Russians in front of St. Basil's Cathedral, Moscow
Workers on the statue Motherland Calls, Volgograd
Russians in front of St. Basil's Cathedral, Moscow
If you had to describe Russia in one word, that word would be BIG! Russia is the largest country in the world in area. Its almost 6.6 million square miles (17 million sq. km) are spread across two continents—Europe and Asia. As you can imagine, such a large country faces equally large challenges. In 1991 Russia emerged from the Soviet Union as an independent country. Since then it has been struggling to unite its many ethnic groups, set up a democratic government, and build a stable economy.

▲ Siberian tiger in a forest in eastern Russia
Focus on:

Russia and the Eurasian Republics

THIS REGION spans the continents of Europe and Asia. It includes Russia—the world’s largest country—and the neighboring independent republics of Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. Russia and the Eurasian republics cover about 8 million square miles (20.7 million sq. km). This is greater than the size of Canada, the United States, and Mexico combined.

The Land

The region of Russia and the Eurasian republics stretches nearly halfway around the globe and includes many different landscapes. The Urals Mountains run north to south, dividing Russia into a European region and a much larger Asian region. West of the Urals is the fertile North European Plain—home to three-fourths of the country’s population. East of the Urals lies Siberia, which means “sleeping land.” Immense and sparsely populated, Siberia is an area of harsh, forbidding landscapes.

In the southern part of the region, the Caucasus Mountains rise along the borders of Russia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan. Mountains also pass through several republics in Central Asia. The Pamirs in Tajikistan have some of the region’s highest peaks. The Tian Shan range in Kyrgyzstan holds some of the world’s largest glaciers.

The Caspian Sea is actually a salt lake that lies at the base of the Caucasus Mountains in Russia’s southwest. Farther east is Lake Baikal, the world’s deepest lake. Many rivers wind through Russia and the Eurasian republics. Some of the rivers flow eastward, like the Amur, which forms Russia’s border with China. Others, like the Volga, flow south through plains. The Lena, Yenisey, and Ob Rivers all flow north to the Arctic Ocean.

The Climate

Russia’s far north is dominated by tundra, a treeless plain. Winters on the tundra are long, dark, and fiercely cold. During the brief summers, only the top few inches of soil thaw out. Deeper down is permafrost—permanently frozen ground.

South of the tundra are vast evergreen forests. This vast woodland area, known as the
Wildflowers and wooden churches on the North European Plain, in northwestern Russia

Young people strolling and singing in St. Petersburg
taiga, is the largest continuous stretch of forest on the earth. Snow blankets the taiga for as many as eight months of the year. Even farther south, the taiga gives way to flat grass-covered plains, or steppes. Here the climate is less harsh, and the soil is quite rich. For centuries, routes across these plains brought invading armies. Today the plains make up Russia’s most important farming and industrial area.

**The Economy**

For many years, Russia and the Eurasian republics formed one state called the Soviet Union. It had an economy planned and run by Communist leaders. Wheat and other crops were grown on huge government-owned farms. The top economic priority was heavy industry, or the manufacturing of goods such as machinery and military equipment. Rich deposits of minerals, coal, and oil supplied the raw materials and energy for many industries. The Soviet push to industrialize, however, led to widespread pollution of the air, soil, and water. Industrial growth was also more important than the needs of the people. Shortages of consumer goods—clothing and household products, for example—were common.

In the 1990s, when Russia and the other republics of the Soviet Union became independent countries, each took charge of its own economy. Today Russia and the Eurasian republics are struggling to make the change to a free market system, in which people run their own businesses and farms.

**The People**

About 220 million people live in Russia and the Eurasian republics. Russia has the region’s largest population with about 145.5 million people. Climate and landscape affect where people live in Russia and the Eurasian republics. Most people in Russia live west of the Ural Mountains, where the climate is mildest and the land is most fertile.

**Ethnic Groups** Each of the republics has a major ethnic group, language, and culture. There are also many smaller groups in each republic. More than 100 different ethnic groups live throughout the region. Most Russians are descendants of Slavic peoples, or Slavs. They speak Russian and practice Eastern Orthodox Christianity. Various ethnic groups inhabit Armenia and Georgia. They practice their own forms of Christianity. Turkic ethnic groups (Uzbeks, Kazakhs, Turkmenis, and Azeris) are dominant in Central Asia. They have their own languages and practice the religion of Islam.
1. Why might Russia's north-flowing rivers be difficult to travel in winter?

2. Why would it be hard to grow crops on the tundra?

3. What was the top economic priority of Communist leaders?

4. To which ethnic group do most Russians belong?
1. Where are most Russian cities located? Why are they located there?

2. What is the capital of Russia?
**The Russian Winter**

**MAP STUDY**

1. On average, how many days of snow cover does Moscow have per year?
2. Which city would you expect to have more hours of sunlight in June—Vladivostok or Khatanga?
**GRAPHIC STUDY**

1. What two “extremes” does the Caspian Sea lay claim to?
2. What percentage of Russia’s people live west of the Ural Mountains?
Country Profiles

**ARMEINIA**
- Population: 3,000,000
- Languages: Armenian, Russian
- Major export: Gold
- Major import: Grain
- Capital: Yerevan
- Landmass: 11,506 sq. mi. 29,801 sq. km

**AZERBAIJAN**
- Population: 8,200,000
- Languages: Azerbaijani, Russian, Armenian
- Major export: Petroleum
- Major import: Machinery
- Capital: Baku
- Landmass: 33,436 sq. mi. 86,599 sq. km

**GEORGIA**
- Population: 4,700,000
- Languages: Georgian, Russian
- Major export: Citrus Fruits
- Major import: Fuels
- Capital: Tbilisi
- Landmass: 26,911 sq. mi. 69,699 sq. km

**KAZAKHSTAN**
- Population: 14,800,000
- Languages: Kazakh, Russian
- Major export: Petroleum
- Major import: Machinery
- Capital: Astana
- Landmass: 1,049,151 sq. mi. 2,717,301 sq. km

**KYRGYZSTAN**
- Population: 5,000,000
- Languages: Kirghiz, Russian
- Major export: Cotton
- Major import: Grain
- Capital: Bishkek
- Landmass: 76,641 sq. mi. 198,500 sq. km

**RUSSIA**
- Population: 145,500,000
- Languages: Russian, Local Languages
- Major export: Petroleum
- Major import: Machinery
- Capital: Moscow
- Landmass: 6,592,819 sq. mi. 17,075,401 sq. km

Countries and flags not drawn to scale

Reindeer pulling sled across the tundra, Siberia
For more information on countries in this region, refer to the Nations of the World Data Bank in the Appendix.

**TAJIKISTAN**
- **Population:** 6,600,000
- **Languages:** Tajik, Russian
- **Major Export:** Aluminum
- **Major Import:** Fuels
- **Capital:** Dushanbe
- **Landmass:** 55,251 sq. mi., 143,100 sq. km

**TURKMENISTAN**
- **Population:** 5,700,000
- **Languages:** Turkmen, Russian, Uzbek
- **Major Export:** Natural Gas
- **Major Import:** Machinery
- **Capital:** Ashgabat
- **Landmass:** 188,456 sq. mi., 488,101 sq. km

**UZBEKISTAN**
- **Population:** 25,700,000
- **Languages:** Uzbek, Russian, Tajik
- **Major Export:** Cotton
- **Major Import:** Machinery
- **Capital:** Tashkent
- **Landmass:** 172,741 sq. mi., 447,399 sq. km

**BUILDING CITIZENSHIP**

**Initiative** Under communism, the government is the main employer. Many people no longer had a steady income when the Soviet Union broke apart. The government could no longer take care of them. People had to figure out on their own how to solve the problem of making enough money to feed their families. In other words, they had to show initiative.

Describe a time when you showed initiative to solve a challenge you faced.

**WRITE ABOUT IT**

You can develop initiative with practice. Use the problem-solving process to identify a business you could start alone or with friends. Gather information, list and consider your options, and consider the advantages and disadvantages. Then write a paragraph about the business you chose.
Russia’s Landscape and History

Chapter 14

To learn more about Russia’s land and history, view *The World and Its People* Chapter 15 video.

Social Studies Online

Chapter Overview Visit *The World and Its People* Web site at [twp.glencoe.com](http://twp.glencoe.com) and click on Chapter 14—Chapter Overviews to preview information about Russia.
A New Government

Russia is a land rich in natural resources but has a troubled political history. The various peoples in Russia have had little experience with hands-on government. This experience is needed for a stable democracy to work. On the other hand, a strong central government is needed to create policies to prevent continued air and water pollution and to build up the economy. How will Russia meet both of these aims? The answer is important to us all.

Why It Matters

A New Government

Russia is a land rich in natural resources but has a troubled political history. The various peoples in Russia have had little experience with hands-on government. This experience is needed for a stable democracy to work. On the other hand, a strong central government is needed to create policies to prevent continued air and water pollution and to build up the economy. How will Russia meet both of these aims? The answer is important to us all.
Russia is a huge country with a cold climate due to its far northern location.

Terms to Know
- steppe
- tundra
- permafrost
- taiga

Reading Strategy
Create a chart like this one. Give a specific name for each type of physical feature listed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Russia</th>
<th>Plains</th>
<th>Mountains</th>
<th>Rivers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Siberian tigers hunt in the eastern forests of Russia—sometimes even climbing trees to find food. Only a few hundred now live in the wild, though. The animals they hunt—elk, deer, and wild boar—are dwindling, and the tigers are hunted by people. Poachers who kill the tigers illegally can sell a skin for $15,000. Russia is trying to enforce laws to save these animals.

Russia is the world’s largest country. Nearly twice as big as the United States, Russia is called a Eurasian country because its lands lie on two continents—Europe and Asia. The Ural Mountains form the dividing line between the two continents. The European or western part of Russia borders countries such as Finland, Belarus, and Ukraine. The much larger eastern part of Russia stretches across Asia to the Pacific Ocean. The Chukchi Peninsula, on Russia’s far eastern border, is separated from Alaska by only about 50 miles (80 km).

Russia is so wide that it shares borders with 14 other countries. It also includes 11 time zones from east to west. When it is 12:00 P.M. (noon) in eastern Russia and people are eating lunch, people in western Russia are still sound asleep at 1:00 A.M.

Russia’s Climate
As you can see from the climate map on page 405, Russia’s southern border is in the middle latitudes, but the north reaches past the Arctic Circle. Most of the western part of Russia has a humid continental climate. Summers are warm and rainy, while winters are cold.
and snowy. In contrast, eastern Russia experiences short, cool summers and long, snowy winters. Russia has a long coastline along the Arctic Ocean, which is frozen most of the year. Ice makes shipping difficult or impossible. Many of Russia’s ports on the Baltic Sea and Pacific Ocean are also closed because of ice part of the year.

Russia’s gigantic size and harsh climates make transportation difficult within the country as well. If you visited Russia, you would discover that, unlike in the United States, railroads, rivers, and canals are still important means of getting around. With about 54,000 miles (about 87,000 km) of track, railroads are the leading movers of people and goods in Russia.

How does Russia’s climate affect shipping?

European Russia

Find the Ural Mountains on the physical map on page 396. The ancient Urals, worn by years of erosion, are not very tall. Their length is extensive, though, running from the Arctic Ocean to Russia’s southern
boundary. West of the Urals lies the **North European Plain**. This fertile plain has Russia’s mildest climate, and about 75 percent of the population live here. This region holds Russia’s capital, **Moscow**, and other important cities, such as **St. Petersburg** and **Volgograd**. Much of Russia’s agriculture and industry is found on the North European Plain.

Good farmland also lies south of the North European Plain, along the Don and Volga Rivers. This area is part of the **steppe**, the nearly treeless grassy plain that stretches through Ukraine. To the far south of European Russia lay the high, rugged **Caucasus** (KAW•kuh•suhs) **Mountains**. Thickly covered with pines and other trees, the Caucasus are much taller than the Urals.

**Reading Check** What is the steppe?

**East of the Urals**

The huge Asian part of Russia lies east of the Ural Mountains and is known as **Siberia**. Northern Siberia has one of the coldest climates in the world. Not even hardy evergreens can grow here. Instead, you find **tundra**, a vast and rolling treeless plain in which only the top few inches of the ground thaw during the summer. The permanently frozen lower layers of soil are called **permafrost** and cover 40 percent of Russia.

The few people who live in the tundra make their living by fishing, hunting seals and walruses, or herding reindeer. With so few trees, many of the houses are made of walrus skins. Because the distances are so great and the land is usually covered in ice and snow, people may use helicopters for travel.

**The Taiga** South of the tundra is the world’s largest forest, the **taiga** (TY•guh). Here, evergreen trees stretch about 4,000 miles (6,436 km) across the country in a belt 1,000 to 2,000 miles (1,609 to 3,218 km) wide. As with the tundra, few people live in this area. Those who do support themselves by lumbering or hunting. This area is so sparsely populated that forest fires sometimes burn for weeks before anyone notices.

---

**On Location**

**Siberia**

This is cold! Boiling water freezes in midair in icy northern Siberia.

**Place** How do people in the tundra make their living?
Southern Siberia  Plains, plateaus, and mountain ranges cover the southern part of Siberia. Southeastern Siberia is home to the majestic Siberian tiger, now an endangered species. Other wildlife found here include bear, reindeer, lynx, wolf, wildcat, elk, and wild boar.

The Kamchatka Peninsula  Mountains also rise on the far eastern Kamchatka (kam•CHAHT•kuh) Peninsula. Many of these mountains are part of the Ring of Fire. This name is used to describe the active volcanic zone that forms the western, northern, and eastern edges of the Pacific Ocean. Volcanic eruptions and earthquakes sometimes occur on this peninsula.

Inland Water Areas  Russia touches many inland bodies of water. In the southwest, it borders the Black Sea. Through the Black Sea, Russian ships can reach the Mediterranean Sea. Look at the physical map on page 396 to find another large sea in southwestern Russia—the Caspian Sea. About the size of California, the Caspian Sea is actually the largest inland body of water in the world. Like the Great Salt Lake in Utah, the Caspian Sea has salt water, not freshwater. Russia shares this sea with Iran, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Azerbaijan.

Vegetation in Russia  The tundra (left) is found in northern Russia. South of the tundra is the huge expanse of the taiga (center). The steppes dominate southwest Russia (right).
with four other countries—Azerbaijan, Iran, Turkmenistan, and Kazakhstan.

High in the Central Siberian Plateau is Lake Baikal—the world's deepest freshwater lake. In fact, Lake Baikal holds almost 20 percent of the world's supply of unfrozen freshwater. It is also the world's oldest lake, dating back nearly 30 million years. Some of the plant and fish species in the lake can be traced to prehistoric times. Scientists come from all over the world to study its rare and unusual species. Tourists travel by train to see the lake's shimmering blue waters.

Unfortunately, a large paper mill nearby has polluted the Lake Baikal region. The paper mill is a major source of jobs and wealth. An important issue for this region is to try to save both the lake and the badly needed industry.

Russia has several major rivers. The Volga—the longest river in Europe—is a vital transportation route. Canals connect it and other rivers of European Russia. Boats use the canals to transport people and goods from one city to another. Many rivers also flow through the Asian side of Russia. Most of these rivers begin in the mountains of southern Siberia and flow north across the marshy lowlands to empty into the frigid Arctic Ocean. The Lena (LEE•nuh), the Yenisey (YIH•nih•SAY), and the Ob (AHB) are among the longest rivers in the world.

**Reading Check** What is an important issue for the Lake Baikal region?

### Assessment

#### Defining Terms
1. Define steppe, tundra, permafrost, taiga.

#### Recalling Facts
2. Location What mountain range separates Europe and Asia?
3. Region How many countries does Russia border?
4. Place What is unique about Lake Baikal?

#### Critical Thinking
5. Analyzing Information Why do you think trains are more important than other kinds of vehicles for moving people and goods across Russia?
6. Making Comparisons How do the waters of the Caspian Sea and Lake Baikal differ?

#### Graphic Organizer
7. Categorizing Information Create a chart like this one. Then place each of the following items into the column in which it is located: Moscow, Lake Baikal, Kamchatka Peninsula, St. Petersburg, Volga River, Volgograd, taiga.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>European Russia</th>
<th>Asian Russia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moscow, Lake Baikal, Kamchatka Peninsula, St. Petersburg, Volga River, Volgograd, taiga.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Applying Social Studies Skills
8. Analyzing Maps Turn to the climate map on page 405. Select a Russian city. Now look at the map of “The Russian Winter” on page 398. On average, how many days of snow cover does your selected city have per year?
Cooperative Space Ventures

The space age officially began in 1957 when Russia launched Sputnik I. It was the first artificial satellite to orbit the earth.

The Space Race

The Russians sent the first person into space in 1961, when cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin orbited the earth. A few weeks later, Alan Shepard made the United States’s first spaceflight. John Glenn was the first astronaut to orbit the earth in 1962. After this, the “space race” between the United States and Russia was of global importance. It was feared that one country could dominate the world if it had the right equipment in space.

Over the years, both Russia and the United States launched many spacecraft. In 1986 the Russian space station Mir, which means “peace,” began to orbit the earth. This was the first permanently staffed laboratory in space. Astronauts from more than a dozen countries were invited to participate on the space station Mir. The astronauts and Russian cosmonauts performed many experiments on the effects of weightlessness.

In 1993 the United States and Russia decided to work jointly to build the International Space Station. In July 2000, the Russian space module Zvezda (“star”) linked up with the rest of the station. Four months later, the International Space Station had its first permanent human inhabitants. The crew was made up of both Russian cosmonauts and American astronauts.

Making the Connection

1. What country launched the space age?
2. How have the United States and Russia cooperated on space ventures?
3. Making Predictions What space technology do you think we will see in the future? What social consequences might result from this?
Today Russia is the world’s largest country. Early in its history, however, it was a small territory on the edge of Europe. Strong rulers gradually expanded Russia’s borders. Their harsh rule led to unrest, eventually leading to two major upheavals—one in 1917, the other in 1991.

**Early Russia**

To understand the challenges facing Russia today, let us go back through Russia’s history. Modern Russians descend from early groups of Slavs who settled along the rivers of what are today Ukraine and Russia. During the A.D. 800s, these early Slavs built a civilization around the city of Kiev, today the capital of Ukraine. This civilization was called Kievan Rus (KEE•EH•vuhn ROOS). By the A.D. 1000s, the ruler and people of Kievan Rus had accepted Eastern Orthodox Christianity. They prospered from trade with the Mediterranean world and western Europe.

In the 1200s, the Mongols swept in from Central Asia and conquered Kiev. Under their 200-year-rule, Kiev lost much of its wealth and power. Meanwhile, Moscow became the center of a new Slavic...
territory called Muscovy (muh•SKOH•vee). In 1480 Ivan III, a prince of Muscovy, drove out the Mongols and made Muscovy independent. Ivan III was known as “Ivan the Great.”

Rise of the Czars  Muscovy slowly developed into the country we know today as Russia. Russian rulers expanded their power, built up armies, and seized land and other resources. They called themselves czars, or emperors. They had total control over the government. As a citizen of Muscovy, you would have feared Czar Ivan IV, who ruled during the 1500s. Known as “Ivan the Terrible,” he used a secret police force to tighten his iron grip on the people and control their lives.

As the map on page 412 shows, the czars gradually conquered surrounding territories. As a result, many non-Russian peoples became part of the growing Russian Empire. (Russia still suffers from ethnic tensions caused by these early conquests.) Czars such as Peter the Great and Catherine the Great pushed the empire’s borders southward and westward. They also tried to make Russia modern and more like Europe. Peter built a new capital—St. Petersburg—in the early 1700s. Built close to Europe near the Baltic coast, St. Petersburg was designed like a European city with elegant palaces, public squares, and canals. If you had been a Russian noble at this time, you would have spoken French as well as Russian. You also would have put aside traditional Russian dress, worn European clothes, and attended fancy balls and parties.

Early Czars

Ivan III, or “Ivan the Great,” (left) ruled Muscovy until 1505. His grandson, Ivan IV, also known as “Ivan the Terrible,” (right) used a secret police force to control the people of Muscovy.

History  Who drove the Mongols out of Kiev?
The czars and nobles enjoyed rich, comfortable lives. At the bottom of society, however, were the great masses of people. Most were serfs, or farm laborers, who could be bought and sold along with the land. These people lived hard lives, working on the nobles' country estates or in city palaces. Few could read or write. They did not follow Western customs, but kept the Russian traditions.

Dramatic Changes In 1812 a French army led by Napoleon Bonaparte invaded Russia. Brave Russian soldiers and the fierce winter weather finally forced the French to retreat. Have you ever heard the 1812 Overture, with its dramatic ending that includes ringing bells and bursts of cannon fire? Written by the Russian composer Peter Tchaikovsky (chy•KAWF•skee), this musical masterpiece celebrates the Russian victory over Napoleon. Turn to page 420 to read more about Napoleon's defeat.

In the late 1800s, Russia entered a period of economic and social change. The Russian Empire expanded southward into the Caucasus Mountains and eastward toward the Pacific Ocean. In 1861 Czar Alexander II, known as the Czar-Liberator, freed the serfs from being tied to the land. His new law did little to lift them out of poverty, though. Russia began to industrialize, or change its economy to rely...
more on manufacturing and less on farming. Railroads, including the famous Trans-Siberian Railroad, spread across the country. It linked Moscow in the west with Vladivostok on Russia’s Pacific coast.

**Reading Check** What civilization did early Slavs build in Ukraine?

### The Soviet Era

In 1914 World War I broke out in Europe. Russian and German armies met and fought bloody battles in eastern Europe. Unprepared for war, Russia suffered many defeats and had few victories. As the fighting dragged on, shortages of food in Russian cities caused starvation. The Russian people blamed the czars for their troubles.

#### The Russian Revolution

In 1917 political leaders, soldiers, and factory workers forced Czar Nicholas II to give up the throne. Later that year, a political revolutionary named Vladimir Lenin led a second revolt and seized control. He and his followers set up a **communist state**. This means the country’s government has strong control over the economy and society as a whole. Fearing invasion, the Communists moved Russia’s capital from coastal St. Petersburg inland to Moscow.

#### Growth of Soviet Power

By 1922, after a brutal civil war, Russia’s Communist leaders were securely in power. In that year, they formed the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), or the Soviet Union. This vast territory included the republic of Russia and 14 other republics—most of the conquered territories of the old Russian Empire. After Lenin died in 1924, Communist Party officials disagreed over who was to lead the country.

Within a few years, Joseph Stalin had won out over the others and became the Soviet Union’s leader. Under Stalin’s orders, the government took complete control of the economy. Stalin ended private ownership of farms and businesses, and he set up five-year plans to industrialize the country. Under this type of system, called a command economy, factory managers were told what to make and how to make it. Those who opposed Stalin’s actions were killed or sent to remote prison camps deep in the vast forests of icy Siberia. Millions of people were brutally murdered or forced into slave labor under Stalin’s rule.

In 1941 Nazi Germany invaded the Soviet Union, drawing the country into World War II. During the conflict, the Soviets joined with Great Britain and the United States to defeat the Germans. About 20 million Russian soldiers and civilians died in what Russians call the Great Patriotic Fatherland War.

#### Superpowers Wage the Cold War

When World War II ended, Stalin wanted to protect the Soviet Union from any more invasions. He set up Communist governments in the neighboring Eastern European countries of Poland, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria. They became satellite nations, or countries controlled by another, more powerful nation. The Soviet government cut off these countries from contact with the rest of the world. As a result, they
were said to lie behind an “iron curtain.” Any satellite nations that opposed Soviet rule were brutally put down.

Stalin and the leaders who followed him spent large amounts of money on the military and weapons. The Soviet Union became one of the two most powerful nations in the world. The other superpower—the United States—opposed Soviet actions. These two nations engaged in the Cold War, competing for world influence without breaking out in actual fighting. They even competed in space. Both the Soviet Union and the United States launched rockets in a bid to be first in outer space. Turn to page 409 to learn more about the space race.

During the Cold War years—from 1940 to the late 1980s—the Soviet economy faced many problems. With no competition, government-owned factories became inefficient and produced poor-quality goods. The government cared more about making tanks and airplanes for military purposes than consumer goods, such as cars and refrigerators. As a result, people had few goods to buy. Food often became scarce, and people waited in long lines to buy bread, milk, and other necessary items.

The Soviet Union had another challenge. This vast empire included not only Russians but also people from many other ethnic groups. Non-Russians in the Soviet republics resented the control of the government in Moscow, which they believed favored ethnic Russians. They wanted to leave the Soviet Union and form their own countries.
**Soviet Collapse** Despite plans to improve housing and agriculture, the Soviet economy fell even further behind the economy of the United States. In 1985 Mikhail Gorbachev (GAWR•buh•CHAWF) became the leader of the Soviet Union. He introduced changes to get the Soviet economy moving. Under his policy of *perestroika*, or “restructuring,” Gorbachev allowed farmers and factory managers to make many of their own decisions. By loosening government control, Gorbachev moved the economy toward a *free enterprise system*. In this type of economy, most businesses are privately owned, and there is competition—resulting in better products at lower prices.

Gorbachev also allowed people to speak freely about the government and important issues, a policy called *glasnost*, or “openness.” Instead of strengthening the country, however, Gorbachev’s policies made the people doubt communism even more. Some people thought Gorbachev was moving too quickly with reforms. Others thought he was not moving fast enough. People’s demands for more and more changes eventually led to the collapse of both communism and the Soviet Union.

In the late 1980s, massive protests against Soviet control erupted in the satellite nations. By 1991, all of the Soviet satellites had thrown off communist rule in favor of democracy. By the end of that year, each of the 15 republics that made up the Soviet Union also declared their independence. The Soviet Union no longer existed. Russia emerged as the largest and most powerful of those republics.

*Reading Check* Who helped move the Soviet Union toward democracy?

**Assessment**

**Defining Terms**

1. Define czar, serf, industrialize, communist state, Cold War, perestroika, free enterprise system, glasnost.

**Recalling Facts**

2. History Why did Peter the Great build a new capital of Russia?
3. History Who led the 1917 revolution in Russia?
4. History What happened to the Soviet Union in 1991?

**Critical Thinking**

5. Understanding Cause and Effect How did the Soviet economy change under perestroika?
6. Analyzing Information How did glasnost weaken the communist system?

**Graphic Organizer**

7. Organizing Information In a chart like this one, write facts that show the contrast between the nobles and the serfs of Russia.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nobles</th>
<th>Serfs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Applying Social Studies Skills**

8. Creating Mental Maps Create your own map of early Russian territory. Label where Kievan Rus was located. Then label where Peter the Great moved the capital.
Understanding Cause and Effect

Understanding cause and effect involves considering why an event occurred. A cause is the action or situation that produces an event. What happens as a result of a cause is an effect.

Learning the Skill

To identify cause-and-effect relationships, follow these steps:

- Identify two or more events or developments.
- Decide whether one event caused the other. Look for “clue words” such as because, led to, brought about, produced, as a result of, so that, since, and therefore.
- Look for logical relationships between events, such as “She overslept, and then she missed her bus.”
- Identify the outcomes of events. Remember that some effects have more than one cause, and some causes lead to more than one effect. Also, an effect can become the cause of yet another effect.

Practicing the Skill

For each number below, identify which statement is the cause and which is the effect.

1. (A) Russia’s capital was moved from coastal St. Petersburg to Moscow in the heart of the country.
   (B) The capital of Russia was threatened by an outside invasion.

2. (A) Revolutionary leaders seized control of the Russian government.
   (B) During World War I, shortages of food in Russian cities caused much starvation.
   (C) Discontent grew among the Russian people.

3. (A) The Soviet government kept prices for goods and services very low.
   (B) Many goods and services were in short supply in the Soviet Union.

Applying the Skill

In your local newspaper, read an article describing a current event. Determine at least one cause and one effect of that event. Show the cause-and-effect relationship in a diagram like the one here:

Practice key skills with *Glencoe Skillbuilder Interactive Workbook, Level 1.*
**Section 1  A Vast Land**

**Terms to Know**
- steppe
- tundra
- permafrost
- taiga

**Main Idea**
Russia is a huge country with a cold climate due to its far northern location.

✓ **Location** Spanning two continents—Europe and Asia—Russia is the world's largest country.

✓ **Region** The western part of Russia is mostly plains. The eastern Siberian region is covered with mountains and plateaus.

✓ **Region** European Russia has the mildest climate, while most of Siberia, or Asian Russia, has cold high-latitude climate zones.

✓ **Movement** Inland waterways are important for moving goods through Russia, but many long rivers drain north into the frigid Arctic Ocean and freeze in winter.

**Section 2  A Troubled History**

**Terms to Know**
- czar
- serf
- industrialize
- communist state
- Cold War
- perestroika
- free enterprise system
- glasnost

**Main Idea**
The harsh rule of powerful leaders has often sparked violent uprisings in Russia.

✓ **History** Emperors known as czars ruled the Russian Empire from 1480 to 1917.

✓ **History** The czars expanded Russian territory to reach from Europe to the Pacific.

✓ **Government** Under the Communists, Russia became part of the Soviet Union.

✓ **History** In 1991 the Soviet Union broke apart into 15 independent republics.
Using Key Terms

Match the terms in Part A with their definitions in Part B.

A.
1. permafrost
2. czar
3. perestroika
4. steppe
5. serf
6. taiga
7. glasnost
8. communist state
9. industrialize
10. tundra

B.
a. huge, subarctic evergreen forests
b. dry, treeless plains in the high latitudes
c. dry, treeless grasslands
d. permanently frozen lower layers of soil
e. farm laborer
f. former emperor of Russia
g. openness
h. rely more on manufacturing and less on farming
i. restructuring
j. government controls the economy

Reviewing the Main Ideas

Section 1 A Vast Land

11. **Human/Environment Interaction** Why is Russia unable to use ports along its Arctic coast for most of the year?

12. **Location** Which area of Russia has the mildest climate?

13. **Movement** What is an important means of transportation for people in Russia?

14. **Region** Why is the Kamchatka Peninsula considered part of the Ring of Fire?

15. **Place** What is the longest river in Europe?

Section 2 A Troubled History

16. **Location** Where was the earliest center of Russian civilization?

17. **History** Which czar used secret police to maintain strict control over the people?

18. **History** When was the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics formed?

19. **Government** Why did Stalin send people to Siberia?

20. **Economics** How did Gorbachev try to change the Soviet economy?

Place Location Activity

On a separate sheet of paper, match the letters on the map with the numbered places listed below.

1. Ural Mountains
2. Kamchatka Peninsula
3. Lake Baikal
4. Volga River
5. Moscow
6. Don River
7. Siberia
8. Caspian Sea
9. Caucasus Mountains
10. St. Petersburg
1. The Soviet space program at Baikonur holds great importance, mostly because it is located in south-central Kazakhstan. It provides jobs for the people who live near the launch site. Many “firsts in space” flights were launched from it. Valentina Tereshkova was the first woman in space.

### Critical Thinking

21. **Understanding Cause and Effect** How did World War I help lead to the Russian Revolution?

22. **Organizing Information** Create a diagram like this one. Complete it with four physical features in Siberia.

### Comparing Regions Activity

23. **History** Catherine the Great expanded Russia’s territory when she was czar in the eighteenth century. There are many other powerful women who have shaped the world's history. Create a list of five influential women, and include the region where they had influence. What do these women have in common?

### Mental Mapping Activity

24. **Focusing on the Region** Create a simple outline map of Russia and label the following:

- Arctic Ocean
- Pacific Ocean
- Vladivostok
- Moscow
- Ural Mountains
- St. Petersburg
- Siberia
- Baltic Sea

### Technology Skills Activity

25. **Developing Multimedia Presentations** Choose an ethnic or political problem that the Russian people have faced in the last 10 years. Research your choice and create a multimedia presentation on this problem. Include information on when, what, and where. Use pictures, maps, and time lines to make your presentation more visual.

### Self-Check Quiz

Visit *The World and Its People* Web site at twip.glencoe.com and click on Chapter 14—Self-Check Quizzes to prepare for the Chapter Test.

### Standardized Test Practice

**Directions:** Read the paragraph below, and then answer the question that follows.

You may be surprised to know that the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan was—and still is—important to the exploration of outer space. The Russian space center Baikonur (by•kuh•NOOR) lies in south-central Kazakhstan. During the Soviet period, Baikonur was used for many space launches. Several historic “firsts in space” occurred here. For example, the first satellite was launched in 1957. The first crewed flight took place when cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin orbited the earth in 1961. In addition, the flight of the first woman in space, Valentina Tereshkova, was launched in 1963. After the Soviet collapse, the Russian-owned center remained in independent Kazakh territory.

1. **The Soviet space program at Baikonur holds great importance, mostly because** it is located in south-central Kazakhstan. It provides jobs for the people who live near the launch site. Many “firsts in space” flights were launched from it. Valentina Tereshkova was the first woman in space.

### Test-Taking Tip:

When a question uses the word *most* or *mostly*, it means that more than one answer may be correct. Your job is to pick the *best* answer. For example, Baikonur’s location in Kazakhstan may be important to the people who live near it, which is answer G. Another answer, however, provides a more general reason for Baikonur’s importance.
RUSSIA’S STRATEGY:

Freeze Your Foes

Winter weather can cancel school and stop traffic. It can even change history. Such was the case when French ruler Napoleon Bonaparte thought he had conquered the Russian Empire.

In fact, Napoleon did not want to conquer Russia. His real enemy was Great Britain. Napoleon wanted Russia and other countries to stop trading with Great Britain. Yet Russia’s czar, Alexander I, refused. By 1812, Napoleon was determined to change Alexander’s mind. In June, leading an army of more than half a million soldiers, Napoleon invaded Russia. To reach Moscow and the czar, Napoleon had to fight his way across the Russian countryside.

By the time Napoleon’s battle-weary forces reached Moscow, supplies were scarce. All along the route, Russians had burned villages as they retreated, leaving no food or shelter. Reaching Moscow, Napoleon found the city in flames and nearly empty of people. The czar had moved to St. Petersburg. Napoleon took Moscow without a fight, but most of the city was in ashes.

**Winter Wins a War**

With winter approaching, Napoleon waited in Moscow for Alexander I to offer peace. The czar remained silent, however. With dwindling supplies and many of his troops lacking winter clothes, Napoleon was forced to retreat. He tried to take a new way back, but the Russians made Napoleon use the same ruined route he had used before. Armed bands of Russians attacked at every turn. Starving and desperate to escape the bitter cold, several of Napoleon’s soldiers threw themselves into burning buildings. Most of Napoleon’s troops never made it out of Russia.

**History Repeats**

More than a century later, during World War II, Russia’s winter was again a mighty foe. On June 22, 1941, Adolf Hitler’s German army invaded Russia, then part of the Soviet Union. As the German army fought its way to Moscow, Soviet leader Joseph Stalin issued his own “scorched-earth policy.” Soviet citizens burned anything of use to the invaders. By December, German troops were within sight of the Kremlin, Moscow’s government center, when winter struck.

Snow buried the invaders. Temperatures fell below freezing. Grease in guns and oil in vehicles froze solid. German soldiers suffered frostbite and died. The Soviets were better clothed and had winterized their tanks and trucks. Stalin’s troops pushed back the German army. Once again the Russians triumphed with help from “General Winter.”

**QUESTIONS**

1. After Napoleon conquered Moscow in 1812, why did he retreat?

2. How did Russia’s winter affect fighting in World War II?
Average Winter Temperatures

-40°F to -31°F
-30°F to -21°F
-20°F to -11°F
-10°F to 0°F
0°F to 10°F
11°F to 20°F
21°F to 30°F
> 30°F

Napoleon’s Advance, June–October 1812
German Forces Front Line, December 1941