the Second. By that time there were 108 houses in the town in which 856 people lived.

IN OUR DAYS, most central streets have preserved their historical look. There are many old buildings there and each of them has its own individual style and spirit. In Lenin Avenue (former Moscow Avenue), you can see many architectural monuments – houses of merchants.

The Shopping Center "Red Rows" has also a rich history. It is adjacent to a modern Central Post Office. It is one of the oldest stone buildings in Podolsk. The first trade stone shop on the site of the modern Red Rows was built by the peasant Ivan Markov. It was three detached two-storey red brick building in Old Russian style. Since the late nineteenth century the shops and stalls were scattered and were located in two streets at once. In our days, Red Rows are made of ecologically safe material, but retained its historical colour and purpose.

Podolsk amazingly combines historical buildings and all modern tendencies. A lot of new housing developments appear every year here. Near historical mansions you can see new buildings. They are the "signs" of our times: the "House – Sail" and "Talking" high-rise buildings. So, Podolsk has got its own distinctive personality and soul.

Modern Podolsk is one of the most important economic and cultural centers of the Moscow region.

**ACTIVITY:**  
**Find out more about  
Podolsk and tell your  
classmates about it.**

**DISCUSS**  
*Have you ever been to Podolsk?  
Where do you live?  
What do you know about  
your native place?*



# Beautiful Places

There are a lot of beautiful places to visit all around Russia and one of them is Balaklava Harbour, a bay in the Black Sea near Balaklava, Crimea.

## Spotlight on Russia visits Balaklava, Sevastopol

### Balaklava Bay



What makes Balaklava unique and attractive is its harbour. Narrow, long and winding, it served as a convenient anchorage many centuries ago. Ancient travelers and geographers believed the harbor was the location of Lamosa, the port of the Tauri pirates famous in the ancient world for their custom sacrificing shipwrecked strangers to their goddess.

In Soviet times the harbor was closed to public since it was used as atomic submarine anchorage. And today one can see dozens snow-white boats berthed at the Balaklava quay right under the walls of the Genoese fortress. A boat trip along these picturesque shores is an exciting experience to remember.

### The Passage to the Balaklava Harbour



Balaklava Harbour has always attracted visitors not only due to its unique and striking beauty but great convenience account for its popularity with the sailors. Its winding waterway is an excellent protection from the storms, this is why it has always been a secure

anchorage. Under Genoese rule the entrance to the harbor was guarded by the towers with a chain stretched between them to keep away enemy ships.

#### ACTIVITIES

Find out more information about Balaklava. Think of an advertisement to make people come to Balaklava.

#### DISCUSS

- Is there a place near you that is particularly beautiful?
- What makes it so special?



# Culture

*We can study foreign culture not only from its literature, art, music, but also from the national clothes.*

## *Spotlight on Russia* studied the national Russian costume

*Traditional clothing gives a sense of the traditions variety, it expresses the people's identity through the national costumes.*



Traditionally, Russian clothes has two main colors – a natural color of the material – white, and red. “Red” is the same word that was used in the olden days to call everything beautiful. That is, red elements in clothing became beautiful elements.

For the southern regions of Russia plant and geometric patterns were common, while for the Russian North – geometric patterns, zoological patterns and those associated with human life: the figures of

peacocks, leopards, horses; the tree of life, crosses, complex diamond shapes and so on.

Men’s costume was composed of

1. “*Rubakha – Kosovorotka*” is a long shirt with a stand - up collar fastening on the side;
2. “*Porty*” are long, not wide, narrowed down to ankle trousers;
3. “*Kushak*” is a belt. It was a mandatory part of traditional Russian clothing for both men and women. Belt was considered to have protective powers, acted as an amulet.

The Russian women’s costume was based on

1. “*Rubakha*” is a linen shirt or blouse. It was made flaxen embroidery, silk lace, golden threads and spangles. Collars and sleeves were decorated extensively.
2. “*Perednik*” is an apron served to keep the clothes clean. Women used it in the kitchen or in the garden.)
3. “*Sarafan*” is a long sleeveless dress covering feet was worn by girls and young women.



## Activities

- Write down the words to the pictures
- What others parts of clothes can you see in the pictures. Describe them.
- Write a letter to your pen friend describing Russian costume



## Cultural Exchange

**Do you like reading fairy tales? We want to tell about our countryman, an original landscape painter and story teller from the Pomorie region of Northern Russia.**

**Spotlight on Russia** presents Stepan Pisakhov, an artist, writer, ethnographer and fairy tale author.



Stepan Grigorievich Pisakhov (1879 – 1960) was born in Arkhangelsk into a family of a craftsman – jeweler and engraver. After finishing a municipal school in Arkhangelsk he studied in Baron Stieglitz' Arts College in Petersburg. He continued his education as an artist in Paris and in a private Petersburg studio. Ilya Repin himself invited him to work in his studio. In 1899 Stepan Pisakhov participated in an art exhibition in Petersburg, and in 1907 his paintings were displayed in Rome, and in 1910 in his native Arkhangelsk; in 1912 he was awarded a silver medal at an art exhibition in Petersburg.

Maternally, Stepan Pisakhov came from the Trufanova Gora Village on Pinega River. His grandmother's brother, grandpa Leontiy, was a professional folktale narrator, and from his early childhood the future writer lived amid rich word-creation traditions of the Russian North. Hence was his aspiration to bring the primordial harmony of old Russian speech back to literature.

Pisakhov was not a typically "writing" writer: he started to make up and tell his tales early, but rarely put them down, as he said. The peculiarity of his texts, which were first of all intended for listening audiences, was conditioned by their spoken origin. For a long time Pisakhov's tales existed in the form of his verbal performances and oral retelling by his listeners.

The first reviews of his creations were mentioning him as an artist, not as a writer: in 1918 the Severny Den newspaper published L. Leonov's articles "For the upcoming exhibition of artist Pisakhov's paintings" and "Poet of the North". Only in 1924 his tales from the *Northern Munchausen* cycle were published in the collection "On Northern Dvina". In 1927 northern folktales recorded and commented by Stepan Pisakhov were published in the almanac "Sovetskaya Strana".

The geography of Pisakhov's active creative scope was extraordinarily various, stretching from Novaya Zemlya to Cairo. As an artist he got lots of impressions from his youth travels in Italy, France, Turkey and Egypt. Yet, his major theme, both as a writer and an artist, was his native North, its images, folklore and speech. Pisakhov perceived the Russian North in detail and from many sides, as an artist, folklorist and ethnographer; he investigated the coasts of the White Sea, visited Novaya Zemlya, waters of the Yugorski Shar strait, connecting the Barents and Kara Seas, and took part in arctic expeditions. Stepan Pisakhov is a representative of that epoch, which felt the impoverishment of folklore and thus saw the need for combining folk traditions with promising opportunities of written literature.

Fyodor Abramov wrote, "Pisakhov is one of the greatest tale writers of the Russian North"; "he undoubtedly belongs to the most remarkable fairy tale authors of the world"; "regarding the scope of fancy Pisakhov holds a special place among the top ten tale writers of the world".



Autumn by the White Sea



Red Flowers in Novaya Zemlya



A monument to S. Pisakhov in Arkhangelsk, Chumbarov-Luchinski

- Where do you live?
- Are there any famous people in your region?

### ACTIVITY

Write a short biography of a famous person of your region and describe his/her most successful works. Send it to us at [www.spotlightonrussia.ru](http://www.spotlightonrussia.ru)



The covers of S. Pisakhov's books



# Cultural Exchange

There are a number of historical monuments in Russia, which show us different styles of architecture.

**Spotlight on Russia** goes on a school excursion. Come with us to ...

## The Assumption Cathedral Tula

The cathedral is situated in Tula inside the Kremlin. It was built in 1764. It was made in the style of Russian Baroque. Inside the cathedral we can see a bright room with four **pillars**\*. Also on the wall there are paintings representing two specific thematic complexes: the seven paintings depicting the **Ecumenical councils**\*\*; four paintings on the Western wall of the temple, transmitting the contents of the book «song of songs»\*\*\*. The great artistic value is a wooden carved **gilt**\*\*\*\* six-level iconostasis, which was made by Tula carvers. The Cathedral was a **witness**\*\*\*\*\* of many historical events of our homeland.

\*pillar ['pɪlə] – столб

\*\*the Ecumenical councils [ɪˌkjuːmenɪk(ə)l 'kaʊn(t)s(ə)l] – Вселенские соборы

\*\*\*the book «song of songs» - книга «Песнь песней»

\*\*\*\*gilt [ɡɪlt] – золоченый

\*\*\*\*\*witness ['wɪtnəs] – свидетель



The Assumption Cathedral in the early 20th century



The Assumption Cathedral in 2010

### ACTIVITIES

Complete the sentences. the Toy Museum last Friday.

- 1) The cathedral is situated in \_\_\_\_\_ or did you see there?
- 2) It is made in the style of \_\_\_\_\_ excursions? Where do
- 3) Inside the cathedral we can see a \_\_\_\_\_ with four pillars.
- 4) There are paintings representing two specific \_\_\_\_\_ complexes.

### Discuss

Do you like this Cathedral? Why?  
Would you like to visit it?

What other Cathedrals do you know?



A good way to learn about culture of a different ethnic group is to watch its dances. Reading this page you can learn about a national ensemble presenting cabardians.

## Cultural Exchange

### Spotlight on Russia casts an eye on the ensemble “Kabardinka”



Each person is proud of his nation. And if there is something special he or she can be proud of, his/her feelings are doubled. Each cabardian is happy to be a member of ethnic group which has such ensemble as "Kabardinka".

The Kabardian Dance Ensemble, one of the first national troupes in Circassia, was established in 1933. “Kabardinka” is always recognizable due to its originality, color and unique choreography. The famous performers have visited most corners of the globe in their 85 years, demonstrating the beauty of the people, their morals, customs and traditions with the language of dance. The performers wear national costumes and perform thrilling acts that you won't see anywhere else. What makes “Kabardinka” unique is that their dances make you feel like you're studying the history of Caucasians, their inner temperament, majestic beauty and elegance that can't but enchant the spectators. These performances are always accompanied by thunderous ovations of the viewers and rave reviews in the media.



‘Kabardinka’ was recognized as ‘National Treasure of the Circassian Nation’ by the International Circassian Association (ICA).

#### Discuss

Have you ever heard about “Kabardinka” and cabardians?  
What folk dance ensembles can you name?  
Do you think it is important to have folk dance ensembles?

#### Activities

Find out about another folk dance ensemble and tell the class about it.



Do you know that our Russian system of education has changed dramatically? Especially in Moscow! Have you ever heard about new complexes of educational institutions organized in our capital city?

## Education

Let's find out some arguments and facts about them with  
Spotlight on Russia!

Welcome to our First Moscow Educational Complex created about 5 years ago !

It consists of 7 colleges, 2 schools, 4 kindergartens !

The idea of optimization appeared more than 5 years ago in order to find new ways of renovations and management. Since that time lots of complexes have begun with the aim to develop their ideas of offering education and development to children and their parents. Nowadays there are a lot of different complexes in Moscow.

The most unusual ones is the First Moscow Educational Complex, the head-office of which is located in Medvedkovo .It differs from others because of the fact that it offers different kinds of educational services and gives children lots of opportunities to develop their skills in various fields such as Design ,Cookery, Photography , IT-Technology and many more.

The Complex is considered to be a basic step to the career from the cradle (from the kindergarten with their modern system of development, with the wide range of clubs such as Swimming club, Science club ,Music and Art clubs to schools where the system of education gives children the chance to study lots of subjects deeper and wider using extra-curriculum activities). As for colleges we can't but say that they are ready to show and offer you everything you want to try. There you have the opportunity to be successful in your chosen career and achieve everything! So, welcome to the First Moscow Educational Complex! It's worth doing!



ПЕРВЫЙ МОСКОВСКИЙ  
ОБРАЗОВАТЕЛЬНЫЙ КОМПЛЕКС



### Discuss

In pairs, discuss the school you go to.

- What's the name and the type of it?
  - What is special in such a school?
  - What extra-curriculum activities do you have there?
- What facilities are there inside and outside?

### Activities

Tell your partner whether it is good to get education in your school? Why? Give your reasons.

- Write and tell people around about your school
- Don't forget to find and show some photos to illustrate your speech.



# Presidential Cadet Schools in Russia



At present, there are about five hundred cadet schools, military boarding schools and a great number of cadet classes in Russia. The idea that emerged a while ago to establish presidential cadet schools in every region is now becoming a reality.

## Spotlight on Russia visits Orenburg – the city where the first presidential cadet school was opened in 2010

Orenburg Presidential Cadet School is a full boarding school<sup>1</sup> for boys. It was founded in 2010 by the President of the Russian Federation Dmitry Medvedev. The school has soon become one of the most famous schools in the country, attracting pupils from all over the country. Orenburg cadets are boys from 11 to 18 years old, most of them are children of Russia's Armed Forces personnel.

Currently, the boarding school is home to 800 boys. The students receive both general education and extra-curricular<sup>2</sup> educational programmes with the emphasis in Maths, Physics, foreign languages (including Chinese) and Military Science. The school has excellent facilities<sup>3</sup> for extra-curricular activities: cadets can choose a journalist's society, a diplomat's society, Robotics, a choir, an Art society.

The campus of the school is located in the centre of Orenburg. There are 7 dormitories in the campus, a library, a skating rink, some football pitches, basketball and volleyball grounds, a swimming pool and a building for extra-curricular activities.

In the dormitory<sup>4</sup> cadets live in comfortable rooms for three boys. There is no escape from household chores for the boys: they do the ironing and washing themselves. Also they must keep their rooms tidy. Parents can take their sons out on Sunday.

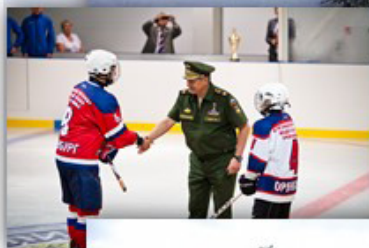
Orenburg Presidential Cadet school provides a very high standard of sports training. There are many opportunities to become a successful sportsman in the school. The school has teams in all the main sports. Boys take part in regional and national competitions in wrestling, mini-football, hockey and athletics.

<sup>1</sup>full boarding school – закрытое учебное заведение

<sup>2</sup>extra-curricular – внеклассный, дополнительный

<sup>3</sup>facilities – условия, возможности

<sup>4</sup>dormitory – общежитие, жилой корпус



### ACTIVITIES

Find out if there is a cadet school in your city or town. Have a lesson-excursion to this school and write a short article about it. Tell about its location, history, special subjects and extra-curricular activities.



# GREAT MINDS

(АЛЕКСЕЕНКО ЮЛИЯ СЕРГЕЕВНА — МБОУ КРАСНООБСКАЯ СОШ № 1 Г. КРАСНООБСК)

Russian geniuses, who made a contribution to the development of human civilization and whom we are proud of.

By the power of their talent, knowledge and ability to think outside the box, they won, even in those cases when it seemed impossible.

**Great  
Minds**

## Spotlight introduces the Great Scientists of our Motherland

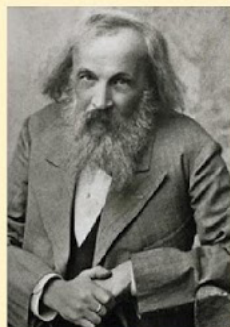


**Mikhail Vasilyevich Lomonosov** (1711 - 1765) was a Great Russian scientist, chemist, physicist, artist, historian, poet and writer, whose works have been known throughout the world. He became famous in such areas of knowledge as astronomy, geology, geography and many others. Lomonosov's creative writing contains works in different languages. They are "Russian History", the tragedy "Tamara and Selim", "Demophoon" and different poems.

In 1754, he developed a project of Moscow University, later named in his honor - Lomonosov Moscow State University. In addition,

Lomonosov's biography is remarkable for the writing of works on the colour theory and the construction of a set of optical instruments. Lomonosov also made a great contribution to history. The scientist created the "Brief Russian chronicle with genealogy", where he described the main events of Russian History from 862 to 1725. The edition made it easier to work with historical documents and it became very popular among readers.

The great scientist died of pneumonia on April 4 (15), 1765 and was buried at the Lazarevsky cemetery in St. Petersburg.



**Dmitry Ivanovich Mendeleev** (1834-1907) was an outstanding Russian scientist, chemist, physicist, meteorologist, teacher, creator of the periodic system of chemical elements. Mendeleev was born on February 8, 1834 in Tobolsk in the family of the director of the gymnasium. The greatest discovery in the history of chemistry took place in 1869, when Mendeleev derived a periodic law of chemical elements.

He worked as a professor at St. Petersburg University and taught courses in many other educational institutions. Many of Mendeleev's students became presentable personalities, professors and administrators. In the early 1890s, Mendeleev became a consultant of the scientific and technical laboratory in the Naval Ministry, where he managed to invent the smokeless gunpowder.

The great scientist died on February 2, 1907 in St. Petersburg. During his life, Mendeleev was married twice and had three children from his first marriage and four from the second. One of his daughters was married to the Russian poet Alexander Blok.

### DISCUSS

Have you heard about these great scientists earlier?  
Do you know other Russian scientists?  
Are you interested in science? If so, which field of study?  
Would you like to invent something in the future? What?

### ACTIVITY

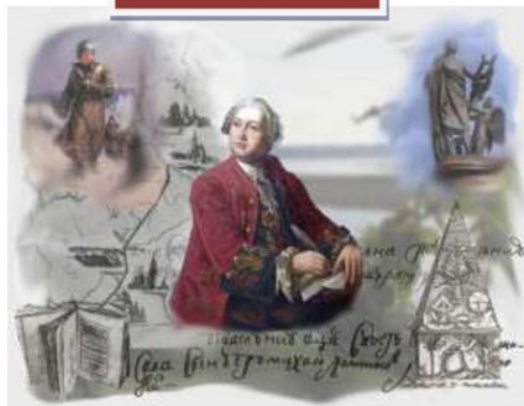
Find information about other Russian scientists and tell about them to your class.



Russia has given humanity a great number of outstanding people in all spheres of life. But there is a Russian man who is considered to be the father of the Russian sciences, the founder of Russian literature and a statesman.

## Great Minds

**Spotlight on Russia** learns about the founders of national science and culture.



### Mikhail Lomonosov (1711-1765)

Mikhail Lomonosov was born in a small village near Arhangelsk in November 1711 in the family of “pomory”. His father was a prosperous fisherman. When Lomonosov was ten he began to work with him. The dangerous life of a fisherman taught him a lot.

He began to read himself when he was a little boy and spent every spare moment reading books. Being a son of a peasant he couldn't be admitted to the local school, so he received a course in basic Russian grammar and arithmetic from a local deacon. Lomonosov wanted to study and when he was nineteen, he left home, joined a fish caravan and went to Moscow on foot.

Lomonosov entered the Slavic-Greek-Latin Academy in 1730. For five years he lived on three kopecks a day. His younger classmates made fun of him, but he made rapid progress. In 1735 he continued his education at the Imperial Academy of Science in St.Petersburg. A year later he was sent to study chemistry, mathematics and mining in Germany. Lomonosov worked hard. He also began writing poetry.

Coming back to Russia Lomonosov was engaged in research in physics and chemistry. He was named the first Russian Professor of Chemistry at the Petersburg Academy of Science in 1745. The first Russian chemical research laboratory was built at his request. He also built a factory producing coloured glass and created about forty mosaics. Lomonosov was the author of the first scientific grammar of Russian language. He wrote a lot of odes, poems and some plays. He played a great role in the formation of the Russian literary language. Lomonosov was a brilliant translator and knew about twenty languages, eleven of which he could speak fluently.

Lomonosov made a telescope and observed a lot of stars and planets with it.

Lomonosov was the founder of the first Russian University.

Mikhail Lomonosov died in 1765 but people know and remember him.

### WRITE

Use the plan and write the biography of a noble person.

Introduction

Date and place of birth

Family and childhood

Main facts and achievements

Conclusion

### DISCUSS

Who can be called Lomonosov of modern time?

Is it possible to be competent in so many spheres nowadays and why?

### MATCH

According to Lomonosov, Karl the 5th used to say that it is appropriate to speak to:

Women	in Spanish
Friends	in French
Enemies	in German
God	in Italian

### ACTIVITY

What do these numbers refer to  
In the text: 20, 10, 19, 5, 11, 40, 3?

Add or reject -er, -ian, -ic, -ist, -man from the names of different sciences and you will get the list of Lomonosov's occupations. Eg.: He was a scientist (science)

Physics	Astronomy
History	Linguistics
Mathematics	Meteorology
State	Poetry
Art	Chemistry
Geology	
Biology	



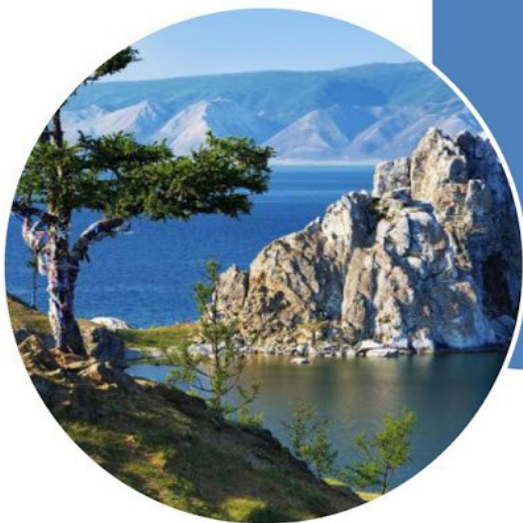
# Natural World



Do you know your country very well? There must be many beautiful places! **Spotlight on Russia** finds out more about Lake Baikal...



Lake Baikal is located in the southern part of the Eastern Siberia, and is the deepest lake in the world. It contains the largest natural amount of fresh water in the world. The Baikal water is rich in oxygen, and a lot of animals live there. There are the Baikal sturgeon, trout, pike and other types of fish. In 1996 Baikal was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. One of the big problems for Baikal is poaching. The number of Baikal seals is decreasing drastically and poaching is declared illegal. All in all, this is one of the most beautiful places in Russia. Lake Baikal has been celebrated in several Russian folk songs. Two of these songs are well known in Russia and even in its neighboring countries, such as Japan!



## Activities.

- 1) Choose the best photo and explain your decision.
- 2) Would you like to find out more about Baikal? Why?
- 3) Work in groups. Collect information on the lakes and rivers in the English speaking countries and present it in the class.





*Are you interested in wild nature of Russia?*

*Would you like to know more about it?*

*Let's meet a lovely wild animal!*

SPOTLIGHT ON RUSSIA presents you an otter.

An otter is a kind of predatory mammals which leads semi-aquatic way of life. There are three kinds of otters in the world. An otter is an animal with a long flexible body of a streamline shape. Its paws are short with swimming membranes. Its tail is muscular and sleek. A colour of its fur is dark-brown from above and light silvery from below. An otter has got a thick undercoat. Therefore its fur is waterproof and it protects the animal from a super-cooling. A construction of its body is adapted for swimming under the water.



**DISCUSS:**

- 1) Do you like wild animals? Why or why not?
- 2) Have you ever seen otters in wild nature?
- 3) Have you ever dreamed of meeting them?

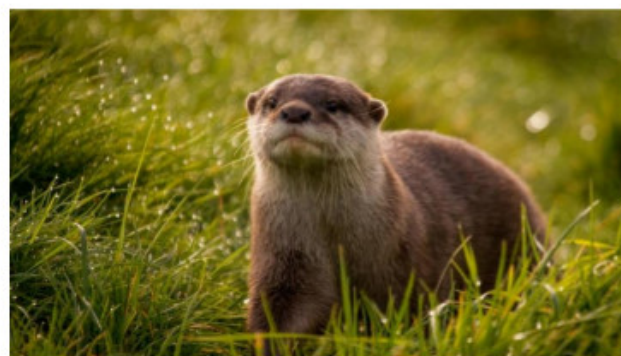
**ACTIVITY:**

*Imagine that you are going to help saving otters. What would you do for them? Write and tell us about it.*

**NATURAL WORLD**

An otter lives in Europe, Asia and the Northern Africa. In Russia it lives everywhere including the north of our country.

An otter swims, dives perfectly and gets its food from water. It can stay under water during 2 minutes. In summer it eats small fish mostly and sometimes mice and ducks. In winter it eats frogs and insects.



**INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT OTTERS**

- In the Southern Asia otters are used as hunting animals. They drive fish into fishermen's nets.
- Unfortunately, a number of these nice animals has recently decreased. Therefore in 2000 an otter was put on the red list of the International Union for Conservation of Nature as a vulnerable kind of animals.
- Anyway otters are very funny and smart animals. They like playing games, for example, throwing small stones into the river and catching them. They can hold their food and different things in their paws.
- When people hunt otters with dogs, these brave animals can take dogs into the river and drown them there. Evidently their motto is: «The best protection is an attack».



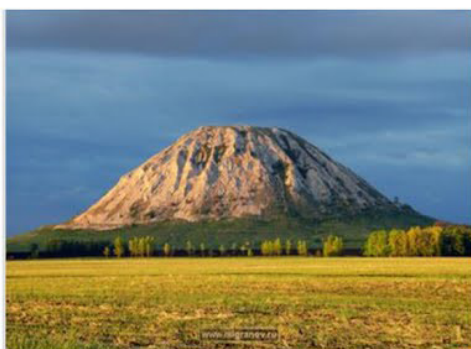
Milo Burcham



## Natural World

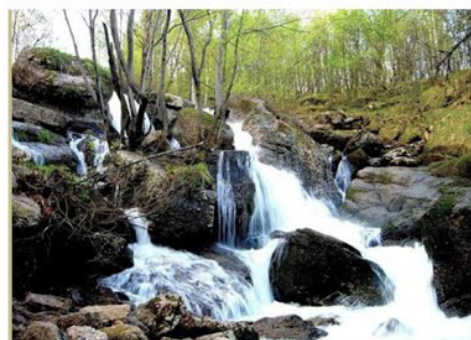
Have you ever heard of the beauty of the landscape of Bashkortostan? Have you ever visited the land of magnificent mountains, mighty rivers, mysterious caves? Can you imagine the land of spacious fields, thick woods and grass covered hills? If you haven't, welcome to Ishimbay region!

*Spotlight on Russia travels to Bashkortostan to see some natural monuments of Ishimbay Region.*



**Tratau Mountain**, or Shihan, is a symbol of the region. It is represented on Coats of Arms and on Flag of Ishimbay Region. Shihans are single chalk mountains of a pyramidal shape covered with little grass. Part of the territory of Bashkortostan used to be the bottom of the Ural Ocean 300,000,000 years ago. Time had passed and the ocean "had gone away" and on its place the Urals and Shihans rose up. Tratau (Fortress Mountain in Bashkir) has been dominating the water meadows of the Belaya River valley for centuries, creating a unique landscape. It is a place where some endemic plants grow.

**Kuk-Karauk Waterfall** is situated in Ishimbay Region on the Kuk-Karuk river. The height of the waterfall is 12 meters in total. Kuk-Karauk presents its beauty especially in spring, when the river is full because of the melted snow from the mountains. It crashes and rumbles down its steps. That is why it is called Kuk-Karauk, which means "the rumbling" in Bashkir. In the hot summer it dries out. So, the best period to visit it is from April to May. If you are interested in history, be sure to go to the area where you can find the remains of the bridge built during the reign of Katherine II.



Kalim-Uskan rock is situated not far from Kuk-Karauk Waterfall. It is 90 m high. In Bashkir Kalim-Uskan means "the place where Kalim fell down". In the mountain there is a karst cave 35 meters long, 2.3 meters wide and 2 meters tall. Some scenes in the film "Salavat Yulayev" were shot there. There is an unusual acoustic phenomenon in the cave. Even low sounds produced within are heard as loud outside the cave. You can also watch a very interesting "stone" river running at the bottom of Kalim-Uskan. It's got such a name because in summer it dries out and only its stone riverbed can be seen.

### Discuss:

- Do you like travelling around Russia?
- What regions of Russia have you been to?
- Would you like to see any of the natural monuments from the text? Why?

### Activity:

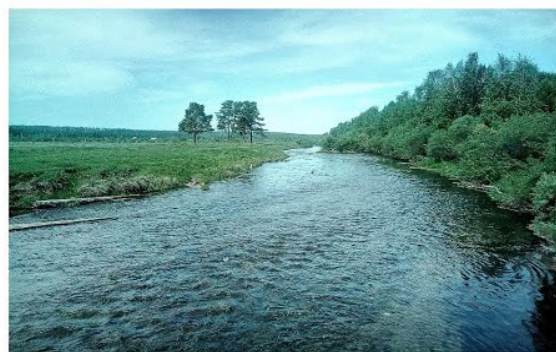
Find out about natural landmarks of your region. Tell the class about one of them. Find a picture and send it to us with some interesting facts about it.



# Pastimes

Spotlight on Russia takes a look at the International festival of wooden sculpture "Lukomorye".

This spring festival takes place in the territory of Park of wooden sculpture "Lukomorye" (the village of Savvateevka, Angarsk District, Irkutsk Region). It's a picturesque place among the pine forest by the Oda River. International teams of one to two members send sketches of their expected sculptures or sculptural compositions. If approved, they create their works right in the park using wood and necessary tools. The sculptures are never coloured. All the participants get free meals and accommodation. Winners gain a money prize of \$150,000. At the end of the festival, all the works stay in the park and please its numerous guests. Visitors enjoy the works of wooden art and the magnificent nature. By the way, if you care of all those cut trees, don't worry! The festival participants plant new ones by the side of the river. Besides, that place was occupied by a local landfill just a few years ago, but luckily, it turned into a park. Who would have thought it?



- ACTIVITIES**
- 1) What do you think of sculpture as a kind of art?
  - 2) Find out and tell your classmates about other festivals of sculpture.



**The Museum of gramophones and phonographs** by Vladimiri Deryabkin was opened in St. Petersburg in 1997. There are more than 300 amazing devices belonging to such world-famous brands as Rebikov, Zimmerman, Burchard. The owner of the Museum keeps an extremely rare collection of gramophones from all around the world. You can find magnificent specimens, which could be used by F. Chaliapin and K. Stanislavsky.

When you are at the entrance of the Museum you meet the tour guide, who is already a part of this small world of sounds and ready to tell.

So, you start a fascinating journey through the halls of the Museum. In the first room, the exhibition introduces us to the history of phonographs, gramophones and pathephones. No need to be a lover or connoisseur to feel the atmosphere of the Museum. Everything is thought out and made with love.

You are showed the first "plate" in the form of wax cylinders. First phonograph Edison experienced on 12 August 1877. This big and clumsy structure, which cost the inventor \$ 18, consists of a cylindrical cushion, covered with a tin foil, and amplifies the acoustic wave tube. The cylinder is turned with the handle and there comes a sound. So, you see an ancestor of the modern player - pocket gramophone looking like a huge alarm clock. Then you listen to the sounds of a barrel organ, decorated with a bright embroidery and watch a second-class carriage with reserved seats, which tells us about a tour life of V. Deryabkin.

Entering the second hall of the Museum of gramophones the first feeling is as if you find yourself in a small flowered garden and, instead of the fragrance you can hear the sounds. The feeling is created by a variety of exhibits made both from metal and wood, decorated with a pattern and without it. And pay attention not only to the gramophones, but also to their desks! These are the whole "architectural constructions" with a modern and strict classical columns. Here, due to the sounds of the gramophone playing the song "On the hills of Manchuria" you are aspired into 1904-1905.

In the third hall of the Museum of gramophones you are met by the next "residents" of the Museum, quite unlike. Noteworthy, the Cabinet, which serves as a buffet and holds a gramophone. The guide asks you to guess which of the nature it can recall. It turns out that an owl! And again there is a sound but now your hearing is enjoyed with a music box, of course unusual like everything in this Museum. It will not leave anyone indifferent.

At the end of the tour around the Museum of phonographs you are invited to the Tea room. The room is decorated in the style of a Russian village. The inside atmosphere is just like home, cozy and warm. In the center of the room you are met by a table with tea and sweets. And while you drink tea, the guide introduces you to the Russian samovars which is quite a lot there. Chief among all these is the Gramovar, a symbiosis of a samovar and gramophone. Nearby, there is cage with a parrot watching what is happening around. The ceiling of the Tea room is decorated with colorful lanterns, the wall with paintings, balalaikas, icons. The large size of the accordion that serves as a Breakfast bar draws your attention.. And, of course, the Russian stove! With a pleasant feeling and in a great mood you leave the museum beloved by both adults and children.

## Unusual museums

### Discuss:

*Have you ever been to a «self-made» museum based on a certain collection? Think of three or more features characterizing such type of museums.*

### Activity:

*Discover other non-typical private museums. Share with your classmates what you have found out.*

### Project:

*Think of your own museum. What can you present at the viewing? What can make people be interested in your idea, collection, philosophy? You can work alone, in pairs, in groups.*

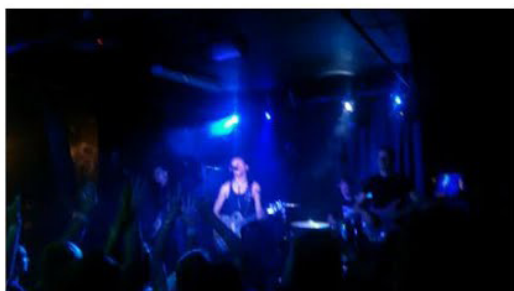




## Special Interests

Today we know many genres of music, but Russian rock has significant part of history and cultural life in Russia. We want to prove it and present this

### Spotlight on Russia explores national pride – Russian rock music.



Russian rock is a part of our culture. There are many bands in Russia. Some of them are very old. Such famous groups as Alisa, Kino, Nautilus Pompilius, Aria and DDT are still popular in The Russian Federation. They were founded in the 1980s in the Soviet Union.

Moscow, Saint-Petersburg and Yekaterinburg were places where appeared well-known bands of our country. Many people listen to their music. It might be old and new songs as well. The reason why this music is so popular in country is connected with the lyrics. Texts are very close to people and describe their feelings. It is normal to use Russian rock in films. For example A. Balabanov, a famous Russian director liked to use it in his movies. In his successful movies Brat (brother) and Brat 2 (brother 2) you can listen to well-known songs.

If you visit Saint Petersburg you will reveal the oldest rock-shop in Russia. It is situated in the center of city. It is called Castle rock. Next to this place you can find two graffiti of famous singers. One of them is a leader of Korol and Shut M. Gorsheniov. His nickname was "The Pot". He died in 2013 that's why this group doesn't exist anymore but their music lives in our hearts. Another singer is K.Kinchev he is a leader of Alisa.

Russian rock is more than just music it is a soul of modern Russia. These songs are sung in different places different people on squares, in parks and in flats and doesn't matter how old they are.

#### ACTIVITY

Collect information using Internet and carry out a survey or make a presentation about one Russian rock group.

#### DISCUSS

- Have you ever heard of any of these bands?
- Do you like listening to Russian rock music? Why or why not?
- Have you ever tried to translate an English song into Russian?



# Spotlight

on **RUSSIA**

9





## **BEAUTIFUL BUILDINGS**

Жукова В.О.  
жунгурова Н.Ц.  
Квашнина Т.Н.  
Краева Е.Н.  
Мирошникова Л.И.  
Печкурова Е.А.  
Шартаева Л.Т.  
Юрьева Е.М.

## **GREAT WORKS OF ART**

Ксензова Е.В.  
Олонцева А.С.  
Прокофьева С.В.  
Шабтдинова О.П.

## **INSPIRING PEOPLE**

Быков В.Ю.  
Валтонен Е.М.  
Гарная Е.С.  
Новинкина Л.В.  
Оленникова Т.Н.  
Сучкова В.И.  
Труханенко Е.А.

## **SPECIAL DAYS**

Реуцкая Т.Н.



## Beautiful Buildings

There are many famous places to visit all around Russia, but Kaluga has its unique “face” and the richest history.

**Spotlight on Russia** takes you into the famous Trinity Cathedral.



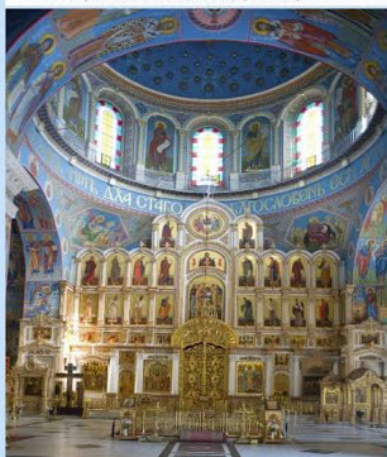
Калуга. Центральный городской парк. Свято-Троицкий кафедральный собор

8 февраля 2007 г.

### The Holy Trinity Cathedral

On December 15, 1775 Catherine II visited our city. That event greatly influenced the future of Kaluga. Thanks to the regular Kaluga building plan, approved by the Empress on June 13, 1778, Kaluga began transforming into “little Petersburg” from a small wooden town. Credit goes to the well-known architects who worked in the area at that time. Thanks to their efforts there were erected architectural ensembles, that remain the monuments of the Russian architecture up to the present day: the

Stone bridge, Arcade, Trinity Cathedral.



Construction of the Trinity Cathedral in Kaluga began in 1786 at the personal order of the Empress Catherine II. The design was made by the famous and talented architect I.D. Yasnygin. The Cathedral design envisaged construction of a dome about 17 metres in diameter, the first of its kind in Russia, without any auxiliary supports. Even the Kazan Cathedral in Petersburg has only 15 meter dome without supporting columns. The iconostasis was the only one painted by the works of the famous architect Kazakov M.F. In 1924 the Holy Trinity Cathedral was closed and the Defence House was organised there. The crosses and the bells were taken off, the painting was covered over. The unique iconostasis was dismantled and taken out. Later it disappeared.

From 1960s till 1990 there was a sports school in it. On August 23, 1991 the Holy Trinity Cathedral was consigned to the Russian Orthodox Church in poor condition. In October, 1998 His Holiness Alexii II, Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia, visited the Holy Trinity Cathedral and handed the wonder-working copy of the Kaluga icon of the Mother of God that was preserved in the Holy Trinity – St.Sergius Lavra. The Trinity Cathedral is a cathedral of Kaluga-Borovsk diocese.

Kaluga is wealth not only in its history – today it is a modern, dynamic city, a city that looks confidently to the future.

### Activity

- Learn more about historical sightseeing of Kaluga.
- What is Kaluga famous for?

### Discuss

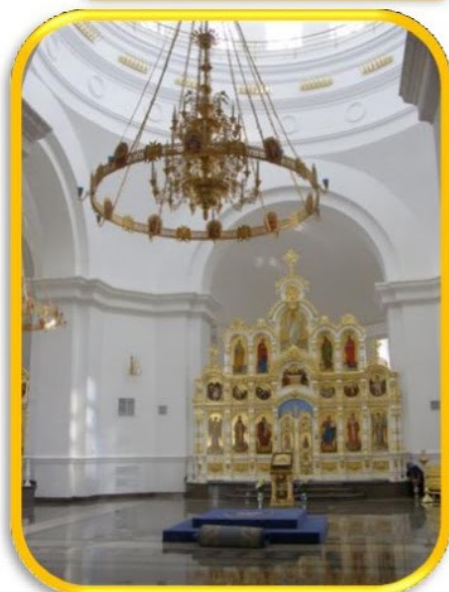
- Have you ever been to the Trinity Cathedral? Describe your experience.
- What is the history of the Cathedral connected with?



## Beautiful Buildings

There are many famous places to visit all around Russia, but Omsk offers a traveller tour about the historical part of the city.

**Spotlight on Russia** takes you into the world-famous Uspensky Cathedral.



### The Uspensky Cathedral

The Assumption (Uspensky) cathedral, dedicated to the Virgin's Dormition and Assumption to Heaven, was consecrated on September 30, 1898, by the first Omsk bishop Gregory. The author of the project was Ernst Franzevich Virrikh. The design of the Church of the Savior of the blood in St. Petersburg carried out by the prominent architect Alfred Parland in 1894 was taken as a basis. The Omsk Church is not a copy, but a creative redesign of the architectural treatment. It is quite common in church architecture. The dimensions of the building and its architecture are unique in many ways: it was built in the main stream of the best traditions of Russian architecture: more than 30 kinds of brick were used, and the interior of the church, including a painted icon, stand out in the famed five-domed Assumption cathedral.

The building was erected mostly due to donations by townspeople, Russian merchants and the Emperor Nicholas II who attended the laying of the foundation stone. The majesty of the church, polychrome colouring and beautiful décor made an indelible impression on people who saw it. The history of the Cathedral was connected with the activity of the outstanding martyr bishop Sylvester (I. Olshevsky) and the archbishop Andronicus (V. Nicolsky).

It was blown up in the 1935. The former Pontifical garden located around the cathedral became known as Pioneer garden, and in 1996 a fountain was built on this territory. On July 6, 2005, in regular session the government of Omsk Oblast made a decision to restore The Assumption cathedral, which is planned to be opened in mid-July 2007.

A revival of this history is of the particular importance for

our city. This lofty aim is connected with raising the investment attractiveness of Omsk, as no Siberian city has such a rich history.

#### ACTIVITY

Learn more about historical sightseeing of Omsk. What is Omsk famous for?

#### DISCUSS

- Have you ever been to the Uspensky Cathedral? Describe your experience.
- What is the history of the Cathedral connected with?



## Beautiful Buildings

There are a lot of famous places to visit all around Russia, but one place in Kalmykia is worth seeing by everyone.

**Spotlight on Russia** takes you into the capital of Kalmykia – the Buddhist center of Russia.

### The Golden Temple



The Golden Abode of Buddha Shakyamuni is the main Buddhist temple in Kalmykia, the largest one in Russia and Europe. It was opened in 2005 after visit of his Holiness the 14-th Dalai Lama. He chose the location for the temple and gave it name.

The 56 meter high building is placed on top of a 7-meter high artificial hill and resembles a step pyramid. The whole temple territory is generally designed as a mandala. The temple is surrounded with seventeen pagodas and the statues of Buddhist teachers.

The temple hosts the biggest Buddha Statue on the European territory (9 m). There are sacred mantras inside the statue. The walls of the prayer hall are covered with sophisticated painting depicting canonic scenes.

The temple is also an enlightening centre of Buddhism where everyone can listen to

lectures of Buddhist teachers in the Conference Hall, read books in the Buddhist Library and visit the Museum of the History of Buddhism.

Nowadays pilgrims from all over the world come here to take part in Buddhist communities activities and teachings.



#### Discuss:

Have you ever visited a temple or a church?

What do you know about Buddhism?

#### Activity:

Learn more about Buddhist temples in Russia. Which cities are they?





## BEAUTIFUL BUILDINGS

### *Spotlight on Russia is visiting one of the tallest building in Moscow – THE OSTANKINO TOWER.*



The construction of the Ostankino TV tower began in 1963 and was completed in 1967. The project was designed by the architect Nikitin during one night. The main idea of the project was that the tower should not have the deep foundation and its strength should be provided by much heavier base. According to Nikitin's words, the reverse lily became a prototype for the tower.

In 1967 this Ostankino tower was the tallest free-standing steel structure in the world. But the architecture development is progressing and today the Ostankino tower, standing 540 meters tall, the fourth-tallest tower in the world, after such buildings as Burj Khalifa skyscraper in Dubai, Guangzhou TV tower in China, and the CN TV Tower in Canada.

Inside the tower there is a broadcasting center. There is also an observation platform for visitors, located at the height of 337 meters, and a three-story restaurant the Seventh Heaven located at the height of 328-334 meters. The main feature of the observation platform is the transparent glass floor, which enables you to look into the precipice under your feet, but it is not recommended for people suffering from acrophobia (fear of heights). One of the main features of the restaurant is the revolving floor that enables visitors to enjoy panoramic view during the dinner.

Over 10 million people visited the Ostankino television tower and this number constantly increases. It became the favorite place not only for residents and guests of Moscow, but also for admirers of extreme activities who make parachute jumps from the tower. Except aircrafts, the Ostankino Tower is the only opportunity to look at Moscow from a bird's-eye view. And it is worth seeing!

#### Activity

1. Have you ever visited the Ostankino tower? Share your impressions.
2. Is the Ostankino tower only the broadcasting center?

#### Discuss

Find information about another tall building in our country's places. Research its history and tell the class some interesting facts.



## Beautiful Buildings

*As many old- Russian cities Vologda has got the Kremlin. The St. Sofia Cathedral with its gigantic Bell Tower is the most famous part of it and became the symbol of Vologda. Nearly every curious tourist considers climbing to the top of the tower as his duty. There are many legends connected with this place.*

Spotlight on Russia takes you into the heart of the capital of Russian North

## THE VOLOGDA KREMLIN



The cathedral itself was erected by order of the tsar Ivan the Terrible. The legend says that the tsar thought seriously about moving the capital from Moscow to Vologda. The cathedral was nearly finished when during one of the visits to the then unsanctified Cathedral the tsar stayed alive just by chance after a brick fell down from a great height and nearly killed him. It is still not known whether it was pure chance or the hand of fate had a human form. Probably as a result of this incident the tsar changed his mind and Vologda stayed a provincial town.



Another legend is connected with The Bell Tower. During the war against Sweden the tsar Peter the Great decreed all church bells to be melted down so that the bronze could be used for casting cannons. For many years after the battles had finished the towns had to manage without the chimes on Sundays and holidays that Russian people love so much. Even in remote villages the priests could not save their bells. Silence descended on the whole of Russia except in Vologda where bell-ringers continued to collect people for church services as if the tsar had never issued his strong decree. Legend has it, that the tsar came in person to watch the Vologda

bells being taken off. Nobody dared to argue against his decree, except a bell-ringer who asked for permission to show his skill in managing the heavy "musical instruments". To Peter's great surprise instead of the usual ringing the melody of the popular dashing folk song "Kamarinskaya" began to sound over Vologda. The tsar cheered up and left the bells in peace and they have stayed like this up to the present time.

### ACTIVITY

Compare the Moscow Kremlin and the Vologda Kremlin. What is similar and different in them?

### DISCUSS

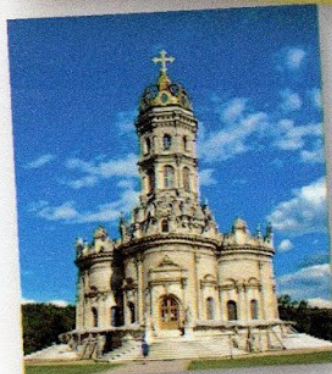
- Are there any places of interest in your hometown? What symbols does your town/ city have?
- Are there any legends connected with the history of your town/city?



# Beautiful buildings

*There are many famous places to visit all around Russia but one place in particular is worth visiting in Moscow region is*

**Church of the Blessed Virgin in Dubrovitsy**  
Spotlight on Russia takes you into this unique place



## CHURCH OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN IN DUBROVITSY

The Dubrovitsy Estate was first mentioned in 1627 and since then has been held by the Morozov, Golitsyn, Potyomkin and Dmitriev-Mamonov noble families. It is probably most associated with the Golitsyn family who held the estate for over 100 years and was responsible for developing it.

This extraordinary Church was erected by Italian masters in 1690 - 1703 according to the order of prince Golitsyn, a teacher of Peter the Great.

The foundation of the Church is the Greek cross with rounded ends. First floor is set on a high foundation, giving the opportunity to circle around its walls the open running porch.

Church is an example of Western-European inspired baroque church

architecture and is unique among Russian churches. The white stone church is decorated on the outside with intricate engravings of flowers and inside with engravings of saints and angels. It really is a masterpiece of architecture and unusual for Russian churches.

Rather than the traditional cupolas, the church is topped by a shining gold crown in honor of Peter's reign.

The CHURCH is decorated with sculptural images. In front of the main entrance, on the sides of the Western staircase of the tower, you can see two white-stone sculptures. On the left side is Gregory the Theologian with a book and hand raised, and on the right side is John Chrysostom with a book. He is standing at the feet of Mitra. Directly above the entrance, on the roof of the West narthex is the statue of Basil the Great.

In 1929 the Church was closed for divine service. In September 1931 the bell tower was blown up. 1930-1990 is the period of closing the Church. The first worship service was held on July 22, 1990 outside the walls of the temple, on the street. The first Liturgy in the Church was made by vicar of the Moscow diocese, Bishop Gregory Mozhayskiy (Chirkov) on October 14, 1990. In 2000, the parish was returned to the temple preserved the icons of the iconostasis, located in the all-Russian Institute of livestock.



### ACTIVITY

Learn more about the history of the Church of the Blessed Virgin in Dubrovitsy. *Where is it constructed? What is this Church famous for?*

### DISCUSS

Have you ever been or heard about this CHURCH?  
Why is it unique?



# BEAUTIFUL BUILDINGS (КРАЕВА ЕЛИЗАВЕТА НИКОЛАЕВНА — МКОУ СОШ С. ПАСЕГОВО КИРОВСКОЙ ОБЛАСТИ)

In Russia there are many beautiful buildings, but perhaps the most magnificent and charming is the Great Catherine Palace or the Great Palace of Tsarskoe Selo.

*Spotlight on Russia* says about The Great Catherine Palace in Russia.

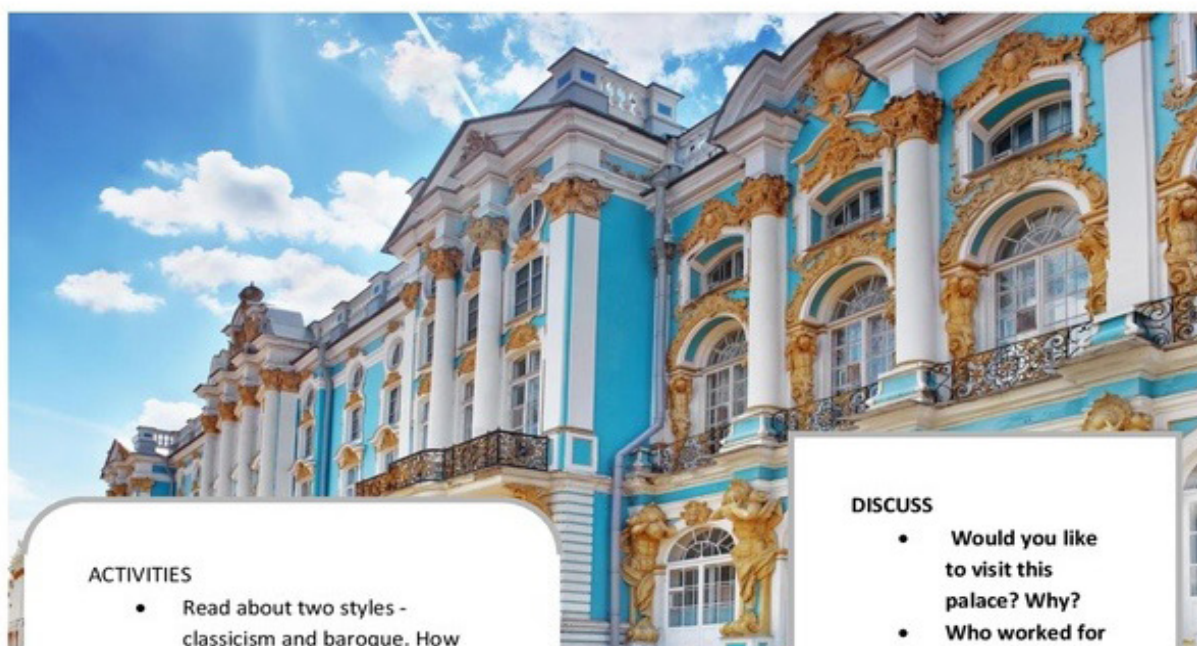
## BEAUTIFUL BUILDINGS



*The Great Catherine Palace combines two styles - classicism and baroque. It helps to understand the greatness of Russia. It is based on three colours - white, blue and gold.*

The largest gallery of the Catherine Palace is the Light Gallery, which is also called the Great Hall. Arabesque Hall is a vivid example of outstanding architecture. The famous Amber Room is one of the brightest sights of the Catherine Palace. Tourists come here from all over the world.

It is a symbol of royal luxury. The Catherine Palace is a beautiful building with a length of 306 meters with a magnificent facade and sophisticated decoration. A famous master, an architect Francesco Bartolomeo Rastrelli, designed the construction of the building. He had the basic idea of creating a building, a plan of decoration of the facade and the interior. By the way, the architect spent almost 100 kilograms of red gold!



### ACTIVITIES

- Read about two styles - classicism and baroque. How are they combined in the construction of the Catherine Palace? Describe it, please.

### DISCUSS

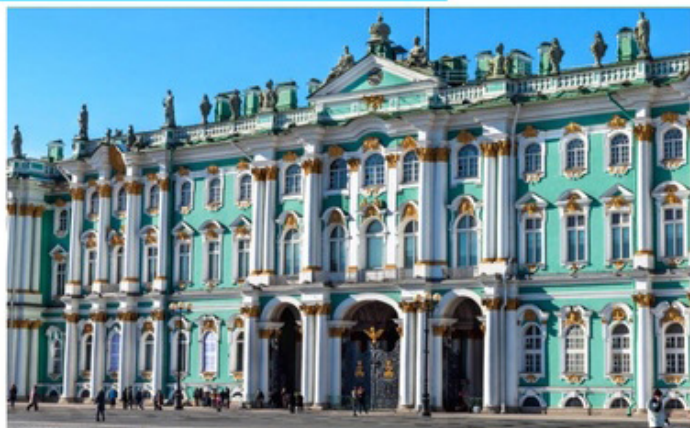
- Would you like to visit this palace? Why?
- Who worked for the construction of this palace?
- What styles was the palace built?



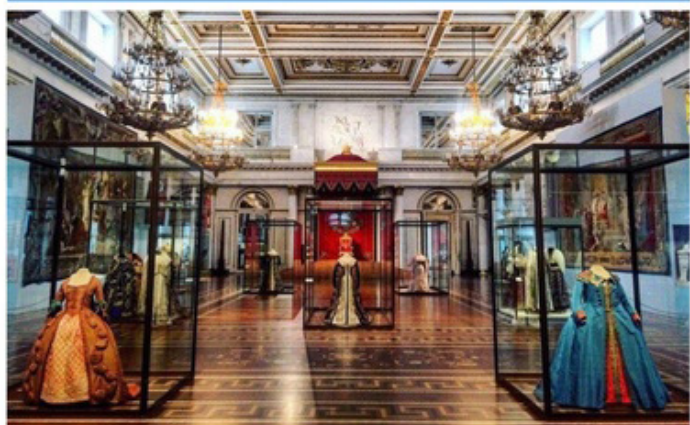
# Beautiful Buildings

Museums are always famous for their extraordinary beauty, not only inside but also outside.

**Spotlight on Russia will show you the most famous Russian museum. It is the Hermitage.**



**We need to overcome 24 km in order to see all exhibits of the museum. If you stand at each exhibit for a minute, you will need about 11 years to see everything.**



## DISCUSS:

- **What other famous museums do you know?**
- **Why are museums very popular with tourists all over the world?**
- **Do you like visiting museums? What museums have you already been to?**

## The Hermitage

The Hermitage is known all over the world for its elegance and genius.

This museum has collected the treasures of all centuries from antiquity to our days. It has been looking as a symbol of Russian culture for a long time.

The history of the State Hermitage began in 1764. The museum occupies 5 buildings: the Winter Palace, the Small Hermitage, the Great Hermitage, the New Hermitage and the Hermitage Theater. The museum has about 3 million exhibits. They are included in the 20 most visited art museums in the world. Today the Hermitage can present a large number of paintings, including works by Leonardo da Vinci, Rembrandt, Durer and others.

The Hermitage is one of the fast - growing museum in the world. The Hermitage is the place what it is worth visiting.

## ACTIVITY:

- **Prepare a short story about the most famous exhibits of the Hermitage.**
- **Imagine what museums would be in the future. What artifacts from the present could get there?**



## GREAT WORKS OF ART

(ПРОКОФЬЕВА СВЕТЛАНА ВАЛЕРИЕВНА — МБОУ ГИМНАЗИЯ «УВК № 1», Г. ВОРОНЕЖ)

Valentin Serov was one of the greatest Russian artists. He painted «Girl with Peaches» when he was only 22 but the portrait is considered to be one of his most recognizable works of art. The girl with peaches – who was she?

**Spotlight on Russia** finds out more about the masterpiece.

«Girl with Peaches» is a portrait of Vera Mamontova, the eldest daughter of Savva Mamontov, a famous Russian entrepreneur and patron of the arts.

It was painted in Abramtsevo, not far from Moscow. Mamontov invited painters, writers, sculptors to stay and work there.

One summer day in 1887, Serov saw 11-year-old Vera run into the room, lively and happy, and he immediately asked her to pose for a painting. It took Valentin Serov two months to finish the portrait.



## Great Works of Art



Vera Mamontova is sitting at the table and holding a yellow peach in her hands. She is wearing a pink blouse with a dark-blue bow.

The artist painted the portrait in a new Impressionist style. In 1887, he displayed the painting at the exhibition of the Moscow Society of Art Lovers and won first prize. Now Serov is seen as the first Russian Impressionist.

Vera did not live a long life. She died at the age of 32. Fortunately, we know and remember her thanks to Valentin Serov.

It is interesting to note that the painting was in Abramtsevo for almost 40 years. In 1929, it was bought from Aleksandra Mamontova (Vera's sister) for the State Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow where you can see and enjoy the famous «Girl with Peaches».

### DISCUSS

What is the difference between the two art styles - Realism and Impressionism? Why is Valentin Serov considered to be the first Russian Impressionist artist?

### ACTIVITIES

#### Before reading

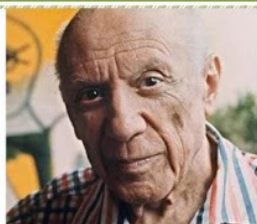
Look at «Girl with Peaches». What is your first impression of the painting?

#### After reading

Look at «Girl with Peaches». What is your impression of the painting now? Has it changed? Why?



## Great works of Art



Pablo Picasso (1881 – 1973)



The picture "A girl with a dove"

The assignment is to describe the picture. See the plan. (lexical approach)

### The Plan of the Description

- The subject (what is represented in the picture).
- The composition (how the space of the picture is used).
- The colour scheme (how different colours are handled).
- The details (what details the artist introduces and how they are related to the subject).
- The general impression the picture makes.

"There is nothing but art. Art is living." (W. Somerset Maugham "The Summing Up")

"A picture is a poem without words." (Horatio)

"Art is long and life is fleeting" (Longfellow)

**Visual art is a vast subject, including all kinds of pictures and sculptures. Artists make art for many reasons. Hundreds of years ago – when many people couldn't read – paintings were often designed to illustrate stories. And a lot of paintings were made to decorate churches. More recently, artists have begun to paint to express their own feelings or explore ideas, or just to create something beautiful. People have always argued about art – how to make it? What it should like and why. But there are no wrong answers. What kind of art you enjoy is up to you.**

There are a lot of talented artist, but in this text we will speak about Pablo Picasso and his favourite picture «Girl with a dove».

Pablo Picasso was born on October 25, 1881, in the town of Malaga (Spain, Andalusia). His christened full name was Pablo Diego Jose' Francisco de Paula Juan Nepomuceno Mari'a de los Remedios Crispin' nCrispiniano de la Santi'sima Trinidad Ruiz y Picasso That were the sequence of the names of holy men and his family relatives. Picasso was the maiden surname of his mother which he took for himself. His father's name was Hose Ruis, it was too ordinary and at the same time he was also an artist.

Pablo showed his drawing talent since early childhood. He studied at his father's since 7. He had to draw paws of pigeons on the father's pictures. But once his father asked him to complete the picture of the quite large still life, and he was surprised at his son's technique so much, that he by legend left off his own painting.

"A Child with a Dove" is was created in 1901. It is situated at the National Gallery in London. During the Blue period Picasso often had plots where the Weak protected the Weakest. The painter saw a hope and safety and the only opportunity to survive in this severe world. A small child is holding a dove with love and care, protecting and warming it.

- 1) a dove – a white or grey bird, often used as a symbol of peace.
- 2) to argue – to speak angrily to someone, telling that person that you disagree with them.



## GREAT WORKS OF ART

(ОЛОНЦЕВА АНАСТАСИЯ СЕРГЕЕВНА — ГОКУ УСОЛЬСКИЙ ГВАРДЕЙСКИЙ КАДЕТСКИЙ КОРПУС)



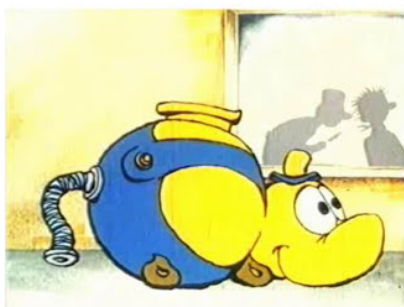
**Vesjolaya karusel** is a Soviet and Russian cartoon journal for children. It is a production of a studio «Mosfilm». Its first series was published in 1969 by a director-multiplier Roman

Kachanov. There were unusual techniques of animated cartoon's making in this journal. Every series of the cartoon journal consists of two or four short plots. They are based on fairy tales, poems and songs which became popular thanks to this cartoon journal. Music of most series was created by a famous composer Vladimir Shainsky. The author of lyrics was Emma Moshkovskaya. Most of cartoons from this journal are painted, although there are puppet cartoons. There are five of them: «Skilful grannies», «One hundred buttons», «A young frog», «A baby mouse and a cat», «Teremok».



During all the series of the cartoon journal its signature tune is invariable. Children can see turning merry-go-round and keeping in mind song between series. This signature tune was created by Vladimir Pekar and

Tatyana Kolyusheva. This cartoon journal has been publishing since 1969. Its rebirth took place in 2013 and new series began to appear. It is interesting to know that it is for all comers and every young director can participate in it. That's why the studio «Mosfilm» collects ideas and scripts which can form the basis of shooting new series.

**VOCABULARY:**

signature tune – заставка  
for all comers – для всех желающих  
form the basis of – служить основой для  
TV spot – ролик

**GREAT WORKS OF ART**

There are different kinds of art. For example, performing arts: cinema and animation.

**Do you like to watch cartoons?**  
**What do you know about Soviet animation?**  
**Would you like to know more about it?**

SPOTLIGHT ON RUSSIA presents you cartoon journal for children.

**DISCUSS:**

- 1) What famous cartoons of the following director-multipliers do you remember: Alexander Tatarsky, Yury Norshtein, Fyodor Khitruk, Vladimir Popov, Ivan Maximov, Boris Stepantsev.
- 2) What interesting facts do you know about «Vesjolaya karusel»?
- 3) Have you ever seen short TV spots by the name «Monsters of animation»?

**ACTIVITY:**

Imagine that you are going to create a new cartoon for this journal. What kind of cartoon would it be? Write and tell us about it.





What is the first thing that usually comes to your mind when you read or talk about famous artists? Mostly, these are pictures, etchings, drawings that can be seen in art galleries. However, there is one more branch of art which deserves your attention: it is illustration. And it is closer to you that you can imagine – just open a book...

With *Spotlight on Russia* you will learn how to analyse and compare illustrations.

## Great Works of Art

Illustration is a picture, or a sketch, or even a doodle decorating a text. Its analysis requires the knowledge of art branches, genres and styles as well as a deep knowledge of the text it was painted for. Moreover, you need to apply your knowledge of literature and history when analysing and comparing illustrations. First of all, it can be really challenging to compare illustrations painted by different artists for the same book: pictures can greatly vary because of freedom of artist's choice of the plot, heroes and art techniques. Secondly, you can learn national peculiarities reflected in depiction and perception of the book in different cultures. Then, there is one more crucial thing to remember: illustrations are always a set of pictures, and you need to think of them as an entity. Also, if you want to sound more interesting when talking about a picture or an illustration, you need to learn how to express your attitude to a piece of art and to find something positive in it.

In this article you are going to give a closer look to some illustrations belonging to the masterpieces of Russian fine art. Let's compare some illustrations decorating Russian fairy-tales and epic stories telling about bogatyr's adventures. While looking at the pictures, we see the same stories, scenes and their traditional clothes, however the characters of the heroes are depicted totally differently.



Ivan Bilibin's bogatyr' is a young and nimble man looking for the truth, love and happiness. His movements are light: he flies upon the Russian vasts and easily moves among the forest trees. It is one of the main contrasts in Bilibin's illustrations: a bogatyr's and the surroundings. The hero is usually painted in bright colours as red or orange what makes us thinking about the fire flame symbolising energy and bravery of a young soul. On the contrary, for forests and fields the artist chooses earth colours as green, brown, grey and sienna. There is one more feature that should be mentioned concerning Bilibin's illustrations: he used aquarelle and gouache but painted in the drawing technique what makes his works so recognisable.

A more traditional image of a Russian bogatyr' who is very strong, well-build, broad-shoulders and steady as a rock can be seen in the illustrations of Igor Belichenko. Along with the warrior and his horse, his fast friend, there is one more important hero in his pictures: it is the sun. The sun symbolizes a torch enlightening the warrior's path. Moreover, the bright sun supports the atmosphere of positive mood in Belichenko's illustrations. As for the materials, the artist uses a blended technique working with pastel and gouache. In conclusion, it

could be said however different the illustrations are, they decorate the text harmoniously inviting readers into the magical world of colours and images.

### DISCUSS

- Who is your favourite illustrator if you have one?
- What do you feel when looking on his illustrations? Why?
- Do you prefer reading a book with or without illustrations? Prove your point of view.

Look at the illustrations of A.Chauzov and P.Sokolov-Skalya. Analyse the illustrations and give a talk about them mentioning the characters, the scenery, illustrator's palette. In what way do these illustrations differ?

### ACTIVITY





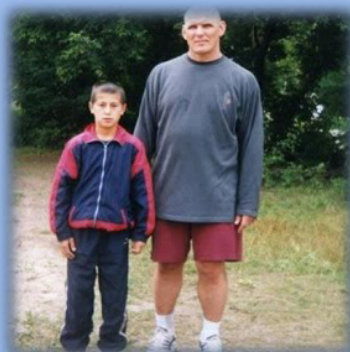
Novosibirsk is the homeland of two the world famous Olympic champions in Greco-Roman wrestling Alexander Karelin and Roman Vlasov.

Spotlight on Russia introduces you a man who achieved his goal against all odds.

### Achieving goals



Olympic champion in Greco-Roman wrestling Roman Andreyevich Vlasov was born on October 6, 1990 in Novosibirsk, in the family of a teacher Tatyana Leonidovna. Roman has an elder brother, Artyom. The elder brother went wrestling, and Roman wanted to do the same because he always looked up to his brother. He came to the gym when he was six years old. When he was seven he determined the main goal and said to the coach: "I want to be an Olympic champion." He was eight when Alexander Karelin gave him a piece of advice: "Do not be shy to be the best. Come and take your gold." At the age of 12 he went to his first Russian



championship and became the second.

In 2006 Roman won the European championship, but in 2008 the athlete was injured, his humerus was broken. The best surgeons of Novosibirsk operated on the sportsman, the diagnosis

was disappointing but Roman didn't give up after a long rehabilitation he started to train again and said: "After the



injury, I became a professional wrestler".

In summer 2012 Roman Vlasov represented Russia at the Olympic Games in London and it was his first gold medal. He dedicated his victory to his mum. Moreover, he was awarded an order of friendship for the contribution to development of physical culture and high achievements in sports. In 2015 he won the World Cup in the United States and was named the best athlete of Russia. In 2016 Roman Vlasov introduced Russia at the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. Despite all the problems with the doping scandal in the Russian national team, Roman Vlasov rose to the first step of the podium, becoming a two-time Olympic champion.

### activities

- imagine you are a friend of Roman and want to tell about him, use the information in the text to tell the class.
- collect information about favourite sportsman in your country and tell the class.

### discussion

- In pairs discuss what you most admire about Roman Vlasov?
- Would you like to be a Greco-Roman wrestler? why? Why not? Explain your choice.



## Inspiring People

Valentina Tereshkova was the first woman in space. She orbited the Earth for almost three days. Later she toured the world promoting Soviet science and feminism. She also served on the Soviet Women's Committee and the Supreme Soviet Presidium.

**Spotlight on Russia** introduces to an inspiring Russian astronaut who proved that women have the same ability in space as men.

Valentina Vladimirovna "Valya" Tereshkova was born on March 6, 1937, in the Volga River village of Maslennikovo. Valentina helped her mother at home and was not able to begin school until she was ten.

In 1959 Tereshkova joined the Yaroslavl Air Sports Club and became a nonprofessional parachutist. Although she had no experience as a pilot, her achievement of 126 parachute jumps gained her a position as a cosmonaut (Russian astronaut) in 1961.

Five candidates were chosen for a onetime woman-in-space flight. Tereshkova received a military rank in the Russian air force. She trained for eighteen months before becoming chief pilot of the *Vostok VI*.

At 12:30 PM. on June 16, 1963, Junior Lieutenant Tereshkova became the first woman to be launched into space. Using her radio callsign (nickname) Chaika (Seagull), she reported, "I see the horizon. A light blue, a beautiful band. This is the Earth. How beautiful it is! All goes well."

Upon her return Tereshkova was hailed in Moscow's Red Square. On June 22 at the Kremlin she was named a Hero of the Soviet Union. Presidium Chairman Leonid Brezhnev (1906–1982) decorated her with the Order of Lenin and the Gold Star Medal.

Valentina Tereshkova still serves as a model not only for the women of her native country, but for women throughout the world who wish to strive for new goals.



*"I believe a woman should always remain a woman and nothing feminine should be alien to her. At the same time I strongly feel that no work done by a woman in the field of science or culture or whatever, however vigorous or demanding, can enter into conflict with her ancient 'wonderful mission'—to love, to be loved—and with her craving for the bliss of motherhood. On the contrary, these two aspects of her life can complement each other perfectly."*

### DISCUSS

- What challenges have you faced in your life? How did you overcome them?
- What other famous astronauts do you know?
- Would you like to be a famous astronaut? Why? Why not?

### ACTIVITY

Imagine you are an astronaut. What planet would you like to visit? Describe it.



# INSPIRING PEOPLE (СУЧКОВА ВАЛЕНТИНА ИЛЬИНИЧНА — МБОУ «ТОМЕРЕВСКАЯ СОШ»)



*The Chuvash Republic is the homeland of three cosmonauts: the third Soviet cosmonaut Andriyan Nikolaev, Heroes of the Russian Federation Nilolay Budarin and Musa Manarov.*

**Spotlight on Russia** introduces you to the third Soviet cosmonaut who was the first person to make a television broadcast from space.



**Andriyan Nikolaev** was born in the village of Shorshely of Mariinsko Posadski district of the Chuvash Republic into the family of a collective farmer. His father died early. He has two brothers and a sister. It was very difficult for their mother Anna Alekseevna to grow them up. Andriyan was clever, brave and curious. His favorite subjects were Physics and Mathematics.

After school he began to study at a technical secondary school in Mariinskiy Posad and became a forestry expert. In 1947 he began to work in Kareliya.

In 1951 he entered Chernigov flying school and became a pilot. In 1960 Andriyan Nikolaev joined the first group of Soviet cosmonauts.

On August 11, 1962 spaceship Vostok-3 piloted by Andriyan Nikolaev flew into space. Nikolaev was the first person to make a television broadcast from space in August, 1962. Andriyan Nikolaev's flight lasted four days. Andriyan Nikolaev flew on two space flights: Vostok - 3 and Soyuz - 9. On 1-19 June, 1970, he flew on space flight Soyuz - 9 together with Vitali Sevastyanov. For the first time two cosmonauts made the longest flight in space.

On November 3, 1963, Andriyan Nikolaev married Valentina Tereshkova, the first woman to fly in space. They had one daughter, Elena (the first child in the world whose parents were both cosmonauts).

In 2004, Nikolaev died of a heart attack in Cheboksary, the capital of Chuvashia. Nikolaev was buried in his native village of Shorshely.

Andriyan Nikolaev was awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union (twice), two Orders of Lenin, Two Gold Star Medals, and Order of the Red Star, numerous medals and foreign orders and titles.

People of Chuvashiya honor Andriyan Nikolaev. There are two monuments to our countryman Andriyan Nikolaev in Cheboksary. The first monument is situated on Nikolayev Street. The second monument was devoted to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first flight into space. There is a Children's park and School N10 in Cheboksary named after him. There is a Museum of Cosmonautics in the village of Shorshely in Marposadski district. Many Soviet and Russian cosmonauts have visited it.

Every year a lot of people take part in the marathon race devoted to Andriyan Nilolayev. It starts in Shorshely and finishes in Cheboksary.

We are proud of our famous countryman!



A  
C  
T  
I  
V  
I  
T  
Y

Collect information about famous cosmonauts and tell your classmates about them

- What qualities should have a person to become a cosmonaut?
- Would you like to go into space? Why? Why not?

D  
I  
S  
C  
U  
S  
S



## Inspiring People

*There is a world of music around us. Is this world large or small? It often depends on how much you know: the more you know the larger the world is.*

*Spotlight on Russia introduces you to an inspiring Russian composer and a teacher of classical music particularly noted for his fine orchestration – Nikolai Andreyevich Rimsky-Korsakov.*



Nicolai Andreyevich Rimsky-Korsakov was born on March 18, 1844 in Tikhvin, in aristocratic family. He showed his musical abilities from an early age, but studied at the Russian Imperial Naval College and subsequently joined the Russian Navy.

Rimsky-Korsakov met Mily Balakirev, who encouraged him to compose music and taught him when he was not at sea. He also met the other composers of the group that were to become known as "The Five" or "The Mighty Handful".

Rimsky-Korsakov and the other members of "The Five" frequently collaborated on or edited each other's compositions. In particular, after Modest Mussorgsky's death in 1881, Rimsky-Korsakov took on the task of revising several of Mussorgsky's pieces for publication and performance.

In 1871, despite being largely self-taught, Rimsky-Korsakov became professor of composition and orchestration at the Saint Petersburg Conservatoire. There he taught many composers, who would later find fame, including Alexander Glazunov, Sergei Prokofiev and Igor Stravinsky. He continued to be a prolific composer, producing many orchestral works, including the well-known "Sheherazade" and "Capriccio Espagnol". He also wrote fifteen operas, including "The Immortal Koschei" and "The Tale of Tsar Saltan". Among his Russian Orthodox liturgical music is the cappella "Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom".

In 1905 Rimsky-Korsakov was fired from his professorship in Saint Petersburg, owing to his expressing some political views the authorities disapproved of. This sparked a series of resignations by his fellow faculty members, and he was eventually reinstated. The political controversy continued with his opera "Le Coq d'Or" ("The Golden Cockerel") (1907), which was an attack on Imperial Russia, and which was banned from performance following its premiere.

Towards the end of his life, Rimsky-Korsakov suffered from angina. He died in Lyubensk on June 21, in 1908, and was interred in Tikhvin Cemetery at the Alexander Nevsky Monastery in St. Petersburg.



### Activity

Different composers from different countries have conquered the hearts and feelings of people all over the world. Collect the information about some of famous composers and make a presentation.

### Discuss

- Do you like music?
- What kind of music do you like?
- Is music part of your life?
- What does music make you think of?
- What music do you like listening when you are sad / have free time?



# Inspiring People



Italy, 2006



Italy, 2006



Italy, 2006

There are many famous people around Russia. Artyom Detyshev is one of them. He was a speed skater, a member of the National Team and a participant of the 2006 Winter Olympics in Torino, Italy.

**Spotlight on Russia** invites you to know a famous sportsman from the Siberian town of Angarsk.

## ON THE PATH TO SUCCESS

Artyom was born in Angarsk in 1978. He is a well-known person in the town. When he was 7, he started to go in for sports. But he seriously began speed skating at the age of 12. Year by year the teen trained a lot and worked hard to develop and improve skating skills and he soon achieved his first victories. He was the first at the Skating Competition of Irkutsk Region and the National Junior Contest at the adolescent age.

Then he became the champion of Russia in 5 thousands meters distance race and a member of the National Team. Also he was a winner of the European Junior Games, 1997. His life changed a lot and the young speed skater travelled around the world participating in European and World Championships. Artyom always was a teenager with drive because he dreamt of Olympic Games as any athlete. At last, his child's dream became true! He was a member of the Olympic National Speed Skating

Team and took part in the Winter Olympic Games in Italy in 2006.

This young man achieved a lot both as a sportsman and as a person, but he decided to finish his sport career. However, in 2011, he was called from Moscow and offered to take part in the world known games "Large Races" in France. Artyom entered the Russian Team to participate in those extreme games and a TV show. In 2012 he was invited to be on Olympic Organizing Committee in Sochi. Working there for two years he got new experience that helps him in his work today.

Doing professional sport developed his best character qualities, such as personal leadership and determination to have things done. He looks like a lucky man because he knows a secret: if you have a dream, always follow your dream and never give up. Good fortune and success come to people who keep on working with diligence no matter what problems they face. Now Artyom Detyshev is a vice-president of Legislative Assembly in his home town and he is supervising sports activities. Sport is his lifestyle and it makes him feel happy. At the same time, he is an ordinary person living an interesting life.

### DISCUSS

### ACTIVITIES

- What sportsman do you admire the most and why?
- Doing sports is an important thing in our lives, isn't it?
- What character qualities should a person have to go in for sports?

- Could you tell your classmates some interesting facts from Artyom's life?
- Project: Collect information about a famous athlete from your area. Write a short article about this person or make a computer-based presentation.



# INSPIRING PEOPLE

## Ivan Aivazovsky: the heart given to people

*Spotlight in Russia decided to introduce you an outstanding Russian artist and donator Ivan Konstantinovich Ayvazovsky*

The Black Sea... Dark deep waves carry an amazing power and beauty. The Aivazovsky's Art Gallery is situated in Feodosia. All people know his painting "The Ninth Wave" although not all people know he created 6,000 works of art for his life. Ivan Aivazovsky was born on 17 July, 1817.



"The Ninth wave", 1848

Nobody guessed that a poor boy from Armenian family who painted on the walls of his native town will become the world famous seascape painter and his paintings will cost million dollars. His works are full of light, they are alive. We feel trouble and fair before "The Ninth Wave" and "Among the Waves" but silence and quiet before "The Moonlight Night" and "The Calm". While seeing them we feel love to the sea.

### DISCUSS

- Do you like art? Why or why not?
- Who is your favourite artist?
- What is your favourite painting?



It is explained by the fact that Aivazovsky was not only the great artist but also a violinist, social activist and generous donator. He organized charity exhibitions. He gave money earned towards municipal improvements and building of the first art gallery in Russia. He died on 19 April, 1900 and was buried in Feodosia.



"The Calm", 1837

### ACTIVITY

- Imagine you're an art critic. Collect information about a famous artist and make a presentation.



# INSPIRING PEOPLE (ВАЛТОНЕН ЕКАТЕРИНА МАКСИМОВНА — ГБОУ ШКОЛА 1239)

## INSPIRING PEOPLE

*A dream is like a flight to the unknown world. What can be more inspiring than creating a rocket to the stars?*

**Spotlight on Russia introduces you to an outstanding Russian scientist who made the human dream come true.**

The dream of being able to fly to the stars is as old as the humanity itself. Our earliest human ancestors looked at birds, majestically spreading their wings and flying high over the clouds somewhere to the stars. But people could only look at the sky and admire the beauty of the Universe. It lasted for a long period of time till one man tried his best to make the wish come true.



### ACTIVITY

Imagine yourself being a space colonizer.

- In what way space expanse and other planets can be transformed in order to maintain human life?
- What are the main reasons for space exploration and colonization?

His name is Konstantin Eduardovich Tsiolkovsky. Being in his early twenties, he read Jules Verne's stories of space travel and began to write science fiction stories himself. He introduced elements of science and technology into his stories, such as the problem of controlling a rocket as it moved between gravitational fields. Gradually, Tsiolkovsky moved from writing science fiction to writing theoretical papers on topics such as aerodynamics, the use of liquid propellant rockets and the principle of action and reaction. Although rockets were designed for space travel only in the twentieth century, it was Tsiolkovsky who used mathematics and physics to study and calculate the way in which the rocket operated, called rocket dynamics.

Tsiolkovsky is remembered for believing in the dominance of mankind throughout space. He had grand ideas about space colonization, industrialization and the exploitation of its resources. Tsiolkovsky has been honored since his death in 1935. A far side moon crater is named in his honor. Now his works are used in aircraft and spacecraft design. We are proud of our famous scientist who paved the way for space exploration.

### DISCUSS

What qualities should a person have to become a scientist?  
What other outstanding scientists do you know?





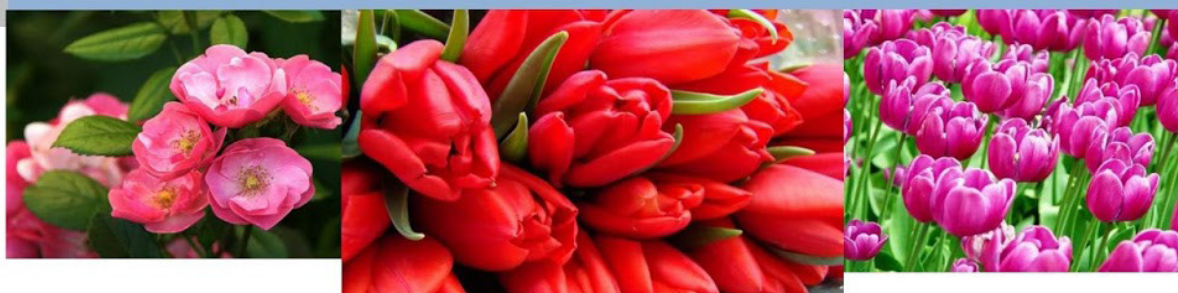
There are many holidays in Russia,  
the 8th of March is one of them.

*Spotlight on Russia takes a closer  
look at ...*

# Special Days

## The 8<sup>th</sup> of March

The 8<sup>th</sup> of March is an international Women's Day, a happy and nice holiday. It is a good tradition in our country to give presents and flowers to women on this day. Each family celebrates this spring holiday. In the morning men go to the shops or markets to buy some flowers. They try to clean flats and help women to cook a holiday dinner. Sons and daughters help their mothers too: they make a cake, lay the table and wash dishes after holiday dinner. Women are happy to receive presents and compliments, while men are happy to pay extra attention to their wives, daughters, mothers, grandmothers, sisters, girlfriends. Some families celebrate the 8th of March going to the theatres and concerts. They buy tickets beforehand. Others prefer to invite guests and stay at home. All women try to be nice and happy on this day.



### DISCUSS

- Do you like holidays?
- Do you have a favorite holiday?
- How do you spend this holiday?

### ACTIVITY

Write an essay on the most interesting holiday in Russia. Why is it interesting for you?