

The Geography of Russia

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Did it help or hinder its development?

Geography played a huge role in early Russian history! Using pages RA5, 446 and the information on the back of this sheet, follow the directions on this sheet to shade in your Russia map on the back..

1. Label the following using the maps on pages 446 or RA5:

- Russia in 1462
- Using different colors, label Russian expansion in 1505, 1584, 1725, 1796
- Arctic Ocean, Baltic Sea, Black Sea, Caspian Sea, Volga River
- Ural Mountains, the Steppes, Siberia

2. Use the information below, as well as your analysis of the map you completed, to make a list of characteristics below. Be sure to add an explanation next to each!!

Geographically lucky? (positive aspects of geography)	Geographically unlucky? (negative aspects of geography)

3. Make an argument: Did Russia's geography HELP it or HURT it? Write one solid sentence with support below.

4. Would you consider Russia European or Asian? Why?

As the world's largest country, Russia has a very diverse geography. Northern Russia extends into the Arctic Circle. This area is primarily tundra and forests, with thousands of lakes. Russia has many mountain areas. The Ural mountains cover 2,500 miles of western Russia. The Caucasus mountains cross the southern part of Russia, from the Black Sea to the Caspian Sea. From the western border to the Ural mountains is the North European Plain. This is a large rolling plain with rich soil and grasslands. Russia's geographical location presents a significant obstacle to development - dry or cold climate, terrain, distance and remote location from major sea lanes, all these factors contribute to the situation when large parts of the country have almost no population and development. Russia has only 8% of arable land. Three quarters of the Russian population lives in the cities and towns of western Russia. About 25% of the population still live in rural areas.

