

# Introducing... Russia!!

Name:

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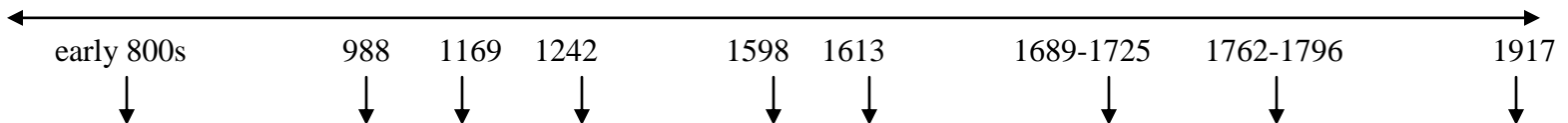
## Part I: Early History (page 301)

1. What ethnicity are the Russian people?
2. What geographic features did Kievan Rus (early Russia) develop around?
3. How was Russia influenced by the Byzantine Empire?
4. Why do you think Russia developed so much later than the rest of Europe or Asia?

**Part II: Timeline** (pages 301 and 445-447) Complete the following timeline by labeling BELOW the line what each of the years on the timeline signifies in **Russian** history.

Events we have already studied:

(Tang Dynasty) (Japanese feudalism) (Byzantine falls) (Mongols)  
(Charlemagne) (feudalism) (Crusades) (Black Death)  
(Abbasid) (Mansa Musa)



**Part III: A close up of Ivan the Terrible** Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

### **Ivan the Terrible**

Ivan the Terrible succeeded his father Vasily III as Grand Duke of Moscow in 1533 at the age of three. His mother served as regent until she too died, when Ivan was eight. For the next eight years, the young Grand Duke endured a series of regents chosen from among the boyars (the nobility). Finally in 1547, he adopted the title of tsar and set about crushing the power of the boyars, reorganizing the military, and preparing to smite the Tatars. In 1552

he conquered and sacked Kazan, and in 1556 Astrakhan, having thus destroyed the lingering power of the Golden Horde. Ivan's Tatar campaigns opened vast new areas for Russian expansion, and it was during his reign that the conquest and colonization of Siberia began.

Believe it or not, Ivan was not supposed to have been very terrible at all during the early years of his reign. However, as he grew older his temper worsened, and by the 1560s he carried out a pretty horrific campaign against the boyars, confiscating their land and executing or exiling those who displeased him. In 1581, in a rage, he struck his son and heir Ivan with an iron rod, killing him. When Ivan the Terrible died in 1584 his son succeeded him.

1. Why was Ivan remembered as “terrible”? Do you agree with this? Do you think most Russians learn about him as “terrible”?
2. Why do you think Ivan was so concerned with crushing the power of the boyars?

**Part IV: Russia emerges into the world.** Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow it.

### **17<sup>th</sup> Century Russia**

Russia in the 17th century was still medieval in culture and outlook, and it was not regarded as a member of the European community of nations. In its economic development it was centuries behind Western Europe; distrust of foreign ways and innovations kept its inhabitants ignorant and isolated. The consolidation of central power was effected not with the help of the almost nonexistent middle class or by social reforms but by forcibly depriving the nobility and gentry of their political influence. The nobles were compensated with land grants and with increasing rights over the peasants. Serfdom, which became a legal institution in Russia in 1649, included growing numbers of persons and became increasingly oppressive. The process of enserfment, which reached its peak in the 18th century, resulted in several violent peasant revolts, notably those led by Stenka Razin (1667–71) and by Pugachev (1773–75). For the first few generations, the Romanovs were happy to keep things the same in Russia. They continued to centralize power, but they did very little to bring Russia up to speed with the rapid changes in economic and political life that were taking place elsewhere in Europe.

1. In the 1600s, Europe was out of the Middle Ages and exploring the world. Why was Russia unable to do this? What made Russia “backwards”?

2. Do you predict Russia will catch up with the rest of Europe and Asia? Why or why not?

**Part V Who is the “Great”-est, Peter or Catherine?**

The class will now split in to two halves. Working with a partner, each half of the room will read about either Peter the Great or Catherine the Great. Pairs will have to take notes on their person and then decide if their person deserves the title of “Great”. Your half of the room should then circle up and decide what you want to report out to the other half.

Only Peter or Catherine will remain great!! As a class, we will have to decide!!

Peter the Great	Catherine the Great
Notes from the reading:	Notes from the reading:
Do you and your partner think he should be considered “great”? Why/why not?	Do you and your partner thing she should be considered “great”? Why/ why not?
Does your half of the class think your person should be considered great?	Does your half of the class think your person should be considered great?

Now each side will share out so that your above chart is full. Then we will take a vote on who was the greatest!!