

# GLIMPSSES OF RUSSIA



## Module 3 The Northern Capital

### АННОТАЦИЯ

Модуль “Northern Capital” («Северная столица») предназначен для учащихся, изучающих английский язык на уровне Elementary (A2).

В модуле представлена общая информация о Санкт-Петербурге: географическом положении города, его истории и достопримечательностях, а также даны наиболее интересные факты о Северной столице. Материалы представлены в разнообразных заданиях, направленных на развитие лексических и грамматических навыков, а также навыков аудирования и чтения. Модуль содержит пять видеороликов, четыре задания предлагается выполнить в интерактивном формате с возможностью самопроверки. Четыре задания содержат ссылки на статьи энциклопедий, что позволит учащимся получить более полную информацию по заинтересовавшим их вопросам. Также можно воспользоваться интерактивной картой Санкт-Петербурга и увидеть достопримечательности города в 3D формате. На заключительном этапе учащимся предлагается выполнить два творческих задания, а также задания по карте города.

Условные обозначения, используемые в модуле:

задание содержит видеоматериал



The task contains a movie

задание можно выполнить интерактивно



The interactive task

задание содержит ссылки на статьи энциклопедий



The task contains a link to the article of an encyclopedia

При создании модуля использованы следующие интернет ресурсы:

The following Internet recourses have been used to create the Module:

<https://kids.kiddle.co/Encyclopedia>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki>

<https://kids.britannica.com>

<https://youtube.com>

<https://yandex.ru/images/>

[Google Maps](#)

### ANNOTATION

This Module “Welcome to Russia” has been designed for students who learn English on Elementary (A2) level.

The Module contains general information about Saint Petersburg: the geographical position of the city, some facts about its history and places of interests and the most interesting facts about the Northern capital are given. All materials include various activities which provide the development of lexical and grammar skills, as well as listening and reading skills. The Module contains five video clips, four tasks are offered to carry out in an interactive format (in the form of interactive communication) with an option of self-control. Four tasks include links to articles of the encyclopedias, which let the students get more information and extension. The link to the interactive map of Saint-Petersburg is available, that gives the opportunity to see city sights in 3D format. The final stage of the Module includes tasks, which help students elicit their creative potential as well as tasks on the map of the city.

A list of symbols that are used in the Module:

# THE NORTHERN CAPITAL



1

What do you know about Saint Petersburg? Decide if the statements are true or false.



1. St Petersburg is the largest city in Russia.
2. It was founded in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.
3. It is a northern city
4. It had four names during its history
5. St Petersburg is a port city



Flag of Saint Petersburg



Coat of arms of Saint Petersburg



Anthem of Saint-Petersburg

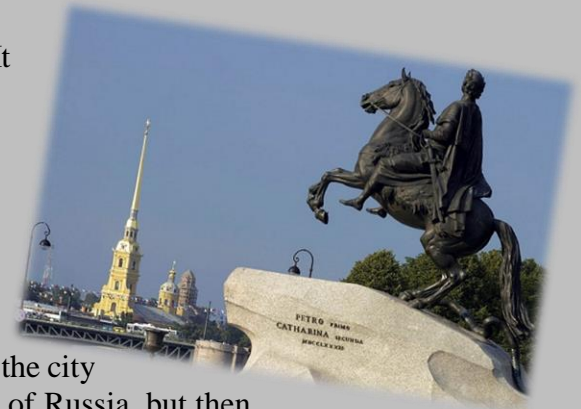
2

Read the text and check your answers.

Saint Petersburg is one of the most beautiful cities in the world. It is an unusual city in many ways. We know exactly the date of its foundation, 16 (27 New Style) May 1703 and the name of its founder, Peter the Great. It is situated in the north-west of Russia, where the river Neva flows into the Gulf of Finland. Its geographical position is unique – no other city of its size is so far north. It is the second largest Russian city with population of 5 million people which occupies the area of about 1500 sq km.

Saint Petersburg has been renamed three times during its history. At first the city was named after Saint Peter and from 1712 to 1918 it was a capital city of Russia, but then its role changed. In 1914 when the World War I began, the city was given the name “Petrograd”. After Lenin’s death in 1924 the city was renamed “Leningrad” in his honour. In 1991 the city got its original name Saint Petersburg again.

St. Petersburg is a comparatively young city, but its short history is rich in significant and tragic events. The city saw the glory of the Imperial Age and witnessed the exultation and cruelty of revolutions. It survived floods and fires, suffered from famine during the last war.



Saint-Petersburg is considered to be the northern capital of our country. It is a very busy city with a low rate of unemployment. There are lots of plants, factories, offices, universities and schools there. St. Petersburg is a large port, ships from all over the world come to the city.

The city is also the cultural capital of Russia. It is famous for its magnificent palaces, rich museums, historical monuments, beautiful parks. Every year millions of tourists come to our city to visit its museums, to watch its embankments, suburbs, magic white nights and the drawing of bridges.

# A Hero City!



Watch the film about the siege of Leningrad during the World War II. Then read the text and choose the correct parts of sentences (A-F) to complete gaps 1-6.

September 4, 1941 - January 22, 1944  
 107,158 air bombs were dropped on the city,  
 148,478 shells were fired,  
 16,744 men died, 33,782 were wounded  
 and 641,803 died of starvation.

- A. Starvation was killing thousands of people a day,  
 B. with temperatures as low as minus thirty degrees.  
 C. its people had endured the stranglehold of Nazi  
 D. slowly starve its two million citizens into submission.  
 E. had tremendous symbolic significance.  
 F. confident that the country would soon be theirs

June 1941, Hitler launches operation Barbarossa. Two million Germans push into Russia, .....1..... . But first they would have to capture the city of Leningrad because it would make it easier for the Germans to attack Moscow if they could take Leningrad and Leningrad .....2..... It was the city of Lenin. People who were from Leningrad had a great devotion to the city. German Army surrounds the city, establishing an impenetrable front less than three miles from its outskirts. The Germans' strategy was to bombard Leningrad from a safe distance and then .....3..... Supplies of food and fuel were already low and would be depleted within a couple of months. Winter was fast approaching, and it would be an especially fierce one.....4..... It was an unbelievable period of starvation and cold. The heat, electricity in most cases and water pipes no longer functioned. Hunger was now the enemy. ....5..... mostly the very old and the very young. The only possible route from Leningrad into Russian-held territory was over Lake Ladoga, called *Doroga Zhisni*, "The Road of Life". In the warm months using ferries and in the winter using trucks driving on the ice. It allowed for escape from the German siege and for much needed supplies to make the way into embattled city. In Leningrad the siege was finally broken and lifted in 1944. For nearly 900 days .....6 ..... but at a staggering cost. Estimates put the total losses at over one million lives, making Leningrad the site of history's deadliest siege. Nearly half a million victims of that siege are buried in mass graves at the cemetery of the city. It has become the national war memorial, a place to remember the bravery of Leningrad's citizens.



No one is forgotten, nothing is forgotten.



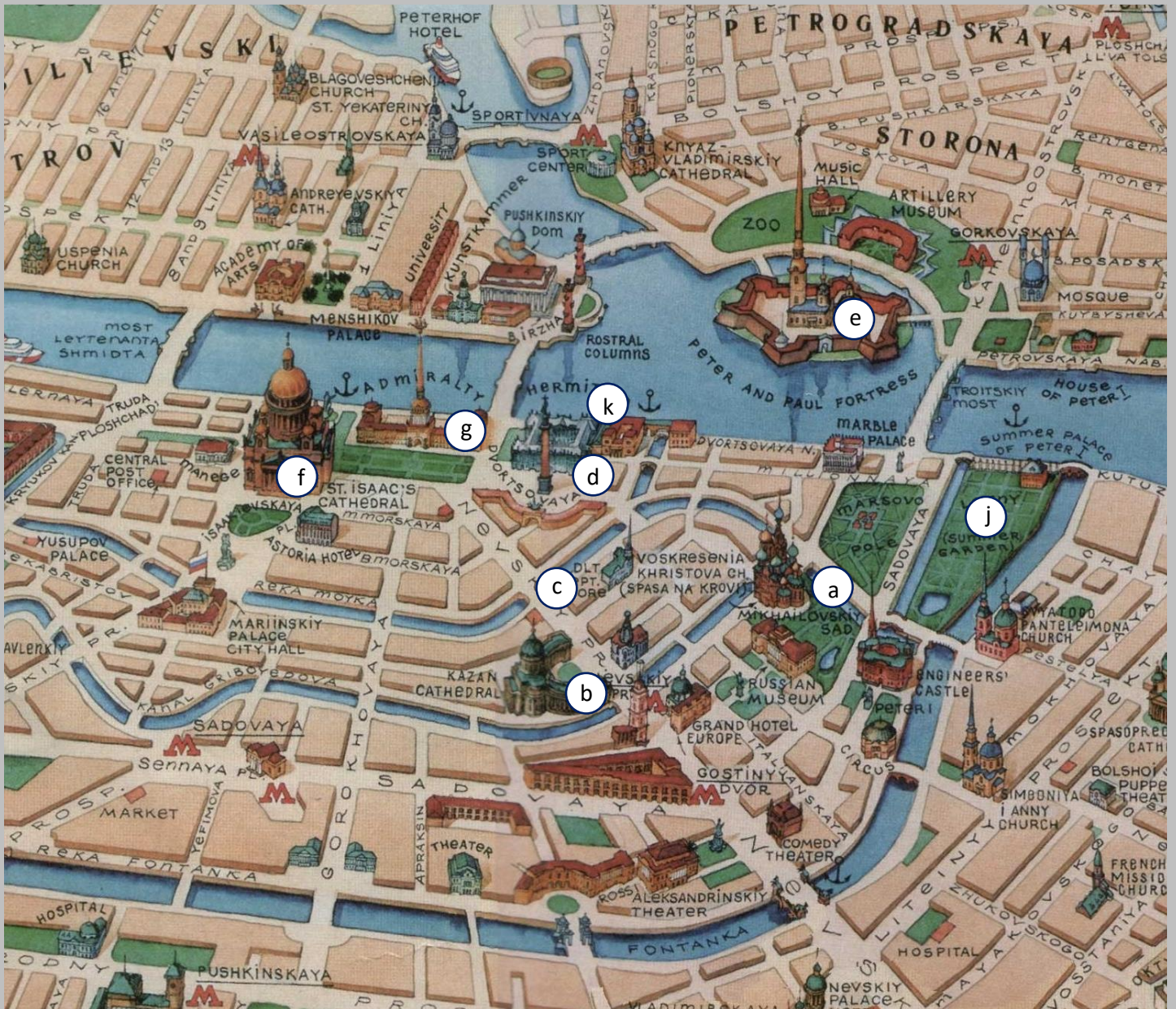


Put the names of attractions given below in order they were mentioned in the film. Then find them on the map of the city centre.

If you want to know more about these places just click the name.

- Church of the Saviour on the Spilled Blood
- Kazan Cathedral
- Nevsky Prospect
- Palace square
- Peter and Paul Fortress
- St Isaac's Cathedral
- The Admiralty
- The Catherine Palace\*
- The Peterhof Palace and Gardens Complex\*
- The Summer Palace and Gardens
- The Winter Palace

\* These palaces are situated in the suburbs of the city. You can't see them on the map.



Use [Google Maps](https://www.google.com/maps) to find attractions on the map of St.Petersburg, see photos and real images. Just click the place on the map or type the name in the right top corner.



1.

It was erected by Peter the Great in 1703 on a small [Hare Island](#) by the north bank of the [Neva River](#) to protect St Petersburg. The fortress contains several notable buildings clustered around the [Peter and Paul Cathedral](#), which has a 122.5 m (402 ft) bell-tower (the tallest in the city centre) and a gilded angel-topped cupola. The cathedral is a burial place of all Russian emperors and empresses, including [Peter the Great](#) and [Catherine the Great](#). According to a centuries-old tradition, a cannon is fired each noon from this place.

2.



It is the central city square. In the centre of the square stands the [Alexander Column](#), designed by [Auguste de Montferrand](#). This red granite column (the tallest of its kind in the world) is 47.5 metres high and weighs some 500 tons. It is set so well that it requires no attachment to the base.

3.



It is situated in Palace Square and in the past was the official residence of the Russian Emperors. Now it is a home for [the Hermitage](#), a museum of art and culture, the second-largest art museum in the world.

4.

It is the main street in Saint Petersburg. It is 4,5 km long and 240 buildings face it.



5.

It is the headquarters of the Russian Navy. The spire is topped by a golden weather-vane in the shape of a small sail warship (*Korablik*), which is one of the symbols of the city.



6.



It is the largest orthodox church and the fourth largest cathedral in the world. The cathedral's main dome rises 101.5 metres (333 ft) and is plated with pure

gold. The cathedral took 40 years to construct, under [Montferrand's](#) direction.

It is one of the largest cathedrals in Saint Petersburg. It was built in 1801-1811 by the architect [Andrey Voronikhin](#). It is remarkable for its plan. Half-round colonnade decorates the side façade of the cathedral, not the main one.

7.



This Church was built on the site where

[Emperor Alexander II](#) was severely wounded and died in March 1881. It was built from 1883 till 1907. The Church contains over 7500 square meters of mosaics—according to its restorers, more than any other church in the world.

8.



9.



It was the first Emperor's residence. Peter I really liked this palace and the garden. It was laid out in 1704. It is decorated with marble busts and statues from Italy and [the fence](#) on the Neva side of the garden is an architectural masterpiece of universal fame. The impressive monumentality merges miraculously with lightness, simplicity, and grace.



*It's interesting to know:* 

➤ **St. Petersburg is a popular name**

In the United States of America there are 15 cities with the name Petersburg. St. Petersburg in Florida is the largest one.

➤ **The first public museum in Russia was founded in St. Petersburg**

In 1714, Peter the Great opened the first public museum in Russia, the Kunstkamera, in St. Petersburg. Today it is the most famous museum of anthropology and ethnography in Russia. The museum collection has over a million expositions revealing the ethnographic and historical features of the people all over the world.

➤ **The monument to Nicholas I on St. Isaac's Square is a unique one**

The monument created by Peter Klodt is the only equestrian monument in the world that has got only two points of support.

➤ **The first railway of Russia appeared in Petersburg**

St. Petersburg became the first city in Russia, where in 1837 the first Russian railway St. Petersburg - Tsarskoe Selo was opened.

➤ **The deepest metro in the world is in St. Petersburg**

The city was built on a swampy area, so the subway tunnels had to be laid under the bedrock. The tunnels of the St. Petersburg metro lie at a depth of about 70-80 meters.

➤ **St. Petersburg is the capital of trams**

The length of the tram tracks in the city is more than 600 km. This fact is listed in the Guinness Book of Records.

➤ **The Blue bridge is one of the widest bridges in the world**

It is thrown across the river Moika. Its width is 97.3 meters. Because of its record width, it almost equals the width of St. Isaac's Square.

➤ **"The Spit of Vasilyevsky Island"**

It is one of the most beautiful places in St. Petersburg. The Spit represents a small cape in the southeastern part of Vasilyevsky Island, washed by the Big and Little Neva. The Rostral Columns (the height of each one reaches 32 meters) and the Exchange building constitute the centre of architectural composition. The columns served as lighthouses for the ships. They are a monument to naval glory, a symbol of Russia's sea power. Now bright orange torches are lit on festive occasions.

➤ **Sphinxes is one of the symbols of St. Petersburg**

The two magnificent sphinxes on University Embankment, in front of the Academy of Fine Arts, are roughly 3,500 years old and are considered among the finest examples of Ancient Egyptian colossal sculpture kept outside Egypt.

➤ **St Petersburg is a very cat-friendly city.**

During the Second World War cats saved the city. Rats were a real problem during the siege of the city, and cats helped people a lot to fight against this threat. When the siege ended, the army came to deliver not only food and medicines but also wagons of cats from all the country!




The Hermitage "employs" cats to protect the exhibits from rats. There are officially 50 cats in the service of the Hermitage.





## Now your turn!

### Do the tasks

1.  Click on the icon to find the attractions on the map.
2.  Watch a videopresentation by the girl from Saint Petersburg about her native city. Make a videopresentation (not more than 2 minutes) about the place where you live and put it on the [wall](#)
3.  Draw one of the symbols of Saint Petersburg and a symbol of your city or town and put it on the [wall](#).

