

UNIT



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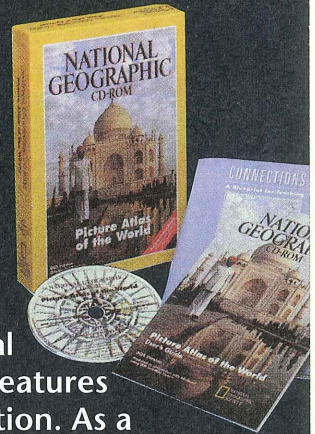
Russia and the Eurasian Republics

GeoJournal Activity

Clip newspaper and magazine articles related to the physical features, cultures, politics, economy, and human-environment interactions of the region. Note recent changes.

Picture Atlas of the World CD-ROM

Explore the Eurasian republics. Organize into five groups and choose one of the following republics: Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Armenia, or Georgia. Read the essays and browse the photographs and captions, vital statistics, maps, and other features on the CD-ROM for information. As a group, present a comprehensive electronic report on one of the republics to the class.



interNET CONNECTION

For more information about Russia and the Eurasian Republics visit the National Geographic Society's Web site.

www.nationalgeographic.com











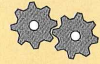

















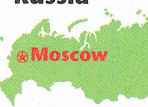



















For a unit-based activity visit the Glencoe Social Studies Web site.

www.glencoe.com



Santa Sophia Church exterior, Kiev, Ukraine.

◀ Nina and Misha Petrakov read the newspaper in their Moscow apartment.

COUNTRY* AND CAPITAL	FLAG AND LANGUAGES	POPULATION	LANDMASS	PRINCIPAL EXPORT	PRINCIPAL IMPORT
Armenia  Yerevan	 Armenian	3,800,000 349 per sq. mi. 135 per sq. km	10,888 sq. mi. 28,200 sq. km	 Machinery	 Machinery
Azerbaijan  Baku	 Azeri, Turkish	7,700,000 230 per sq. mi. 89 per sq. km	33,436 sq. mi. 86,599 sq. km	 Food	 Food
Belarus  Minsk	 Belorussian, Russian	10,200,000 127 per sq. mi. 50 per sq. km	80,108 sq. mi. 207,408 sq. km	 Machinery	 Machinery
Georgia  Tbilisi	 Georgian, Russian	5,400,000 202 per sq. mi. 78 per sq. km	26,911 sq. mi. 69,699 sq. km	 Food	 Machinery
Kazakhstan  Astana	 Kazakh, Russian	15,600,000 15 per sq. mi. 6 per sq. km	1,031,170 sq. mi. 2,670,730 sq. km	 Raw Materials	 Raw Materials
Kyrgyzstan  Bishkek	 Kyrgyz	4,700,000 63 per sq. mi. 24 per sq. km	74,054 sq. mi. 191,800 sq. km	 Machinery	 Light Industrial Products
Moldova  Chisinau	 Romanian, Ukranian	4,200,000 330 per sq. mi. 127 per sq. km	12,730 sq. mi. 32,971 sq. km	 Food	 Machinery
Russia  Moscow	 Russian	147,000,000 23 per sq. mi. 9 per sq. km	6,520,656 sq. mi. 16,888,499 sq. km	 Fuels	 Machinery
Tajikistan  Dushanbe	 Tadzhik, Russian	6,100,000 113 per sq. mi. 44 per sq. km	54,286 sq. mi. 140,601 sq. km	 Aluminum	 Chemicals
Turkmenistan  Ashkhabad	 Turkmen, Russian	4,200,000 26 per sq. mi. 10 per sq. km	181,440 sq. mi. 470,000 sq. km	 Natural Gas	 Machinery
Ukraine  Kiev	 Ukrainian	50,300,000 225 per sq. mi. 87 per sq. km	223,687 sq. mi. 579,349 sq. km	 Machinery	 Machinery
Uzbekistan  Tashkent	 Uzbek	24,100,000 151 per sq. mi. 58 per sq. km	159,938 sq. mi. 414,356 sq. km	 Cotton	 Food

*Country maps not drawn to scale.

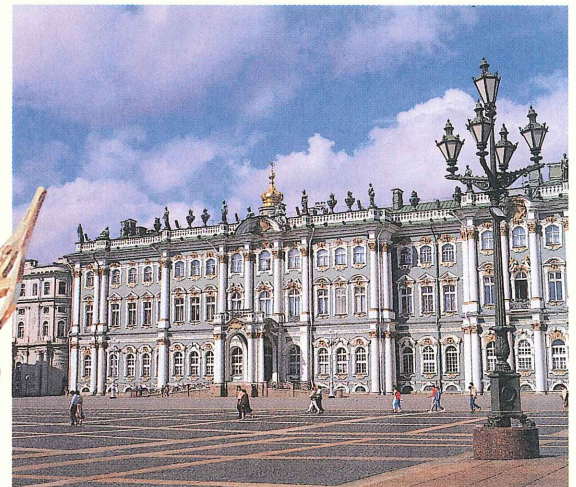


Winters in Moscow, Russia's capital, are severe—with plenty of snow and bitterly cold temperatures.



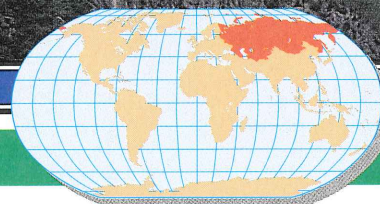
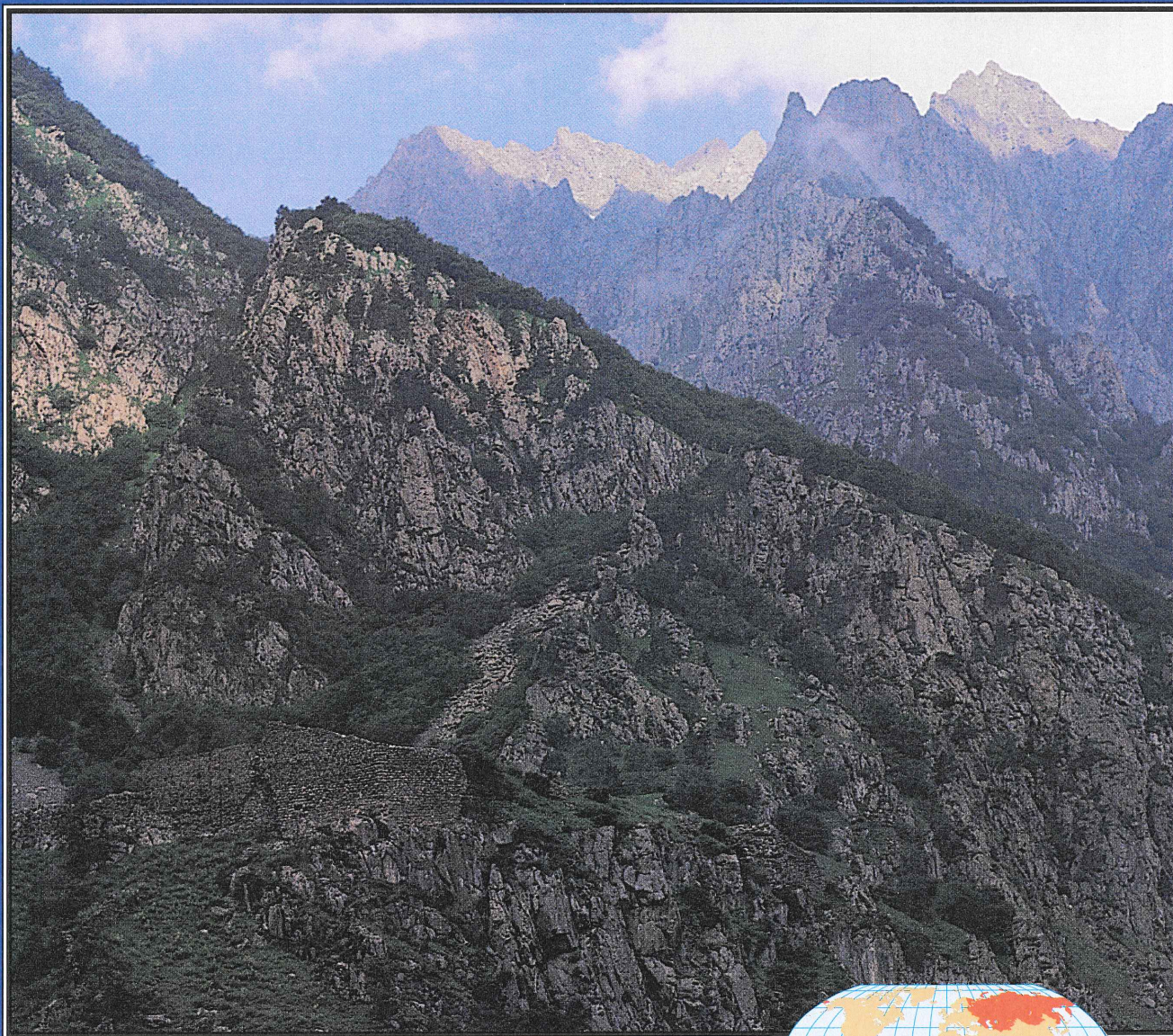
Vast areas of tundra stretch across the northern part of Russia.

The ideas of Russian revolutionary leader Vladimir Lenin shaped the political and cultural life of Russia and the Eurasian republics from 1917 until the early 1990s.



Russian czars and czarinas built beautiful palaces in St. Petersburg during the period of the Russian Empire.

The Physical Geography of Russia and the Eurasian Republics



CHAPTER FOCUS

Geographic Setting

Together Russia and the Eurasian republics stretch almost halfway around the world. Diverse climate and vegetation zones extend across the broad expanse.



Geographic Themes

Section 1 The Land

PLACE Three interconnected plains and numerous mountain ranges form the major landscapes of Russia and the Eurasian republics.

▲ **Photograph:** Towering Caucasus Mountains, Georgia

Section 2 The Climate and Vegetation

LOCATION The climates and vegetation of Russia and the Eurasian republics are affected by their northern location and their distance from the sea.

SETTING THE SCENE

Read to Discover . . .

- the major landforms in Russia and the Eurasian republics.

Key Terms

- chernozem
- kums

Identify and Locate

North European Plain,
West Siberian Plain,
Caucasus Mountains,
Black Sea, Caspian Sea,
Aral Sea, Volga River,
Dnieper River

Siberia, Russia

Zdravstvuy!
I was born in the Altai Mountains in the southwestern part of Siberia. I often come back here to spend my summer vacation. I enjoy hiking in the mountains where you can see glaciers on the distant mountaintops, drink crystal-clear and ice-cold water from rapid streams, and breathe the sweet air of Alpine meadows. Come and see for yourself!
Best wishes, Vladimir Marchenkov



Vladimir Marchenkov comes from Siberia, the eastern part of Russia. Russia and the Eurasian republics together cover more than 8 million square miles (20,700,000 sq. km) of territory. Their area is larger than that of Canada, the United States, and Mexico combined. Territorial size and a diversity of landforms have affected the development of these countries.

PLACE

Plains Areas

Three plains connect Europe and Asia. The North European Plain, the West Siberian Plain, and the Turan Lowland stretch eastward from Poland to the Yenisey (yeh•nuh•SAY) River.

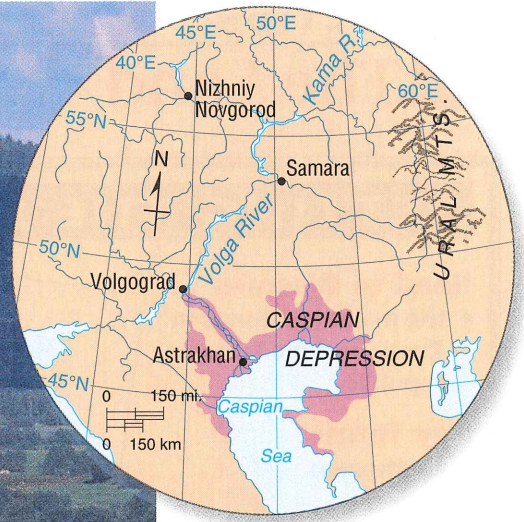
The North European Plain

The North European Plain is the center of economic life for almost three-fourths of the people of Russia and the Eurasian republics. The region's rich black topsoil called **chernozem** (cher•nuh•ZYAWM) makes Ukraine one of Europe's best farming areas. Three large cities—Moscow and St. Petersburg in Russia and Kiev in Ukraine—are located in the region. Its major rivers are the Volga, the Dniester (NEES•tuhr), the Dnieper (NEE•puhr), and the Don.

The West Siberian Plain

East of the Ural Mountains lies the world's largest area of flat land. Most of its one million square miles (2.6 million sq. km) is swamps, marshes, and frozen land unsuitable for farm-





Geographic Themes

Location: Ural Mountains

The Ural Mountains, an old range of rounded peaks, contain rich mineral resources. *Where are the Ural Mountains located?*

ing. The northern two-thirds is evergreen forest and swamp.

The Turan Lowland

Between the Caspian Sea and the Tian Shan (tee•AHN SHAHN) mountain range, the Turan Lowland has a few areas irrigated for agriculture. The rest is dune-covered *kums*, or deserts. The Kara Kum, or black sand desert, occupies most of Turkmenistan. The Kyzylkum (ky•zuhl•KUHM), or red sand desert, covers half of Uzbekistan.

PLACE

Mountains and Plateaus

Mountain ranges and plateaus punctuate the landscape of Russia and the Eurasian republics. The Carpathian Mountains bordering Ukraine and the Caucasus (KAW•kuh•suhs) in the southwest are extensions of the Alpine mountain system of Europe. Thickly covered with pines and other trees, the Caucasus form the Russian frontier with Azerbaijan and Georgia.

Mount Elbrus, in the Caucasus, rises 18,510 feet (5,642 m). Communism Peak, in the Pamirs on the eastern border of Tajikistan, at 24,590 feet (7,495 m) is the region's highest elevation. The Tian Shan, meaning "heavenly mountains" in Chinese, is a towering system covering much of Kyrgyzstan. It includes some of the world's largest glaciers.

The mineral-rich Ural Mountains, worn down by streams and wind erosion, rise only a few thousand feet. Stretching 1,500 miles



Comparing Lands

The **continental USA** is a little less than three and a half times smaller than Russia and the Eurasian republics.



RUSSIA AND THE EURASIAN REPUBLICS: PHYSICAL-POLITICAL



FOCUS ON GEOGRAPHIC THEMES



- Region:** What three republics are located in the region of the Caucasus Mountains?
- Place:** What city is the capital of the Ukraine?
- Movement:** What sea lies south of Russia and Ukraine?
- Place:** What desert area lies in Turkmenistan?

(2,414 km) from the Arctic Ocean to near the Aral Sea, the Urals divide European Russia and Siberia.

The East Siberian Uplands form the largest region of Siberia. This wilderness of forests, mountains, and plateaus extends to the Pacific Ocean. To the west, the Central Siberian Plateau slopes upward as you move from the Arctic Ocean to the Sayan and Baikal mountains. Fast-running streams have cut deep canyons in these plateaus.

REGION

Seas and Lakes

Russia and the Eurasian republics contain many seas and lakes. Ice-covered most of the year, the White, the Barents, the Kara, the Laptev, the East Siberian, and the Chukchi

seas all border northern Russia. The Sea of Okhotsk (oh•KAHTSK) and the Bering Sea border on the northeast. The Black Sea—a warm water sea—touches Russia, Georgia, and Ukraine and flows south into the Mediterranean.

Nestled among the republics of Azerbaijan, Russia, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan is the Caspian Sea. The largest inland body of water in the world is really a saltwater lake. The Caspian Sea is shrinking due to reduced flow from the rivers that feed it. The Aral Sea is also shrinking because government policies allow its waters to be overused for irrigation.

Lake Baikal (by•KAHL) in Siberia is the oldest and deepest lake in the world. Called in Russian folk songs a “glorious and sacred sea,” it holds one-fifth of the earth’s total freshwater supply.



Geographic Themes

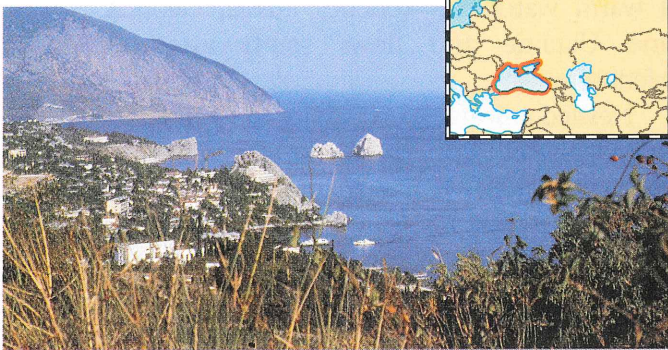
Location: The Volga River

Although the Volga River is frozen for almost four months of the year, it handles almost half of Russia's river-freight traffic. *Where are the source and the outlet of the Volga?*

HUMAN/ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION

Rivers

Long navigable rivers, connected to seas and other rivers by canals, have played a major role in Russian and Eurasian trade and development. Some flow eastward, like the Amur, which forms part of Russia's border with China. Others, like the Ural and the Volga, flow southward. Many that flow north-



Geographic Themes

Place: Black Sea Coast

A mild climate and beautiful scenery make the Black Sea coast a popular vacation spot. *What makes the Black Sea unique among the seas that touch Russia and other republics?*

ward, such as the Lena, Ob, and Yenisey, are frozen much of the year.

The Dnieper, the Western Dvina, the Dniester, the Don, and the Volga cross the plains. Called *Matushka Volga*, or "Mother Volga," the longest river in European Russia flows 2,193 miles (3,528.5 km) from Russia's Valdai Hills to the Caspian Sea. Although frozen for four to six months each year, this river provides hydroelectric power, municipal water supplies, and water for industries and irrigation. For centuries the Volga has been a major highway for trade and communications.

The only large river of Siberia that does not flow northward is the Amur. Its river valley is the only major food-producing area in eastern Siberia. Four Siberian rivers are among the 12 largest in the world—the Lena, the Ob, the Yenisey, and the Irtysh (ih•TISH).

REGION

Natural Resources

Russia and the Eurasian republics are rich in natural resources. Russia is the world's largest producer of manganese and chromium



and the second-largest producer of gold. Together Russia, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine contain almost 20 percent of the world's known coal and lignite reserves. The Tyumen field in the West Siberian Plain produces more oil in a day than any country except the United States and Saudi Arabia. Russia is the world's leading exporter of natural gas.

Minerals and Energy

Almost every mineral used by industry is found in Russia and the Eurasian republics. The region leads in coal, copper, and silver production and ranks second in production of gold, lead, salt, tin, tungsten, and zinc. Iron ore, nickel, asbestos, chromium, bauxite, antimony, manganese, and precious stones are in abundance. Turkmenistan has the world's largest deposits of sulfur and sodium sulfate.

Nearly all the republics have natural gas and oil. The main oil-producing areas are the Tyumen and Volga-Urals fields in Russia and the Baku field in Azerbaijan. Russia is a leading producer of hydroelectric power. A series of power stations along the Volga and at Bratsk on the Angara River are among the world's largest.

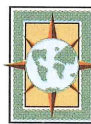
Soils, Forests, Wildlife, and Fish

The Black Earth Belt stretches from western Ukraine to southwestern Siberia. Its rich black chernozem makes the region a leading producer of wheat, rye, oats, barley, and sugar beets. Fertile soil made Ukraine the former Soviet Union's breadbasket for years.

About one-third of Russia and the Eurasian republics is forestland. Hardwood forests cover about one-fourth of the republic of Belarus. The region's vast forests with larch, pine, fir, linden, elm, and other trees account for about one-fifth of the world's timber.

Eastern Siberia is home to the majestic Siberian tiger, an endangered species. Other wildlife in the region include bear, fox, reindeer, elk, lynx, deer, wolf, wildcat, sable, and boar.

Fish are a key regional resource—salmon from the Pacific coast area; herring, cod, and halibut from the Barents Sea; and carp and sturgeon from the Caspian Sea.



Geographic Themes

Human/Environment Interaction: Baku, Azerbaijan

The major source of wealth for the economy of Azerbaijan is oil. The Caspian Sea near Baku has enormous oil reserves. These reserves are being developed by international oil companies. *What are the two major oil-producing areas in Russia?*

SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

1. **Define** chernozem, *kums*.
2. **Locating Places** What are the three major plains areas of Russia and the Eurasian republics?
3. **Region** What are two common characteristics of most rivers in Russia and the Eurasian republics?
4. **Region** What are five natural resources found in Russia and the Eurasian republics?

Critical Thinking

5. **Making Comparisons** In what ways are Lake Baikal and the Caspian Sea the same? How are they different? What does the future hold for these two lakes and the people who rely on them for a living?



The Climate and Vegetation

SETTING THE SCENE

Read to Discover . . .

- the major climates found in Russia and the Eurasian republics.
- the kinds of natural vegetation in different climate regions of Russia and the Eurasian republics.

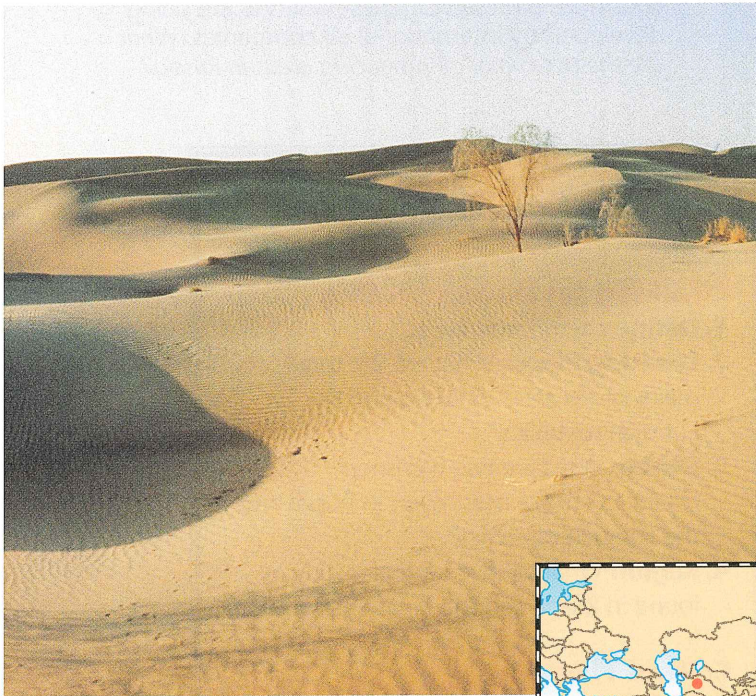
Key Terms

- permafrost
- tundra
- taiga
- steppe

Identify and Locate

Arctic Circle, Odessa, Siberia, Kara Kum, Climate regions: humid continental, subarctic, steppe, desert, humid subtropical, Mediterranean

The vast size of Russia and the Eurasian republics has an important impact on their climate. Within their borders is a diversity of natural vegetation, including tundra, forest, grassland, and desert.



Geographic Themes

Place: Kara Kum, Central Asia

In the Kara Kum, the temperature has been known to rise above 120°F (48.9°C). *How does much of the vegetation of the Kara Kum compare with other desert areas?*

REGION

Climate Regions of Russia and the Eurasian Republics

The lack of mountains near lowlands and a northern location influence the climate of Russia and the Eurasian republics. About 75 percent of the region is located farther north than the United States, excluding Alaska. Like parts of Canada, the far northern part of Russia is within the Arctic Circle.

Most of the republics lie well within the continent, far from the moderating influences of the sea. This leads to a wide range of annual temperatures. Verkhoyansk, located at about 68°N latitude, has been called the “cold pole of the world” because of its bitter winter temperatures. Without mountains to shelter them, lowland areas receive the full impact of sultry summer winds and frigid winter storms.

Kinds of Climate

Two major climates—humid continental and subarctic—are found in most of Russia and the Eurasian republics. The range between temperature highs and lows is the widest in the world. While summers may be hot or warm, they are always short, and winters are



RUSSIA AND THE EURASIAN REPUBLICS: CLIMATE REGIONS



FOCUS ON GEOGRAPHIC THEMES



- Region:** What climate region is found in the far north of Russia?
- Place:** In what climate region is Belarus located?
- Region:** What climate region extends around the north coast of the Black Sea?
- Location:** Where are highland areas found?

always long and cold. More than half of the land is covered with snow six months a year. About half has **permafrost**, a permanently frozen layer of soil beneath the ground. In the words of one writer, "Indeed, so cold does it get that almost all of the . . . northern coast is never entirely free of ice, and even the southern port of Odessa on the Black Sea is frozen in for six weeks or so each winter."

Range of Climates

In the far north, the landscape is dominated by the vast treeless plains called **tundra**. In winter, when the northern part of the earth is tipped away from the sun, the sky stays dark for long periods. In summer there is daylight

for weeks. The cold is the fiercest in northeastern Siberia. Temperatures there have been known to drop as low as -90°F (-68°C).

In the subarctic **taiga**, the vast woodland that begins where the tundra ends, summers are reasonably warm. Yet a deep blanket of snow often cloaks the land for as long as eight months of the year.

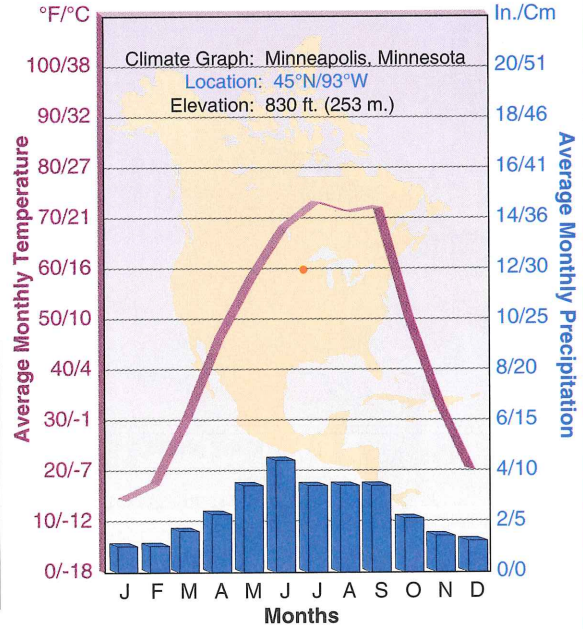
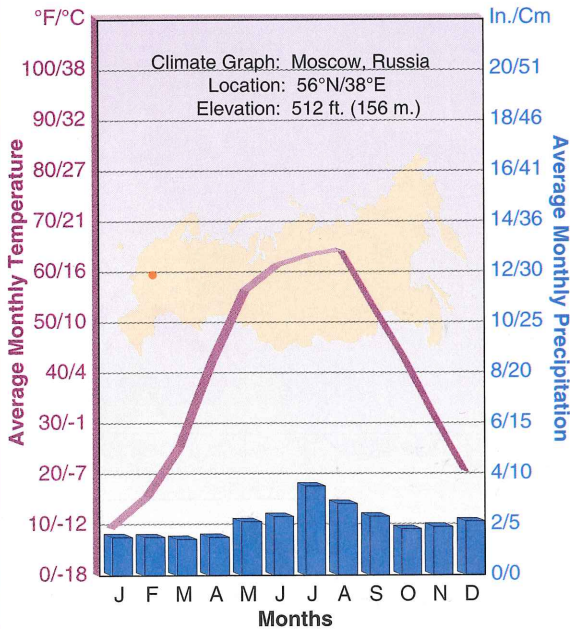
In contrast, the desert regions of central Asia have cold winters and long, hot summers. In July, for example, daytime temperatures average about 90°F (32°C) and have been known to rise above 120°F (49°C) in the shade.

In the North European Plain, summers are warm. Winters are cold, but not so painfully cold as farther north. More precipitation falls in summer than in winter, giving rise to conditions favorable for agriculture.



COMPARING CLIMATE REGIONS

Russia and the United States



Source: World Weather Guide

*bars measure precipitation/lines measure temperature



GRAPH STUDY

The climate graph above shows the average monthly temperature and the average monthly precipitation in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Moscow, Russia. What is the average August temperature and precipitation in each city?

In the wide grassy plains known as **steppes** that stretch from the western shores of the Black Sea to the Altai Mountains, winter is a time when frosty northern winds pile the snow in drifts across the frozen earth. In summer, rainfall is uncertain and, as one writer explains:

— — — — —
⊗
— — — — —

*The sun of the steppelands is like a boiling kettle,
pouring yellow boiling water over your back.*

— — — — —
⊗
— — — — —

Other climates prevail in scattered parts of Russia and the Eurasian republics. The Black

Sea coast of Georgia has a humid subtropical climate suitable for growing cotton, tea, citrus fruits, and tobacco. The Crimean Peninsula has a Mediterranean climate in which citrus fruits, winter grains, and vegetables thrive.

PLACE

Vegetation

Many kinds of vegetation can be found in this region. In western Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Turkmenistan, for example, a person can see subtropical vegetation such as citrus fruits. At the far eastern end of the Black



Sea, there are rich tea plantations and a subtropical rain forest. Seven natural vegetation zones run roughly from west to east across the vast territory. These zones are tundra, taiga, mixed forest, wooded steppe, steppe, semidesert, and desert.

Tundra

Tundra is the northernmost vegetation zone. The soil beneath the tundra is always frozen, but different kinds of low grasses, reeds, and mosses still grow.

Taiga and Mixed Forest

South of the tundra is the taiga—the coniferous forest belt. The largest forest region in the world, it stretches from Finland to the Sea of Okhotsk. One writer refers to these large forests as “one of the mightiest features of our planet.”

In past decades, many furbearing animals lived in the forests. Mink and Russian sable pelts sold for a great deal of money—a source of wealth for many generations. Today the animals are fewer in number, and the wealth rests more in timber. In some places the forest has been cleared, and farmers have cultivated crops. The soil, however, is not very good, and the growing season is short.

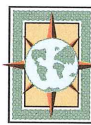
To the south of the taiga is a mixed forest with both coniferous trees and deciduous trees. It encompasses much of Belarus and eventually joins with forests of central Europe.

Steppe Areas

The northern areas of the steppes border the southern edge of the mixed forest. This strip of steppes alternates thick clumps of trees with wide open spaces. The rest of the steppe is largely grassland.

Semidesert and Desert

The semidesert and desert south of the steppes have little vegetation. The hot, dry climate makes much of the area barren. Large stretches of bare rock and sandy dunes dominate drought-resistant shrubs and cacti. In the Kara Kum, however, vegetation supports nomadic herds of sheep, goats, and camels. The



Geographic Themes

Place: Irkutsk, Siberia

Warmly dressed pedestrians are on their way to work on a typical winter morning in Siberia. How does the cold climate affect the soil in Siberia and other parts of Russia?

valleys of the Syr and Amu Darya rivers in Uzbekistan have been irrigated. In these regions melons, rice, and cotton grow.

SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

- 1. Define** permafrost, tundra, taiga, steppe.
- 2. Locating Places** In what part of Russia and the Eurasian republics are the steppes located?
- 3. Region** What two general kinds of climate prevail in most of Russia and the Eurasian republics?
- 4. Place** How does the vegetation of the tundra compare with that of the taiga?

Critical Thinking

- 5. Making Generalizations** What generalization can you make about climate and vegetation in Russia and the Eurasian republics? Relate this generalization to human activity, particularly agriculture.



MAP & GRAPH SKILLS

Interpreting a Political Map

Lines drawn on a map to separate towns, counties, states, and nations are called *political boundaries* because they divide areas controlled by different governments. A **political map** illustrates these divisions.

REVIEWING THE SKILL

On political maps of large areas, lines indicate boundaries between countries, or *international boundaries*. Political maps often include cities and natural features, such as bodies of water.

Unlike physical maps, which remain fairly constant over time, political maps change as political relationships evolve. By comparing political maps from different periods of history, you can see changes in political relationships over time.

To interpret a political map:

- Read the map title to find out what geographic area it covers and what time period the map reflects.
- Identify the countries or other political units named on the map.
- Identify capitals and major cities.

PRACTICING THE SKILL



Use the map below to answer the following questions.

1. Which countries separate Russia from the rest of Europe?
2. What is the capital of Kazakhstan? Of Ukraine?
3. Which countries border the Black Sea?
4. Which two cities lie farthest east on this map?

For additional practice in interpreting a political map, see Practicing Skills on page 302 of the Chapter 14 Assessment.



The **Glencoe Skillbuilder Interactive Workbook, Level 2** provides instruction and practice in key social studies skills.



1

SECTION

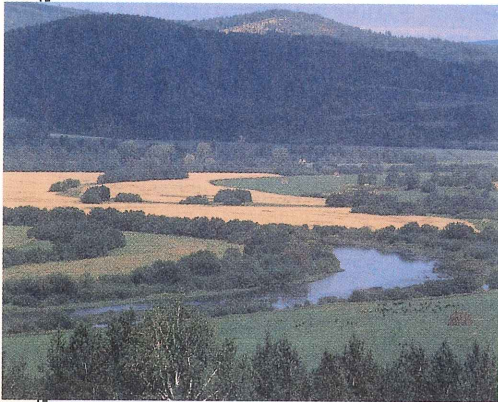
The Land

KEY TERMS

chernozem (p. 291)
kums (p. 292)

SUMMARY

- The land occupied by Russia and the Eurasian republics spans two continents—Europe and Asia.
- Plains areas cover the greatest part of Russia and the Eurasian republics.
- Numerous mountain ranges, uplands, plateaus, and inland bodies of water are scattered throughout Russia and the Eurasian republics.
- All of the republics except Russia, Georgia, and Ukraine are landlocked.
- Most of the rivers of the region flow northward and are frozen for much of the year.
- Minerals, energy resources, fertile soils, forests, wildlife, and fish are abundant in Russia and the Eurasian republics.



The Ural Mountains—the divide between Europe and Asia

2

SECTION

The Climate and Vegetation

KEY TERMS

permafrost (p. 297)
tundra (p. 297)
taiga (p. 297)
steppe (p. 298)

SUMMARY

- Because of their northern location, distance from large bodies of water, and lack of mountains near lowland areas, most areas of Russia and the Eurasian republics have a humid continental or subarctic climate.
- More than half the land of Russia and the Eurasian republics is covered with snow for much of the year. Permafrost (permanently frozen subsoil) is found beneath about 40 percent of the area of Russia and the Eurasian republics.
- Throughout the region summers are short, and winters are very long and very cold.
- Natural vegetation varies, ranging from treeless tundra in the north to densely wooded taiga in the center to barren desert in the south.



A winter morning in Siberia, the eastern half of Russia



Reviewing Key Terms

Choose the vocabulary term that best completes each of the sentences below. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

chernozem (p. 291)	tundra (p. 297)
kums (p. 292)	taiga (p. 297)
permafrost (p. 297)	steppes (p. 298)

SECTION 1

- The rich black topsoil of the North European Plain is called _____.
- A few areas of the Turan Lowland are agriculturally productive, but most of the plain is _____.

SECTION 2

- Wide grassy plains called _____ cover southern Russia and Ukraine.
- _____ is the permanently frozen layer of soil that lies beneath the ground.
- A deep blanket of snow often cloaks the _____ for many months of the year.
- Vast treeless plains called _____ dominate the far northern regions of Russia.

Reviewing Facts

SECTION 1

- Which mountains form a natural dividing line between European Russia and Siberia?
- Which republics have direct access to the seas?
- What functions does the Volga River fulfill for the people of Russia? Where is the Volga River located?

SECTION 2

- How much of a range is there between temperature highs and lows in Russia and the Eurasian republics?
- What are the seven vegetation zones in Russia and the Eurasian republics?
- What two vegetation zones are south of the steppe?

Critical Thinking

- Drawing Conclusions** Most of the people of Russia and the Eurasian republics make their homes on a Russian extension of the North European Plain. What reasons can you give for this?
- Determining Cause and Effect** Why are the climates of Russia and the Eurasian republics so harsh?



Geographic Themes

- Region** What kinds of natural resources are abundant in Russia and the Eurasian republics?
- Place** What vegetation is found in the tundra?



Practicing Skills

Interpreting a Political Map

Refer to the political map on page 300.

- What is the capital of Georgia?
- What seas border Kazakhstan?

Using the Unit Atlas

Refer to the physical geography section of the Unit Atlas on pages 286–287.

- What mountains in Tajikistan are called the “roof of the world”?
- What natural resource is found in Baku?

Projects

Individual Activity

Rivers have always played an important role in Russia and the Eurasian republics. Research a major river of the region. Then imagine that you are on a ship traveling from one

end of the river to the other and write a poem describing the physical features, environment, climate, vegetation, and human activity in the areas through which you journey.

Cooperative Learning Activity

Work in a group of seven. Each group member will research a different vegetation zone of Russia and the Eurasian republics and present to the other group members what he or she learned. Then group members will work together to construct a poster that will illustrate what it might be like to live in each of the region's vegetation zones.

Writing About Geography

Proposal Suppose you are a Russian. A foreign automobile manufacturer plans to open

a plant in Russia or in one of the Eurasian republics and has asked you to recommend one or two areas in which to build the plant. Write a letter to the company president that includes your recommendations and an argument to support those recommendations. Use your journal, text, and magazine and newspaper articles as references.

Technology Activity

Using E-Mail Locate an E-mail address for a youth organization in Russia or one of the Eurasian republics. Write a letter requesting information about the climate and other environmental factors in the youths' area and how it affects their lifestyle. Share your responses with the rest of the class.



Locating Places

THE PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY OF RUSSIA AND THE EURASIAN REPUBLICS

Match the letters on the map with the places and physical features of Russia and the Eurasian republics. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Ural Mountains | 6. East Siberian Uplands |
| 2. Caucasus Mountains | 7. Arctic Ocean |
| 3. Kazakhstan | 8. Bering Sea |
| 4. Tian Shan | 9. Caspian Sea |
| 5. Siberia | 10. Volga River |

