

Introduction

History is the living record of the human race – exciting as it is varied. *The Time Traveller Series* will aid you as you teach the colourful history and culture of countries around the world to your students. Explore such topics as geography, city and rural living, art and music, historic events, holidays, famous cities, and meet the historic personalities who helped shape the cultures of countries today.

After each topic is presented, activity pages are provided for your students to implement suggested vocabulary, conduct further research, and provide creative answers or solutions to historical situations. Fun, reproducible pages are also included to review the historical and cultural facts studied on the preceding pages.

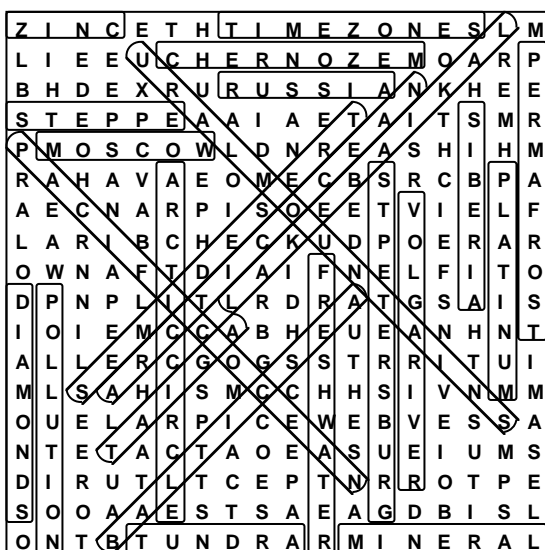
Each book contains the following:

- topic information pages
- research/activity pages (including maps, charts, research topics and creative thinking activities)
- reproducible activity pages
- cultural stickers

The *Time Traveller Series* was created to spark the sense of intrigue in your students and lay a foundation for enjoyable history instruction and learning. Have fun!

ANSWER KEY—NATIONS OF THE WORLD—RUSSIA

Geography Word Search
(page 9)



Art, Music and Literature Crossword
(page 25)

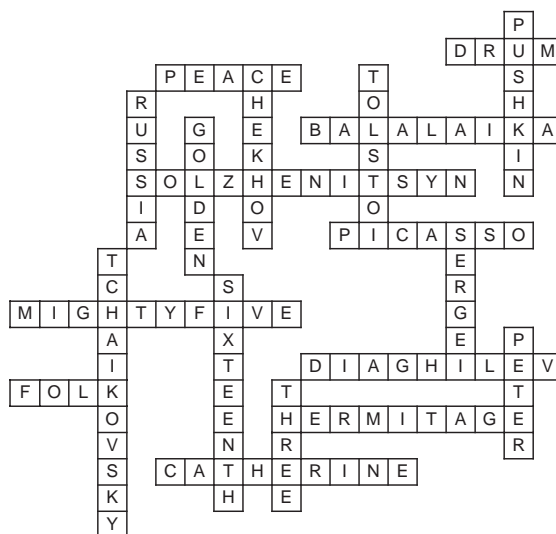
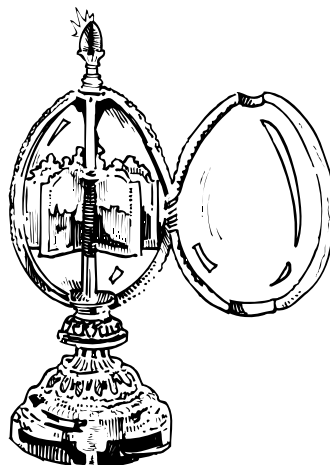


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The History of Russia

'Russia! What a marvellous phenomenon on the world scene . . .'
Mikhail Pogodin (Russian historian)



Russians, Ukrainians, and Belarussians are all part of the Slavic people who moved west from central Asia to settle in Russia during the sixth century. They settled along the rivers in order to establish trade with eastern Europe and Scandinavia.

The Slavs in the state of Rus lived on the banks of the Dnepr River. Kiev was their capital. Around 988, Vladimir, the prince of Kievan Rus, forced all his subjects to be baptised as Christians. In this way, Russians became connected to the Byzantine Empire. Greek missionaries brought their religion, art and architecture to Russia.

Kiev grew for many years after Vladimir's death. It was a well-organised and democratic society. The army was able to fight off invaders until they faced the Mongols (Tatars) in 1240. The Mongols destroyed Kiev and occupied Russia for 250 years. They were eventually defeated by the princes of Moscow.

The princes were able to unite the people who lived around Moscow. Ivan IV was crowned *tsar* (the Russian word for Caesar). He was known as Ivan the Terrible because he arrested and killed many people.

Boris Godunov succeeded Ivan IV's son Fedor in 1598. During Godunov's rule drought, famine and plague killed 500 000 people. The serf system, which tied the peasants to the land on which they were born, was developed by Ivan IV and later tsars.

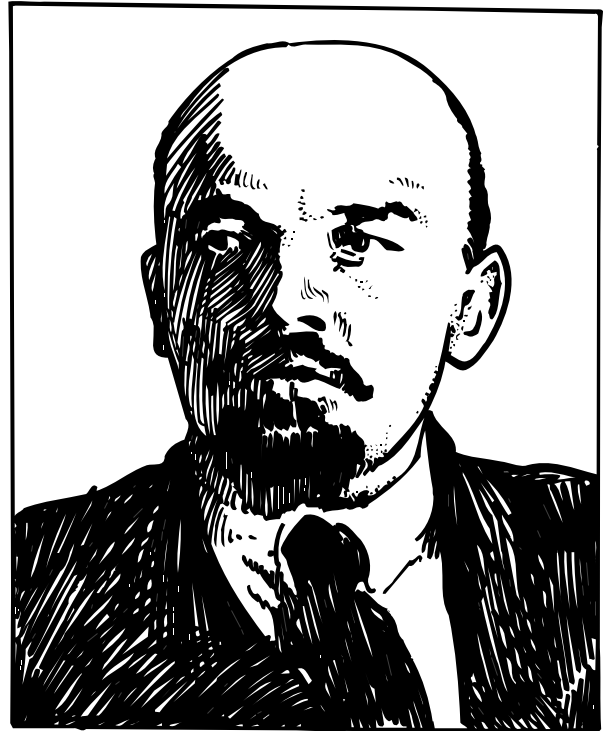
The Russian Empire was ruled from 1613–1917 by the royal Romanov family. They continued the system of serfdom, which was essentially slavery. Ownership of serfs was included with the sale of property. In Tsarist Russia, the common people were very poor.

Russia became an important European power during the reign of Peter the Great. He strengthened the army and navy and invited European business people to modernise Russia. Peter moved the capital of Russia to St Petersburg on the Gulf of Finland. He also increased the tsar's power.

The Russian Revolution

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. Define the following vocabulary words: *undermined, abdicated, dictators, parliament, strikes, reforms.*
2. How did the Russian people express their dissatisfaction with the government? Were their demonstrations justified? What else might they have done?
3. What are 'basic civil rights'? How would the meaning of that phrase be different in Russia in 1917 than in 1997?
4. What happened to the White Army after they were defeated? State three facts to support your ideas.
5. What changes would you have suggested if you had been a member of the Duma? What was the Duma actually able to accomplish?



PROJECTS

1. Read more about Vladimir Lenin. Make a time line showing his accomplishments as leader of Russia.
2. Pretend you are Lenin. Deliver a speech explaining the principles of Communism to a group of farmers. How could you convince them that their life would be better under Communism?
3. Draw the flag of the former USSR.
4. Who became leader of the Soviet Union after Lenin? Do you think it is practical (or possible) for everyone to benefit equally from what is produced in a country?

