

# GLIMPSSES OF RUSSIA



**Module 1**  
**Welcome to Russia!**

Авторы проекта: Качанова Ольга Протальевна  
Соколова Юлия Владимировна

ГБОУ гимназия 192 «Брюсовская гимназия»  
Санкт-Петербург

### АННОТАЦИЯ

Модуль “Welcome to Russia” («Добро пожаловать в Россию») предназначен для учащихся, изучающих английский язык на уровне Elementary (A2).

В модуле представлена общая информация о Российской Федерации: географическом положении и географических особенностях страны, населении и некоторых выдающихся людях, русском языке и национальных символах. Материалы представлены в разнообразных заданиях, направленных на развитие лексических и грамматических навыков, а также навыков аудирования и чтения. Модуль содержит три видеоролика. Семь заданий предлагается выполнить в интерактивном формате с возможностью самопроверки. Два задания содержат ссылки на статьи энциклопедий, что позволит учащимся получить более полную информацию по заинтересовавшим их вопросам. Также предусмотрены задания, позволяющие раскрыть творческий потенциал учащихся. На заключительном этапе учащимся предлагается выполнить интерактивный тест по материалам модуля.

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/>

Created by Olga Kachanova and  
Yulia Sokolova

Gymnasium 192 named after Jacob Bruce  
St Petersburg

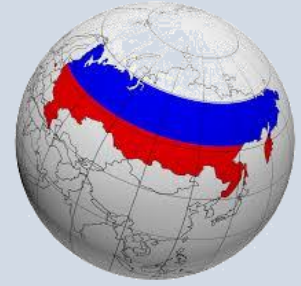
### ANNOTATION

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

The Module contains general information about Russian Federation: geographical location and features of the country, its population and some outstanding people, Russian language and national symbols. All materials include various activities which provide the development of lexical and grammar skills, as well as listening and reading skills. The Module contains 3 video clips. 7 tasks are offered to carry out in an interactive format (in the form of interactive communication) with an option of self-control. 2 tasks include links to articles of the encyclopedias, which let the students get more information and extension. There are also tasks which help students elicit their creative potential. The final stage of the Module includes a follow-up activity in the form of an interactive test based on the materials of the Module.

A list of symbols that are used in the Module:

# WELCOME TO RUSSIA!



1

What do you know about Russia?  
Can you answer the following questions?

1. What continent is Russia situated on?
2. What is the capital city?
3. What countries does Russia border?



Flag of Russia



Coat of arms of Russia



Listen

Anthem of Russia



Lyrics

Look at the map to check your ideas.



2

Look at the traveller. During his journey around Russia he made notes, but one day his old notebook was torn into pieces. Can you put the pages into the correct order. The first page will help you.



- 1. A huge country
- 2. Geography
- 3. Russian people
- 4. Main cities
- 5. National symbol

a

One of the symbols of Russia is Matryoshka Doll. It came to Russia from Japan at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. There are 7 dolls one inside another. They are made of wood and painted colourfully. The name came from the Russian name Matryona.

b

The population of Russia is about 140 million people. Most of people are Russian, but there are a lot of other nationalities. Although Russian is the official language, other languages are spoken too.

c

Russia is the largest country in the world. It is situated in Europe and in Asia. The area of the country is over 17 million square kilometers. It takes eleven hours to cross it by plane. A train journey from Moscow to Vladivostok on the Express train takes six days!

d

The capital of the country is Moscow. It is the largest city of Russia. The second largest city is Saint Petersburg.

e

Russia is washed by the Baltic Sea in the West, the Arctic Ocean in the North and the Pacific Ocean in the east. The climate and landscape are different in different parts of the country. There are many rivers in Russia. The largest rivers are the Volga, the Yenisei, the Lena. The deepest lake is Baikal. It is 636 km long and 80 km wide. It is famous for its crystal clean water. The main mountain chains in Russia are the Caucasus with the Mount Elbrus and the Urals. In Kamchatka there are 150 volcanoes, 30 of them are active.

3

Read the traveller's notes once more and decide if the statements are true or false. Put V or X in the box.



- 1 The area of Russia is less than 20 million square kilometres.
- 2 It takes a week to travel from Moscow to Vladivostok by train.
- 3 Russia is washed by two oceans.
- 4 Lake Baikal is the largest lake in Russia.
- 5 Mount Elbrus is in the Urals.
- 6 In Kamchatka there are 30 volcanoes.
- 7 The capital is the largest city in Russia.
- 8 Matryoshka came to Russia at the end of the last century.
- 9 There are usually 7 dolls in one Matryoshka.
- 10 The name Matryoshka was taken from Japan.

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4

In the text you've read about one of the Russian symbols – Matryoshka. Learn more symbols of Russia. Read the definitions and match them with the pictures.



a

1. **Balalaika** /balə'laɪkə/ - a Russian musical instrument like a guitar with a triangular body, typically having three strings.

2. **Daisy** /'deɪzi/ - a small European grassland plant which has flowers with a yellow disc and white rays.

3. **Bear** /be:/ - a large, heavy mammal that walks on the soles of its feet, having thick fur and a very short tail. Bears are related to the dog family but most species are omnivorous.

4. **Birch** /bɜ:tʃ/ - a slender hardy tree which has thin peeling bark and bears catkins. Birch trees grow chiefly in northern temperate regions and yield hard, pale, fine-grained timber.

5. **Eagle** /'i:g(ə)l/ - a large bird of prey with a massive hooked bill and long broad wings, known for its keen sight and powerful soaring flight.

6. **Matryoshka** /,matri'ɒʃkə/ is a traditional Russian doll which represents a set of brightly painted hollow wooden dolls of varying sizes, designed to fit inside each other.



d



b



e



c



f

### Russian Language

### It's interesting to know:

Russian is a Slavic language and it is the most widely spoken Slavic language (before Ukrainian and Polish).

The language is the eighth most spoken language in the world but is the second most dominant language on the internet - after English!

Russian is one of the six working languages spoken at the United Nations!

The Russian language is written with the Cyrillic alphabet which consists of 33 letters. Some letters are similar to the Latin alphabet, but some are different. For example: 'P' in Russian is pronounced 'R' in English or the 'H' is pronounced as 'N'.

5

Learn some Russian words.  
Watch, listen and repeat.



Match words in Russian with the pictures in this lesson.

РОССИЯ ГЕРБ ФЛАГ МАТРЕШКИ  
МЕДВЕДЬ БЕРЕЗА БАЛАЛАЙКА

1



2



6



Russia has a lot of things to be famous for, for example, its huge territory, beautiful landscapes or outstanding people.

a. Watch the film and complete the sentences with the numbers given here.



1. Russia can fit nearly ..... Americas.
2. Russia has the territory of ..... UKs.
3. The territory of Russia covers ..... of Australias.
4. Russia is located on ..... climatic zones.
5. Russia is the home for more than ..... nationalities.



b. Watch the film once more and match the people with the names and occupations. To learn more about these people click the name.



a

- Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
- Maya Mikhaylovna Plisetskaya
- Alexander Sergeyeovich Pushkin
- Yuri Alekseyevich Gagarin



c



b

- a ballerina and actress
- a cosmonaut
- a poet and writer
- a composer



d

7

Russia is a huge country and a lot of things related to Russia can be described with Adjectives in the superlative form. Complete the sentences below with the adjectives in brackets in the superlative form.



1. Russia is the **biggest** country in the world and borders 14 countries. The (**western**) point of Russia is near [Kaliningrad](#). The (**far**) point of Russia in the East is [Diomid island](#), 35 km from Chukotka and 35 kilometres from Alaska. The (**southern**) point is in [the Caucasus](#), on the border with Azerbaijan. The (**northern**) point is on [Franz Josef Land](#) archipelago in the Arctic Ocean, 900 kilometres from the North Pole.

2. The (**cold**) town in Russia is [Verkhoyansk](#) in Siberia. It is one of the places considered the northern Pole of Cold. The (**low**) temperature recorded there, in February 1892, was  $-67.6^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

3. The (**deep**) lake in the world is Russian [Lake Baikal](#). It reaches 1642 metres in depth and contains around 20% of the world's unfrozen fresh water. Lake Baikal is the (**big**) water reservoir in the world holding 1/5 of the world's freshwater reserves.

4. The (**wide**) Russian River is [the Ob](#), which is in Siberia. It is up to 60 km wide. The (**long**) Russian river is [the Lena](#) (4,400 km). It is in Siberia too. The (**long**) river on the European part of Russia is [the Volga](#), it is also the Europe's (**long**) river with 3,530km. It's mouth is in the [Caspian Sea](#) which is the world's (**large**) lake.

5. The (**high**) mountain in Russia and in Europe is [Mount Elbrus](#) with 5,642m in the Caucasus mountain system. However, the (**long**) mountain range in Russia is [the Urals](#), more than 2000 km long and runs from the North to the South and separates Europe and Asia.



To learn more about these places click the name

It's interesting to know!

To make superlatives the Russians use the word

**САМЫЙ** (most)

*самый большой* (the biggest)

*самый интересный* (the most interesting)

# Now your turn!

Do the tasks:



Draw a symbol of Russia and write a caption in three languages: English, Russian and your language.

Create a cinquain about Russia or your country.

Put it on the wall.

The tasks below will help you.



Do the quiz about Russia

### *It's interesting to know:*

**Cinquain** /'sɪŋkəɪn/ is a class of poetic forms that employ a 5-line pattern. There is the didactic cinquain which refers to word count, not syllables and stresses.


Noun

2 Adjectives

3 Verbs

A sentence

A word or a phrase

2a.  Read the cinquain written by a Russian student. Then make a cinquain with given words.

Russia

Majestic various

Impress enchant amaze

The largest country in the world


Motherland

Wonderful people live here!

produce; Russian Federation;

love; strong; Great Empire;

beautiful; work

2b.  Put the words and phrases given below into four categories. Then use them to create your own cinquain. You may add your own words or phrases.

Wonderful people live here! love; impressive; create; strong;  
Our energy; magnificent; develop; industrial; Our pride; splendid;  
multicultural; Our country; live; It never gives up! work; produce;  
We love it a lot! build; grow; cultivate; teach; care; move up

| noun | adjective | verb | phrase | sentence |
|------|-----------|------|--------|----------|
|      |           |      |        |          |