

Grade 5 History & Geography

Unit 7: Early Russia

6 lessons and a unit quiz. Use this pack with the **Early Russia Student Reader** (print it, or download it once from the course) to teach the whole unit without the internet.

What is in this pack

- A lesson plan for each chapter: the Big Question, words to know, which pages to read, questions to talk over and the activity pages.
- The unit quiz, ready to print.
- Answers for the teacher at the back: every discussion question and the quiz key.

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Lesson schedule

Two or three lessons a week, about 30 minutes each. Tick each one off as you go.

	Lesson	Reader pages	Activity pages
☐	Chapter 1: Russia's Beginnings	PDF pages 5-12	AP 1.1, AP 1.2, AP 1.3
☐	Chapter 2: The Mongols Invade	PDF pages 13-18	AP 1.1, AP 1.2
☐	Chapter 3: Ivan the Great	PDF pages 19-26	AP 1.1, AP 1.2, AP 3.1, AP 3.2
☐	Chapter 4: Ivan the Terrible	PDF pages 27-32	AP 1.2, AP 3.1
☐	Chapter 5: Peter the Great	PDF pages 33-38	AP 1.1, AP 1.2, AP 3.1, AP 5.1
☐	Chapter 6: Catherine the Great	PDF pages 39-44	AP 1.1, AP 1.2, AP 3.1, AP 6.1, AP 6.2
☐	Unit quiz	—	—

Page numbers are the PDF page numbers of the Student Reader file, so they match what your PDF reader shows.

Chapter 1: Russia's Beginnings

THE BIG QUESTION

How did Russia become a Christian country?

Words to know

- **time zone** — one of twenty-four zones around Earth within which everyone observes the same time *Russia is a big country and spans eleven time zones.*
- **empire** — a group of countries or territories under the control of one government or one ruler *Russia was a large empire in the 1700s.*
- **Slav** — a person who belongs to an ethnic group of people that settled in Eastern Europe many years ago; the Slavs include Russians, Ukrainians, Poles, and Czechs. *Czeslaw Milosz, a famous world poet, was a Slav from Poland.*
- **tribute** — payment of money or goods by a people or their ruler to another country or ruler in exchange for protection *In early Russia, once a year the Slavs had to pay a tribute to the powerful Vikings.*
- **missionary** — a person on a journey for the purpose of spreading a particular religious belief *Each Christian missionary sent into early Russia converted people to Christianity.*
- **noble** — a person who belongs to the highest social class of a country *To be a member of the Russian court, one had to be a noble.*

Read

Read Chapter 1 in the Student Reader: PDF pages 5–12. Look at the pictures and maps together.

Talk it over

1. What are at least two facts you know about Russia after reading this section?
2. Where did Russia begin?
3. Who were the Slavs? Where in Russia did they settle?
4. Why did the Vikings explore the area settled by the Slavs?
5. Why do you think it's important to know the word Rus?
6. What eventually happened between the Slavs and the Vikings?
7. Who was Princess Olga?
8. What happened after Olga visited Constantinople?
9. What did Prince Vladimir order after he converted to Orthodox Christianity?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Check for understanding

- Answer the Big Question in a sentence or two: How did Russia become a Christian country?
- Use one of today's words in a sentence of your own.

Activity pages

- Activity Page 1.1: World Map — Teacher Guide PDF page 72
- Activity Page 1.2: Russia Map — Teacher Guide PDF page 73
- Activity Page 1.3: Vegetation Zones in Russia — Teacher Guide PDF page 74

Chapter 2: The Mongols Invade

THE BIG QUESTION

What are some key features of Russian geography, and how have these features influenced the nation's history?

Words to know

- **steppe** — grassland plain *Russia's steppe stretches from east to west for five thousand miles.*
- **Turkic** — related to one of the languages spoken in western and central Asia *Many of the Mongols who invaded Russia spoke a Turkic language.*
- **strategic** — useful or important to achieving a goal or completing a plan, especially in a war *The Mongol's strategic plan was to force Russians to pay them taxes.*
- **Grand Prince** — mainly Russian, the leader of all the people and head of the government of a city-state or region *Ivan I was a "Grand Prince" of the Russian state, Muscovy, in the 1300s.*

Read

Read Chapter 2 in the Student Reader: PDF pages 13–18. Look at the pictures and maps together.

Talk it over

1. Why did the Russian steppe make it easy for the Mongols to invade Russia?
2. Why is it significant that the Ural Mountains are not high mountains?
3. What kind of warriors were the Mongols?
4. What did the Mongols do after conquering Russia?
5. How did the Mongol attack on western Russia influence the rise of Moscow?
6. How did Moscow, known as Muscovy, become Russia's most important and powerful city-state in the 1300s?
7. How did Muscovy's Grand Prince Ivan I remain on good terms with the Tatars who ruled Russia?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Check for understanding

- Answer the Big Question in a sentence or two: What are some key features of Russian geography, and how have these features influenced the nation's history?
- Use one of today's words in a sentence of your own.

Activity pages

- Activity Page 1.1: World Map — Teacher Guide PDF page 72
- Activity Page 1.2: Russia Map — Teacher Guide PDF page 73

Chapter 3: Ivan the Great

THE BIG QUESTION

How did Ivan III gain more control over those he ruled?

Words to know

- **boyar** — a rich landowner in medieval Russia *Ivan the Great tried to limit the power of every boyar in Muscovy.*
- **czar** — from the word “Caesar,” the title of an emperor of Russia before 1917; sometimes spelled tsar *Ivan the Great was the first Grand Prince to call himself czar.*
- **serf** — a peasant who is not free; a person living on a feudal estate who was required to work for the lord of the manor *A serf in Russia lived in miserable conditions, doing whatever hard work had to be done.*
- **serfdom** — an agricultural system in which people (serfs) were not free, but required to stay and work for a landowner as the owner demanded *Despite Peter the Great’s modernization of Russia, serfdom continued in Russia and many more people were forced to spend their lives providing labor for Russian landowners.*
- **kremlin** — a central fortress built to protect a Russian city; today the term generally refers to the fortress in central Moscow *Ivan the Great lived in the kremlin in Moscow.*

Read

Read Chapter 3 in the Student Reader: PDF pages 19–26. Look at the pictures and maps together.

Talk it over

1. What happened to Ivan III as a young boy?
2. What words describe the situation in Russia in the years before Ivan III became Grand Prince?
3. What were Ivan and a group of Russian princes able to do in 1480?
4. How did Ivan III rule Muscovy once the Tatars retreated?
5. What does it tell us about Ivan the Great that he often said that the czar was “in nature like all men but in authority like God the highest”?
6. Who had direct rule of the serfs?
7. When one landowner sold his farm to another, what happened to the serfs?
8. What was the effect of Ivan the Great rejecting any influences of the European Renaissance in Russia?
9. Why was the Moscow Kremlin so important in medieval Russia?
10. What did Ivan’s rebuilt Moscow symbolize?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Check for understanding

- Answer the Big Question in a sentence or two: How did Ivan III gain more control over those he ruled?
- Use one of today's words in a sentence of your own.

Activity pages

- Activity Page 1.1: World Map — Teacher Guide PDF page 72
- Activity Page 1.2: Russia Map — Teacher Guide PDF page 73
- Activity Page 3.1: Evdokia Fedorovna — Teacher Guide PDF page 75
- Activity Page 3.2: Domain Vocabulary: Chapters 1-3 — Teacher Guide PDF page 76

Chapter 4: Ivan the Terrible

THE BIG QUESTION

Why was Ivan IV called “Ivan the Terrible”?

Words to know

- **priest** — a person who has the training or authority to carry out certain religious ceremonies or rituals *The priest predicted Ivan would grow up to be a cruel person.*
- **czarina** — the wife of a czar *Anastasia, Russia’s czarina, was kind and gentle.*
- **architect** — a person who designs buildings *Ivan IV was a cruel ruler who even had a Russian architect blinded.*
- **persecute** — to treat people cruelly and unfairly *Ivan IV did not hesitate to persecute the people he ruled.*

Read

Read Chapter 4 in the Student Reader: PDF pages 27–32. Look at the pictures and maps together.

Talk it over

1. What happened to Ivan IV when he was eight years old?
2. Why do you think Ivan IV was “a troubled, angry child”?
3. What did Ivan IV want the boyars to do?
4. What social class did Anastasia Romanovna come from?
5. Why was it important that the czarina cared deeply about the Russian people?
6. Besides waging war to control Siberia, where else did Ivan the Terrible wage war?
7. According to legend, Ivan the Terrible blinded the architect of St. Basil’s. What do you think that says about Ivan?
8. What happened immediately after Czarina Anastasia died?
9. Do you think Ivan IV deserved the title “Ivan the Terrible”?
10. What can you conclude about Russia during the Time of Troubles after Ivan IV’s death?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Check for understanding

- Answer the Big Question in a sentence or two: Why was Ivan IV called “Ivan the Terrible”?
- Use one of today’s words in a sentence of your own.

Activity pages

- Activity Page 1.2: Russia Map — Teacher Guide PDF page 73

- Activity Page 3.1: Evdokia Fedorovna — Teacher Guide PDF page 75

Chapter 5: Peter the Great

THE BIG QUESTION

What did Peter the Great hope to do for Russia?

Words to know

- **subject** — a person governed by the laws of a czar, king, or queen *As a subject of Peter the Great, a serf living anywhere in Russia had to obey his laws.*
- **reign** — to rule over a country as its czar, king, or queen *Peter the Great realized how strategic it was for Russia to have a warm-water port.*
- **marsh** — an area of waterlogged land, usually overgrown with tall grasses; a swamp *St. Petersburg was built on a swampy marsh near the Baltic Sea.*

Read

Read Chapter 5 in the Student Reader: PDF pages 33–38. Look at the pictures and maps together.

Talk it over

1. What was the name of Russia's new dynasty?
2. What was Peter like as a youngster?
3. What physical feature made Peter stand out among his subjects?
4. What were some of the things Peter brought home to Russia from his European travels?
5. What was the significance of Peter making his nobles shave off their beards?
6. What are some of the ways Peter modernized Russia?
7. Why did the gap between Russia and Western Europe widen, even with Peter's efforts at modernization?
8. Why did Russia want a warm-water port?
9. Where especially had Russian rulers wanted to secure a warmwater port?
10. Why did thousands of serfs die helping build St. Petersburg?
11. Because of the high death rate of the serfs, what was St. Petersburg called?
12. How did Peter get the title "Peter the Great"?
13. What does it tell you about Peter the Great that he went into icy sea water to rescue some fishermen?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Check for understanding

- Answer the Big Question in a sentence or two: What did Peter the Great hope to do for Russia?
- Use one of today's words in a sentence of your own.

Activity pages

- Activity Page 1.1: World Map — Teacher Guide PDF page 72
- Activity Page 1.2: Russia Map — Teacher Guide PDF page 73
- Activity Page 3.1: Evdokia Fedorovna — Teacher Guide PDF page 75
- Activity Page 5.1: Domain Vocabulary: Chapters 4-5 — Teacher Guide PDF pages 77-78

Chapter 6: Catherine the Great

THE BIG QUESTION

Why did serfdom continue in Russia?

Words to know

- **principality** — a small territory or land usually ruled by a prince *Catherine grew up in a German principality.*

Read

Read Chapter 6 in the Student Reader: PDF pages 39–44. Look at the pictures and maps together.

Talk it over

1. How did Catherine adapt to her new role as czarina of Russia?
2. Why did some nobles disapprove of Czar Peter III?
3. How was Catherine the Great's rule similar to Peter the Great's reign?
4. Why did Catherine decide not to free Russia's serfs?
5. What happened to serfdom under Catherine? How does this compare with what happened during the reign of Peter the Great?
6. How did serfdom affect the lives of serfs? How did it affect nobles?
7. What was Catherine the Great able to do that Peter the Great was unable to do?
8. What did the treaty with the Turks give the Russians?
9. What did Catherine the Great do in Alaska?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Check for understanding

- Answer the Big Question in a sentence or two: Why did serfdom continue in Russia?
- Use one of today's words in a sentence of your own.

Activity pages

- Activity Page 1.1: World Map — Teacher Guide PDF page 72
- Activity Page 1.2: Russia Map — Teacher Guide PDF page 73
- Activity Page 3.1: Evdokia Fedorovna — Teacher Guide PDF page 75
- Activity Page 6.1: Russia: True or False — Teacher Guide PDF page 79
- Activity Page 6.2: Comparing the Czars — Teacher Guide PDF page 80

UNIT QUIZ

Early Russia

Name: _____ Date: _____

Circle the letter of the best answer.

1. The Vikings came to Russia from
 - a) Poland.
 - b) Scandinavia.
 - c) China.
 - d) the Byzantine Empire.
2. Who had to pay tribute to the Vikings?
 - a) Slavs
 - b) Scandinavia
 - c) China
 - d) Mongols
3. Christianity in early Russia came from
 - a) the Byzantine Empire.
 - b) China.
 - c) Western Europe.
 - d) Lithuania.
4. Who was Russia's first woman ruler?
 - a) Sophia
 - b) Anastasia Romanovna
 - c) Catherine the Great
 - d) Princess Olga
5. Who insisted that Orthodox Christianity become the official religion of Russia?
 - a) Princess Olga
 - b) Peter I/Peter the Great
 - c) Prince Vladimir
 - d) Mikhail Romanov
6. What was the class of landowning nobles in Russia called?
 - a) principalities
 - b) boyars
 - c) serfs
 - d) czars
7. Who was the first czar of a unified Russia?
 - a) Prince Vladimir
 - b) Peter I/Peter the Great
 - c) Mikhail
 - d) Ivan III/Ivan the Great

- 8.** Russian peasants who were forced to work the land are called
- a) boyars.
 - b) Slavs.
 - c) serfs.
 - d) slaves.
- 9.** Who ordered the construction of the Moscow Kremlin?
- a) Mikhail
 - b) Prince Vladimir
 - c) Ivan III/Ivan the Great
 - d) Boris Godunov
- 10.** Who ordered the building of St. Basil's Cathedral?
- a) Mikhail
 - b) Ivan III/Ivan the Great
 - c) Anastasia
 - d) Ivan IV/Ivan the Terrible
- 11.** Which czar traveled through Europe to study European customs?
- a) Ivan III/Ivan the Great
 - b) Ivan IV/Ivan the Terrible
 - c) Catherine the Great
 - d) Peter the Great
- 12.** Which city was called "Window on the West"?
- a) Odessa
 - b) Kiev
 - c) St. Petersburg
 - d) Moscow
- 13.** Which ruler forced many Russian men to shave their beards?
- a) Prince Vladimir
 - b) Ivan III/Ivan the Great
 - c) Peter the Great
 - d) Ryurik
- 14.** Which of the following is not associated with Peter the Great's reign?
- a) Westernization
 - b) travel in Europe
 - c) conversion to the Gregorian/European calendar
 - d) limitations on the czar's power
- 15.** Which ruler of Russia was born in Germany?
- a) Peter the Great
 - b) Anastasia Romanova
 - c) Ivan III/Ivan the Great
 - d) Catherine the Great

- 16.** Who considered freeing the serfs but did not?
- a) Prince Vladimir
 - b) Peter the Great
 - c) Catherine the Great
 - d) Ivan IV/Ivan the Terrible
- 17.** Which city was Russia's first warm-water port on the Black Sea?
- a) St. Petersburg
 - b) Moscow
 - c) Odessa
 - d) Kiev
- 18.** Which was not an accomplishment of Catherine the Great?
- a) establishing the Orthodox Church as Russia's official religion
 - b) free education for some Russian boys and girls
 - c) building a warm-water port
 - d) building roads and schools

Answers

Chapter 1: Russia's Beginnings

1. **What are at least two facts you know about Russia after reading this section?**

Possible responses: Russia is a huge country; today Russia spans eleven time zones; Russia became an empire in the 1700s.

2. **Where did Russia begin?**

It began along rivers in Eastern Europe.

3. **Who were the Slavs? Where in Russia did they settle?**

They were among the earliest people in Russia. They were people from what is present-day Poland, Ukraine, and the Czech Republic. They settled along rivers such as the Dnieper River in southern Russia.

4. **Why did the Vikings explore the area settled by the Slavs?**

They were looking for trading partners.

5. **Why do you think it's important to know the word Rus?**

Possible response: The name Russia probably came from the word Rus.

6. **What eventually happened between the Slavs and the Vikings?**

They blended together and adopted each other's customs. They became the first people whom we now refer to as Russians.

7. **Who was Princess Olga?**

She was a princess of Kiev who took control of the government after her husband was killed. She was probably Russia's first woman ruler.

8. **What happened after Olga visited Constantinople?**

She encouraged her people to convert to Orthodox Christianity.

9. **What did Prince Vladimir order after he converted to Orthodox Christianity?**

He ordered that the statues and pictures of the old gods and goddesses be destroyed.

Chapter 2: The Mongols Invade

1. **Why did the Russian steppe make it easy for the Mongols to invade Russia?**

The Russian steppe stretches from Central Asia to Eastern Europe and is low and level grassland that hard-riding Mongol warriors from the east found easy to cross.

2. **Why is it significant that the Ural Mountains are not high mountains?**

The Urals do not act as a barrier to invaders.

3. **What kind of warriors were the Mongols?**

They were bloodthirsty, very destructive, and deadly.

4. **What did the Mongols do after conquering Russia?**

They left the Tatars, people who had fought with the Mongols in Russia, to rule Russia and collect the taxes.

5. **How did the Mongol attack on western Russia influence the rise of Moscow?**
The Mongols attacked and destroyed the then-powerful Russian city of Kiev, which never regained its power. This paved the way for the rise of Moscow.
6. **How did Moscow, known as Muscovy, become Russia's most important and powerful city-state in the 1300s?**
It was located near good land and water trade routes, it was a large city-state, and it had strong rulers in the early 1300s.
7. **How did Muscovy's Grand Prince Ivan I remain on good terms with the Tatars who ruled Russia?**
He made sure that the people paid their taxes to the Tatars. 15 2/7/17 11:53 AM

Chapter 3: Ivan the Great

1. **What happened to Ivan III as a young boy?**
He was captured and held prisoner.
2. **What words describe the situation in Russia in the years before Ivan III became Grand Prince?**
Possible response: violent, dangerous, chaotic, filled with war
3. **What were Ivan and a group of Russian princes able to do in 1480?**
They forced the Tatars to retreat from Russia.
4. **How did Ivan III rule Muscovy once the Tatars retreated?**
He ruled more strictly; he worked to limit the power of the boyars; he issued new, strict laws; he severely punished anyone he suspected of plotting against him.
5. **What does it tell us about Ivan the Great that he often said that the czar was "in nature like all men but in authority like God the highest"?**
Possible answers: He considered that he, the czar, was a supreme authority like God; he considered himself godlike.
6. **Who had direct rule of the serfs?**
The Russian princes and boyars who owned the serfs and for whom the serfs worked.
7. **When one landowner sold his farm to another, what happened to the serfs?**
The serfs were part of the property and sale of the farm. Serfs could not move from place to place without the consent of the landowner.
8. **What was the effect of Ivan the Great rejecting any influences of the European Renaissance in Russia?**
Russia remained out of touch with Western European progress in the arts and sciences.
9. **Why was the Moscow Kremlin so important in medieval Russia?**
It was where the czar lived.
10. **What did Ivan's rebuilt Moscow symbolize?**
It was a symbol of Ivan the Great's power and might.

Chapter 4: Ivan the Terrible

1. **What happened to Ivan IV when he was eight years old?**
His mother died suddenly and because his father had died when he was three, at age eight he had no parents.
2. **Why do you think Ivan IV was “a troubled, angry child”?**
Possible responses: he had no parents; he lived in the kremlin and saw violence as the nobles fought for power; even though he was officially the Grand Prince, he was usually ignored.
3. **What did Ivan IV want the boyars to do?**
He wanted them to let him be crowned czar.
4. **What social class did Anastasia Romanovna come from?**
She was from a boyar family.
5. **Why was it important that the czarina cared deeply about the Russian people?**
Possible response: She had a calming influence on Ivan, and the text says her influence saved many lives.
6. **Besides waging war to control Siberia, where else did Ivan the Terrible wage war?**
He waged war against his neighbors to the south and west.
7. **According to legend, Ivan the Terrible blinded the architect of St. Basil’s. What do you think that says about Ivan?**
Possible response: Ivan the Terrible was mean spirited; he was unpredictable as he showed generosity in giving money to build the cathedral, but he displayed a very cruel nature in blinding the architect.
8. **What happened immediately after Czarina Anastasia died?**
Ivan the Terrible experienced great sorrow and near madness, and in a fit of rage killed his favorite son.
9. **Do you think Ivan IV deserved the title “Ivan the Terrible”?**
Students will most likely say he deserved the title because of the wars he waged, his suspicions and persecution of the boyars, his orders for arrests and executions, and his vicious, nasty temper.
10. **What can you conclude about Russia during the Time of Troubles after Ivan IV’s death?**
Possible responses: It was a time of uncertainty and disorder. There was no strong leader.

Chapter 5: Peter the Great

1. **What was the name of Russia’s new dynasty?**
the Romanovs
2. **What was Peter like as a youngster?**
He had a quick mind and was intelligent.
3. **What physical feature made Peter stand out among his subjects?**
He was very tall and towered over his subjects. INFERENTIAL —What can you conclude

from Peter liking to spend time with Westerners who lived in Moscow? »» Possible response: He liked Western ways that were more modern than the ways of traditional Russia; he was trying to learn Western ways.

4. **What were some of the things Peter brought home to Russia from his European travels?**

Peter brought home weapons, scientific tools, and groups of engineers, soldiers, and scientists to teach their skills to the Russian people.

5. **What was the significance of Peter making his nobles shave off their beards?**

Possible responses: The nobles shaving off their beards was a highly visual act of obeying Peter's commands; it was a visual act of modernizing and becoming more European.

6. **What are some of the ways Peter modernized Russia?**

He adopted the European Gregorian calendar, he had engineers design and build canals to link Russian rivers, and he had Russians learn mathematics and navigation.

7. **Why did the gap between Russia and Western Europe widen, even with Peter's efforts at modernization?**

Peter modernized many aspects of Russian life, but he did not change the structure of society or serfdom. Serfdom had died out in Western Europe but it continued in Russia, creating a widening gap between the two regions.

8. **Why did Russia want a warm-water port?**

It wanted a warm-water port so it could trade year-round.

9. **Where especially had Russian rulers wanted to secure a warmwater port?**

the Black Sea

10. **Why did thousands of serfs die helping build St. Petersburg?**

Peter chose a swampy site, and they died draining the marshes.

11. **Because of the high death rate of the serfs, what was St. Petersburg called?**

It was called the "city built on bones."

12. **How did Peter get the title "Peter the Great"?**

He chose the title himself.

13. **What does it tell you about Peter the Great that he went into icy sea water to rescue some fishermen?**

Possible responses: He cared about his people; he was brave. Activity Page

Chapter 6: Catherine the Great

1. **How did Catherine adapt to her new role as czarina of Russia?**

She converted to the Russian Orthodox religion. She learned Russian.

2. **Why did some nobles disapprove of Czar Peter III?**

He made few friends, many enemies, made silly laws and threatened to wage war against Denmark.

3. **How was Catherine the Great's rule similar to Peter the Great's reign?**

Possible responses: She admired Western Europe, particularly France; she made some good changes—improved roads, rebuilt towns and cities, and provided education for some Russian boys and girls; she put people to work.

4. **Why did Catherine decide not to free Russia's serfs?**

She was afraid it would weaken her country.

5. **What happened to serfdom under Catherine? How does this compare with what happened during the reign of Peter the Great?**

The number of serfs grew during Catherine's reign. Serfdom also expanded during the reign of Peter the Great. For more than three centuries, Russia's serfs were almost like enslaved people under the control of Russian nobles.

6. **How did serfdom affect the lives of serfs? How did it affect nobles?**

Serfdom meant difficult lives for the serfs, who provided labor but had no freedom. For nobles, though, serfdom meant wealth and cheap labor.

7. **What was Catherine the Great able to do that Peter the Great was unable to do?**

Her soldiers conquered the northern shore of the Black Sea and built a warm-water port, Odessa.

8. **What did the treaty with the Turks give the Russians?**

It gave the Russians free passage from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean Sea.

9. **What did Catherine the Great do in Alaska?**

She set up a fur-trading colony.

Unit quiz key

1. b 2. a 3. a 4. d 5. c 6. b 7. d 8. c 9. c 10. d 11. d 12. c 13. c 14. d 15. d 16. c 17. c 18. a