

RUSSIA

1. Geography of Asia

Asia is an important continent containing 2 of the world's most populated countries (India and China) and also some of the world's most economically important economies (Japan) and a global superpower (Russia). There are 48 countries in Asia.

Test yourself on the following:

- Largest country by land area – Russia
- Biggest Island – Borneo
- Longest River - Yangtze
- Biggest lake – Caspian Sea
- Biggest desert – Gobi desert



2. Basic Geography of Russia and major features



Source: <https://www.worldatlas.com/>

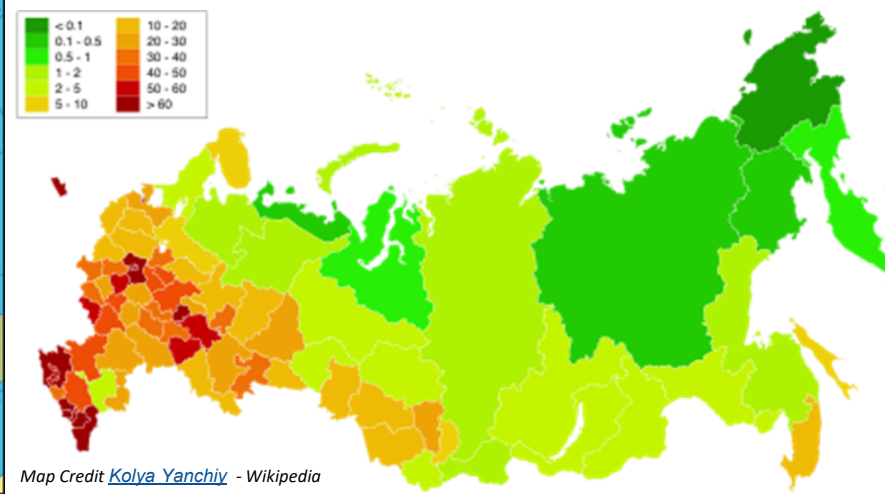
Physical Features

Major rivers – Volga, Ob, Yenisey

Ural Mountains – these divide Western from Eastern Russia

Lake Baikal - Lake Baikal is located in SE Russia and is the largest freshwater lake in the country. It is the deepest lake in the world at 1600m deep. It is nearly 400 miles long and contains 1/5 of all freshwater stored on land. The lake is home to more than 1800 species, many endemic to the area. Important industries include fishing, mining, paper production and tourism.

Human Geography—Population Density



Map Credit [Kolya Yanchiy](#) - Wikipedia

RUSSIA continued..

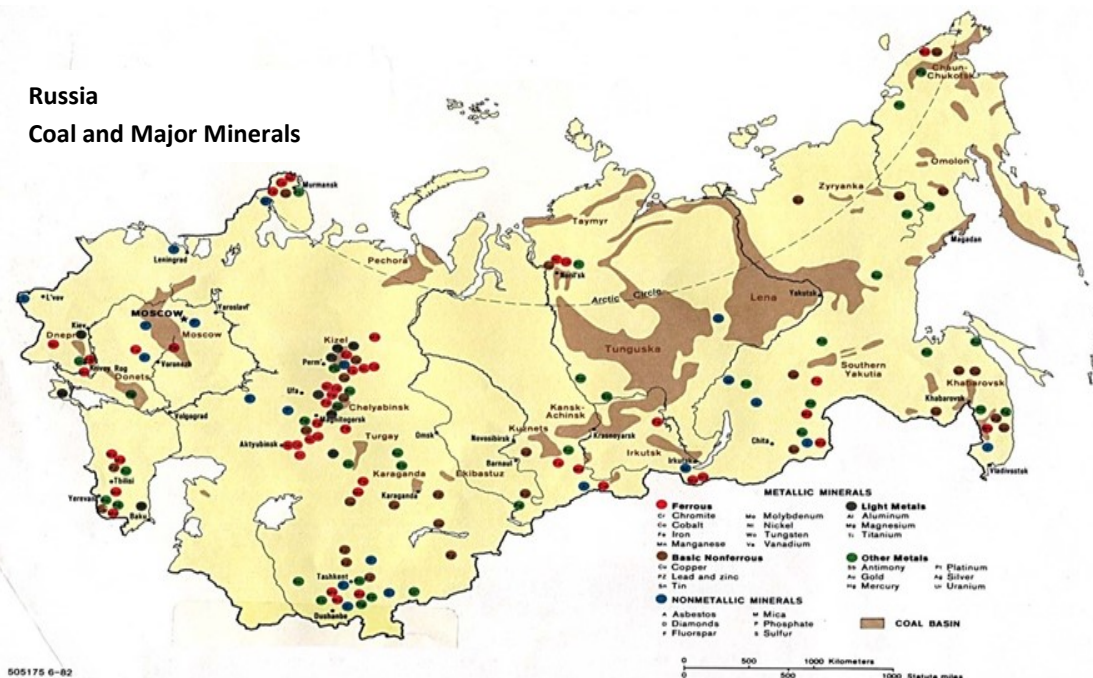
Densely populated cities in the West include Moscow and St Petersburg. These are located here due to good trade links with Europe and a more temperate climate than the East which is better for growing food. Sparse populations in the East and North are the consequence of difficulties of access, transport and the extreme climate in much of Northern and Eastern Russia.

Natural resources of Russia

Russia exports more than 3,000,000 barrels of oil to European countries per day, making Europe very reliant on Russian exports. Russia also provides a large percentage of coal and gas used in Europe. Russia also has abundant supplies of many other metals and minerals which means that they can supply many of their own industries without being reliant on imports from other countries.

Russia

Coal and Major Minerals



Source: <http://www.1uptravel.com/worldmaps/russia48.html>



Oymyakon

4. Permafrost and issues of building on frozen ground.

Permafrost is permanently frozen ground—frozen for two or more consecutive

Windows

Roof

Walls



Stilts

Foundations

You should be able to annotate key ways in which buildings are designed to manage the permafrost environment. (skills) – Walls and windows are heavily insulated, houses are raised to avoid melting permafrost base, roof has steep angle to quickly clear snow and ice.

Raised pipes to carry oil and gas.

People eat a lot of protein based foods eg. fish and meat due to lack of fresh fruit and vegetables

3. Oymyakon—The world's coldest inhabited place

Oymyakon is the world's coldest inhabited settlement with a lowest recorded temperature of -71 degrees centigrade. The town is built on permafrost which means the soil is permanently frozen. This means no food can be grown so the diet is very focused around meat and fish. It is too cold for indoor plumbing for toilets so these have to be located outside. Transport can be an issue as even fuel and oil can freeze at these temperatures.

RUSSIA continued..

5. Dzerzhinsk—The World's most polluted city

38 chemical factories still producing toxic chemicals. During Soviet era the town produced chemical weapons including Arsenic. Average life expectancy is 42 for men and 47 for women. Dzerzhinsk has been the focus of recent investment in an attempt to clean up the town.

6. Indigenous peoples of Russia—the Nenets

The Nenets inhabit the Yamal peninsular, an area in Northern Russia which has becoming increasingly important as a source of oil and gas.

Traditionally, the Nenets live in tents – they rely on the reindeer for food, shelter and transport. They migrate annually between reindeer feeding grounds.

Melting permafrost is damaging the reindeer as cannot migrate as easily.

Oil and gas exploration is taking away the land from the Nenets and they are being moved to towns and cities, removing traditional ways of life. Also, pollution from oil and gas is damaging the ecosystem leading to less feeding areas for the reindeer.



7. Scramble for the Arctic —Issues of resource exploitation

Russia has put a flag on the sea bed to lay claim to areas of arctic territory. Global warming is melting arctic ice, opening up new areas for exploitation.

Russia has many oil and gas operations in the Arctic. Other countries also lay claim to the Arctic.



Sources: IBRU, Durham University; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark

Source: <https://www.economist.com/international/2014/12/17/frozen-conflict>

There are implications for global trade as melting ice opens up the Northern Sea Route across the Arctic. This is likely to cause conflicts between countries.

Global Warming Opens Arctic Passage For Container Ships

Northern and southern sea routes between Europe and East Asia in comparison

- Current Route
- Northern Sea Route

Shipping on the Northern Sea Route can save up to 14 days over the Suez Canal route



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* By 24th August

Sources: High North News, Barents Observer, Süddeutsche Zeitung

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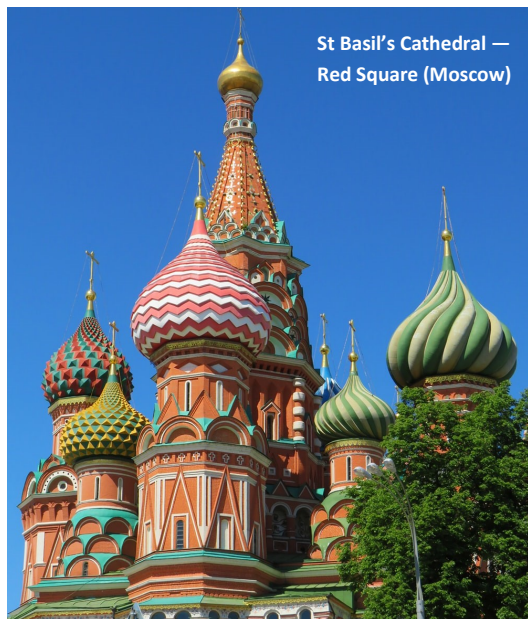
TOURISM

Claiming the Arctic

Russia has filed a revised claim with the UN for disputed territory



Source: <https://phys.org/news/2015-08-russia-vast-swathe-arctic.html>



APPLYING YOUR KNOWLEDGE...

- Explain why the population density varies across Russia
- Describe 3 ways in which people have adapted to living in the cold Arctic temperatures
- Explain why Dzerzhinsk is such a polluted city
- Describe some impacts of global warming on the Nenets people
- Contrast 2 different biomes which are found in Russia
- Explain why the natural resources found in Russia help to make Russia a 'Superpower'.

Now Challenge yourself even further!

- What impacts do you expect climate change to have on the indigenous people of Russia in the future?
- How will the opening of the Northern Sea Passage affect the geopolitics of the Arctic region?

OTHER RESOURCES

- Extended video on the Nenets <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sykmh7V0eSQ>
- Interactive room at the museum of Hetscheepvaart <https://www.hetscheepvaartmuseum.com/whats-on/exhibitions/Scramble-for-the-Arctic-and-Rising-Tide>
- Life with the Nenets <https://tinyurl.com/lifewiththeNenets>

KS3 Schoology



To test yourself Read, Cover, Write, Check OR try this quizlet <https://tinyurl.com/KS3Russia>

Key Term	Definition
Asia	The continent occupying the area between Japan in the East, Turkey in the west, India in the South and the Arctic in the North.
Biome	A large area with common flora, fauna and climate characteristics
Chemical Waste	Toxic chemicals released as a by product of industrial activity, often have negative effects on the environment
Continent	A large continuous area of land, usually including many different countries and islands.
Country	A politically determined area of land and sea ruled over by a single government
Dense Population	An area where many people are found per square km
Dzerzhinsk	The most polluted city on earth
Geopolitics	The relationships between countries and the efforts to manage these relationships
Indigenous	Group of people with a long history of settlement in one ecosystem/
Methane	A greenhouse gas
Migration	The movement of people from one place to another
Natural resources	Products that are found naturally in a country eg. forests or oil
Nenets	An indigenous group of people native to the Arctic tundra region of Yakutsk
Omyakon	The coldest populated city on earth
Permafrost	Permanently frozen subsoil
Plain	A large area of land with little variation in height
Pollution	Chemicals or products released into the environment which are damaging to plants, animals or people
Reindeer	A species of deer native to Arctic areas used by indigenous people for transport, food, clothing and shelter
Sparse Population	An area where few people are found per square km
Steppe	A biome found in temperate regions characterised by flat grasslands
Superpower	A country which exercises political, economic or military power over a large area beyond its own national borders
Taiga	A biome found in colder areas characterised by evergreen coniferous forests
Time Zone	An area of land which operates a common time policy
Toxicity	The level to which a substance is harmful to humans and wildlife
Tundra	A biome found in cold areas with permanently frozen subsoil