

NICK & AYA TRAVEL TO RUSSIA AT A GLANCE!

TEACHER CLASSROOM UNIT
GRADES 1-4



QUICK FACTS



Continent:
Europe & Asia



Capital City:
Moscow



Language:
Russian



Currency:
Russian Ruble (RUB)



Population:
About 145 million people

IMPORTANT PLACES TO KNOW



Moscow

Russia's capital, famous for Red Square, the Kremlin, and Saint Basil's Cathedral.



Lake Baikal

The world's deepest freshwater lake and home to unique animals.



Kamchatka Peninsula

A land of volcanoes, geysers, bears, and wild Pacific coastline.



Kazan

A city where Russian and Tatar cultures meet.



Vladivostok

Russia's major Pacific port and the eastern end of the Trans-Siberian Railway.



BEFORE READING

Ask students:

- 1 Why is Russia part of two continents?
- 2 What kinds of animals might survive a Siberian winter?
- 3 Why do people build railroads across huge countries?
- 4 What is permafrost?
- 5 How do volcanoes change the land?



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- ✓ Locate Russia on a world map
- ✓ Explore Russia's different climates
- ✓ Learn about wildlife found across Russia
- ✓ Discover the traditions of different cultural groups
- ✓ Understand how geography shapes everyday life

EXPLORE

LEARN

DISCOVER

CONNECT



TEACHER TIP

As students read, have them keep track of:



Animals they discover



Places the family visits



Different landscapes they explore

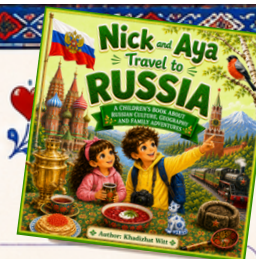


New Russian words they learn



PEOPLE & CULTURES ACROSS RUSSIA

How Geography Shapes Culture



1 Saint Petersburg Russia's Cultural Capital



Nick and Aya admire grand palaces, beautiful canals, and famous museums. Saint Petersburg has been an important center of art, music, and architecture for more than 300 years.



2 Dagestan Mountains of Many Cultures



Nestled between the Caucasus Mountains and the Caspian Sea, Dagestan is home to dozens of ethnic groups and languages. Families preserve unique traditions, music, dances, and handcrafted arts passed down through generations.



3 Lake Baikal (Buryatia) Indigenous Heritage



Near Lake Baikal, Nick and Aya learn about the Buryat people. Horses, traditional music, colorful clothing, and a deep respect for nature remain important parts of everyday life.



4 Trans-Siberian Railway Connecting an Enormous Country



The Trans-Siberian Railway stretches across thousands of miles, linking forests, mountains, lakes, and cities. It helps people travel and connects communities across the world's largest country.



5 Sochi & Black Sea Coast Where Mountains Meet the Sea



Along Russia's warm Black Sea coast, families enjoy beaches, parks, and mountain adventures. The nearby Caucasus Mountains create a unique landscape where snowy peaks rise above a subtropical coastline.



MATCH THE REGION TO ITS CULTURE

Draw a line to match each place with its description.

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Saint Petersburg | • Russia's Cultural Capital |
| 2 Dagestan | • Mountains of Many Cultures |
| 3 Lake Baikal (Buryatia) | • Indigenous Heritage |
| 4 Trans-Siberian Railway | • Connecting an Enormous Country |
| 5 Sochi & Black Sea Coast | • Where Mountains Meet the Sea |



DID YOU KNOW?

Russia is home to more than 190 ethnic groups and over 100 different languages, making it one of the world's most culturally diverse countries.



Balalaika
A traditional Russian instrument.



Matryoshka Dolls
Nesting dolls are a symbol of family and tradition.



Samovar & Tea
Tea is a beloved part of Russian hospitality.



Pelmeni
Delicious dumplings enjoyed all across Russia.



Khokhloma Spoon
Traditional art with bright colors and beautiful patterns.



WILDLIFE & NATURE ACROSS RUSSIA



From Arctic Seas to Volcanic Lands

HABITAT METER



ARCTIC TUNDRA



TAIGA FOREST



MOUNTAINS



LAKE BAIKAL



VOLCANIC REGIONS



BLACK SEA COAST

Russia is the largest country on Earth! From icy Arctic tundra to deep forests, from vast lakes to volcanoes and warm seas, it is home to an incredible variety of plants and animals. As Nick and Aya travel across Russia, they discover the many **amazing** habitats wildlife depends on.



1 Arctic Tundra



Reindeer

Arctic Fox

Snowy Owl

The Arctic tundra is cold and treeless. Animals have thick fur or feathers to stay warm and find food in the short summer.



2 Siberian Taiga Forest



Brown Bear

Sable

Siberian Tiger

The taiga is the world's largest forest! It stretches across Siberia and is home to bears, tigers, lynx, birds, and millions of insects.



3 Lake Baikal



Baikal Seal (Nerpa)

Omul Fish

Baikal Sponges

Lake Baikal is the deepest freshwater lake on Earth. Many plants and animals live here and exist nowhere else in the world!



4 Kamchatka Volcanic Region



Brown Bear

Steller's Sea Eagle

Pacific Salmon

Active volcanoes, hot springs, and rivers shape life in Kamchatka. Every summer, salmon swim upriver—bringing food for bears and eagles!



5 Black Sea Coast & Subtropical Zone



Dolphin

European Otter

Magnolia Tree

Along the warm Black Sea coast, delicate plants grow and dolphins swim in the sea. It's a different world from snowy Siberia!



DID YOU NOTICE?



Siberian tigers live in the taiga and have thick fur to stay warm.



Baikal seals live only in Lake Baikal.



Salmon return to rivers in Kamchatka to lay their eggs.



Russia has more forest than any other country in the world!

THINK LIKE A SCIENTIST!

Why do animals have thick fur or feathers in the Arctic tundra?

- ☐ To look bigger.
- ☒ To keep warm in freezing temperatures.
- ☐ To swim faster.
- ☐ Because the tundra is full of trees.

