

Rainbow Readers

Title: Russia

Word Study

Fill in the blanks using the words.

constitution

Empire

governments

parliament

trade

1. The Roman Empire was powerful in Europe for hundreds of years.
2. Some governments have presidents, while others have prime ministers.
3. The parliament passed a law to reduce taxes.
4. The UK does not have a written constitution.
5. Free trade with other nations can help make a country rich.

Reading Comprehension

A. Circle T for true or F for false.

1. Russia is more than twice the size of the United States. T / F
2. After taking over Russia, the Mongols made the world's largest empire. T / F
3. Very few Russians follow the Russian Orthodox religion. T / F
4. Russia imports most of its food from other countries. T / F
5. When it comes to food, Russia is best known for its ice cream. T / F

B. Circle the correct word(s).

1. Mt. Elbrus is the (coldest / **highest**), mountain in Russia.
2. After beating the Mongols, Russia (**struggled** / developed) for the next eighty years.
3. People in the middle of Russia are used to (hot / **short**) summers.
4. Russia's struggles can be seen in its (**art** / food).
5. Russia is considered a (**world leader** / wealthy country).

C. Choose the best answer.

1. What is the middle of Russia like?

- a. It is cold.
- b. It is very flat.
- c. It has many trees.
- d. It is mostly rivers and lakes.

2. Who were the first people to unite Russia?

- a. The Slavs
- b. The Goths
- c. The Vikings
- d. The Mongols

3. When did the Soviet Union come to an end?

- a. 1480
- b. 1917
- c. 1989
- d. 1991

4. Russia has produced many champions in _____.

- a. chess
- b. ice hockey
- c. soccer
- d. basketball

5. The book says that today, Russia has more _____.

- a. jobs
- b. fun
- c. companies
- d. freedoms

Summary

Fill in the blanks with the words.

cultures	defeated	challenges	resources	czars
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Russia is the largest country in the world. Because it is so big, different parts of Russia have very different weather and landscapes. There is a long coastline and many rivers. These resources make travel and trade easy. They have also made Russia an important place for thousands of years. However, Russia did not become a united country until 860. This is when the Vikings began organized rule. About 600 years later, they were defeated by the Mongols. Russia became part of the largest empire ever. Eventually, the Russians freed themselves. They were then ruled by czars. However, by 1917 they were treating the people poorly. People led by Lenin took over. Soon the country was renamed the Soviet Union. There were few rights or freedoms. This lasted until 1991. Today the Russia Federation is made up of people from many different cultures and religions. Russians have overcome many challenges. Today they are well-educated and have more freedoms. Russia is becoming better all the time.